

Wealth News

April 2010

Information from SACU and CFS* to help keep your financial life in balance

Consumer Sense

Spring Cleaning

Spring is in the air. For many, this means it's time for the annual house cleaning ritual but springtime doesn't just have to be about sprucing up your home. Now is a great time to get your investment house in order as well. Take this time of year to formulate new goals, and follow a few simple steps in pursuit of financial confidence. Make it a priority to:

- consolidate your accounts
- rebalance your portfolio
- take advantage of tax-savings programs offered by your employer and
- review your list of beneficiaries.

Consolidate Your Accounts

Consolidating multiple retirement accounts into one or two may offer several benefits, such as convenience, and fewer fees. Moving money to one or two financial institutions may help make it easier to proactively manage your portfolio. Another benefit of consolidation is the possibility of uncovering old unattended accounts that may contain investments that are no longer appropriate for your goals.

Have You Read...

Morningstar's 30-Minute Money Solutions: A Step-by-Step Guide to Managing Your Finances by *Christine Benz*. This book gives you the tools for tackling your money challenges. This practical guide breaks down important financial tasks into digestible, doable chunks—each task taking just 30 minutes or less.

Rebalancing Your Portfolio

As defined by the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), “rebalancing” is the process of bringing your portfolio back to its original asset allocation mix. Over time, the value of individual holdings in what was originally a well-balanced portfolio may ebb and flow as the markets rise and fall. At some point, your portfolio may no longer reflect your intended objectives and risk tolerance. If this occurs, sales and purchases may be needed to rebalance your portfolio.

Individual Retirement Plans or IRA

If you're feeling the impact of unexpected taxes due, now is a great time to take steps to minimize next year's burden. Consider investing in a tax advantaged account, such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or 401(k) plan. Even if you're already contributing to an employer-sponsored plan, you may be eligible to deduct all or a portion of your IRA contributions depending on your adjusted gross income.

Beneficiary Designation

One critical piece of planning includes making sure you are properly set to transfer your retirement assets to your intended beneficiaries. Changes in your family situation such as marriage, divorce or birth of a child, make the review of your beneficiary designations a necessity. Conducting a periodic beneficiary review may give you the peace of mind that comes from knowing that assets will go to your intended loved ones.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/>

Consult a Financial Professional

At SACU our team of financial professionals can help you with different types of tax advantaged retirement accounts and can aid you in making informed decisions.

Schedule your complimentary appointment with an SACU investment representative by calling U.S. Toll Free 1-800-234-7228 Ext 1071 or Ext 1442 today. In San Antonio please call 258-1071 or 258-1442. Check out SACU's [Investment Professionals](#) on sacu.com.



Your Dream Is Our Mission...

At SACU, our CFS* financial advisors are committed to providing products and services that help you and your family build your personal financial wealth and financial well being. Interested in learning more? Call 1-800-234-7228 Ext 1071 or Ext 1442.

*Products and services offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS) are not NCUA/NCUSIF insured, are not credit union guaranteed, and may lose value. Investment Representatives are employees of SACU, and registered representatives of CFS. SACU is in partnership with CFS. (Member [FINRA/SIPC](#))

*For specific tax advice, please consult a qualified tax professional.