



Summer 2023

We hope this letter finds you doing well and enjoying the cooler spring weather we've been having this year. We have some good news for you... the market has been recovering from the decrease in value it took last year! As you may remember, we had two events happen last year that we haven't seen in over 40 years. We experienced a sharp increase in inflation due to the reduced availability of goods and services while demand remained strong. And, the Federal Reserve rapidly increased rates by nearly 5% in 2022 to counteract this economic event.

The combination of both of these incidents in the same year caused the stock and bond markets to go down in value at the same time, which is a very rare occurrence.

Currently, we have seen a drop in inflation from 9.1% in June 2022 to 4.0% as of May 2023. The Federal Reserve announced that they may do another 0.50% increase in rates this year, but have indicated they plan to lower interest rates to between 3% to 4.25% in 2024 – that's approximately 1.25% to 2.50% lower than in 2023.

This is good news for your investments as valuations tend to rise with lower inflation & interest rates.

Another piece of good news is that we will soon have access to even more solutions, technology and support for our team to dedicate to helping you pursue your financial goals.

In 2019, Charles Schwab acquired TD Ameritrade. Since that time, they have been working to develop the technology and methods needed to smoothly integrate our TD Ameritrade accounts over to Charles Schwab.

Some important points about this transition:

- No action is necessary – your TD Ameritrade account will automatically and securely transition to Charles Schwab at no cost to you, on or about Tuesday, September 5, 2023.
- We will remain your independent investment advisor and your Charles Schwab account will have the same authorizations, such as existing move money instructions.
- During the transition, protecting your personal information is of the highest priority. Both TD Ameritrade and Charles Schwab adhere to all regulatory privacy laws, including Regulation S-P (Privacy of Consumer Financial Information and Safeguarding Personal Information).

In June, our firm passed 40 years of providing our clients with independent, personalized financial advice to help achieve their financial goals, and the goals of their children, and grandchildren. For us, our work is a vocation, not a job. It is a passion and a mission, that is powered by families to help families. We will always continue to work as fiduciaries for you, putting your interests ahead of our own, to ensure all decisions made are in your best interest.

If you have any questions, or would like to set up a review appointment, please call our office.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Clifford

Robert J. Clifford

Douglas C. Johnson

Brian C. Johnson

Joe Van Ausdle

Advisory services offered through Arbor Point Advisors, LLC. Securities offered through Securities America, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. CA Financial Services, Arbor Point Advisors and Securities America are separate companies.