

PRESENT VALUE

Helping you navigate all of life's transitions



Election Protection

You may have been able to join us on our Presidential update Webinar during Q2, but makes no matter- we have a New President. The rally's and the crazy media storm are over and those give way to criticism and insights about those very important FIRST 100 DAY!

So how do investors navigate all of the uncertainty- whether your candidate won or lost, the feelings about the decision are at the surface for everyone. One tip we can share, **STICK TO YOUR PLAN**. Don't allow the media to steer you away from the goals of your money.



Emotional Money

Jerry Jones, Owner of the Dallas Cowboys has a great quote: "Don't let your money get mad." Now he was referring to contract negotiations but it totally applies to your financial life, decisions and even spending.

For most investors, their money is the sum total of a lifetimes of work. When they invest, it is difficult to disassociate the emotion from the time and effort it took to earn those assets but you have to. Managing your money with emotions has the potential for being costly as you jump in and out of the market, make unnecessary portfolio changes, etc. Money decisions must be made with your intellect (or in concert with an advisor) and not emotion.



LEAVING A LEGACY OF GOOD

The Dash

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth
and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...

remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

Living in the dash. So many people we meet with are certain that when their life is over, they want to be sure they leave the world some kind of legacy and better for having been in it. There are very simple ways to ensure these wishes can occur. Your Estate Planning. As we mentioned during our visits,

we are offering a COMPLIMENTARY ESTATE PLAN DESIGN TOOL to help you with your basic wills and directives so your loved ones won't have to worry.

You see, while you as a Pioneers Volunteer Member live your dash to the fullest through your giving spirit, hearts for others and community activity to impact change- what have you done to leave that legacy for your loved ones.

529 PLANS



According to Investopedia, As the cost of higher education continues to rise and many Americans are mired in student debt, many parents are turning to tax-advantaged 529 savings plans to help fund their children's education. Named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), these plans were originally designed to cover postsecondary education costs.

There are two main types of 529 plans:

1. Education savings plans and prepaid tuition plans. Education savings plans offer tax-deferred growth, and withdrawals are tax-free when used for qualified education expenses. These plans remain under the control of the donor, usually a parent.
2. Prepaid tuition plans enable account owners to lock in current tuition rates for future attendance at selected colleges and universities. Given the rising costs of tuition, this generally means locking in lower prices for college later on.

Despite their advantages, the Education Data Initiative estimated in 2023 that only about 30% of American college savings are held in 529 accounts. Nevertheless, those who do use them contribute an average of over \$7,500 annually.

Key Takeaways

- Section 529 plans are tax-advantaged accounts that can be used to pay educational expenses.
- There are two basic types of 529 plans: educational savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.
- Section 529 plans are sponsored and run by the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The rules and fees of 529 plans differ from state to state.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Financial Webinar Series



MERIT
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[www.meritfinancialadvisors.com/
pioneersvolunteernetwork](http://www.meritfinancialadvisors.com/pioneersvolunteernetwork)

Monthly Webinar Series

Wrapping up 2024 with some informative financial webinars. Join us.



New President... Now What?

Understanding The Possible Market Responses to The New President.

November 21, 2024

12:00pm MDT, 1:00pm CDT, 2:00pm EDT



Blaine Malcolm

Wealth Manager and Partner

Investment Advice offered through Merit Financial Group, LLC, an SEC-registered investment adviser.

OUR COLLABORATION

The collaboration between The Pioneers Volunteer Network and Merit Financial Advisors was created to offer support to Pioneer members in, during and thru retirement by keeping all members up to date on their benefits, how to utilize them for financial freedom and how best to navigate market fluctuation to maintain the lifestyle they are currently enjoying. Our collaboration has three distinct services:

Complimentary Financial Tools, Resources and Webinars

Partnering/Sponsoring/Volunteering your Events

Financial Planning and Investment Management for members with a financial investment back to The Pioneers