# NELSONCORPNEWS

JULY 2022

#### APPRECIATING AMERICA

Some positive thoughts about our country at a time when all the headlines are negative. p4

#### **INVESTMENT OPTIONS**

Questions to ask when determining what some of the best investment options are for you. p6

#### FEATURED CHARITY OF THE MONTH

NelsonCorp's Jeans for Charity Supports Fulton Police Department. p11





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## **YOUR NELSONCORP TEAM**





**EUGENE KRUEGER** 



**BRADLEY FRITZ** 



VALERIE HILL



**AMY CAVANAUGH** 



**KENNETH NELSON** 



JACOB WOODCOCK



NATE KREINBRINK



JAMES NELSON



JOHN NELSON



**JAMIE HUGUNIN** 



MICHELLE EVERSOLL







**TRAVIS MOREHEAD** 



**AMANDA SCHAVER** 



**RICHARD PHELAN** 



**ROBERT LEE** 



**STEVE GRIMES** 



ANDY FERGURSON



MIKE VANZUIDEN



TABATHA WESTPHAL HANNAH VAN HYFTE









## THINKING POSITIVE

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a nice Independence Day weekend. Our hearts go out to those impacted by tragic events just a few hours from here in Highland Park.

I know things might seem overwhelming as of late, with the geopolitical issues we are experiencing, the turbulance in financial markets, and the senseless acts of violance that have occured.

It is easy to be pessimistic about...well pretty much everything. However, here at NelsonCorp we choose to remain positive. Even as we talk about the potential for continued weakness in stocks and bonds, our managaged portfolios are doing what they are supposed to in times like these and have adopted a defensive posture.

As we will discuss later on, we know that things will turn up and we feel fortunate to be in a position to take advantage of that when it does. Because of our proactive risk management on the investment side of things, we can also focus more effort on areas such as cash flow and taxes.

Our hope is that by reducing some of the uncertainty in clients' financial lives, it frees them from having to worry about how the news of the day is going to impact their retirement.

While we call ourselves risk managers, what we really try to offer is peace of mind.

## CONTENTS

### 04 Things to Note

Important Items

#### 04 Appreciating America

A positive look at our country even as negative headlines dominate the media

#### 05 3 Things to Know About Bear Markets

Things to keep in mind as markets have entered bear territory

06 Investment Options

Questions to ask to determine what is best for you

#### 07 Savvy Investor

Four steps to follow to become a better investor

#### 07 NelsonCorp Media Appearances

An overview of the topics covered this month

#### 08 On a Personal Note...

Read what members of the NelsonCorp team have been up to

#### 11 Featured Charity of the Month

Jeans for Charity supports Fulton Police Department National Night Out

David Nelson

#### JULY 2022

### THINGS TO NOTE

NelsonCorp Wealth Management is happy to announce the addition of Hannah Van Hyfte to our Client Services Team.

Hannah graduated from Kaplan University with an associate degree in Business Administration/ Accounting. She brings to NelsonCorp 15 years working in the business sector. Most recently she was the Administrative Assistant at Prince of Peace Catholic School. With this background, Hannah brings her customer service experience, organizational skills, and professionalism to our firm.

Hannah has been a parent volunteer at Prince of Peace and participated in the Advisory Task Force for the Clinton Public Library. She enjoys running 5Ks and tries to enter as many local races as she can.

Hannah, and her husband Jason have two kids and reside in Clinton, IA.

#### NelsonCorp Nuggets

The average property taxes paid on a single family home in the US in 2021 was \$3,719. That is equal to 0.9% of the fair market value of the average home.

> Source: Attom Data Solutions



Ever feel like most of the news we hear about is bad news?

Whether on TV or online, it seems like most of the stories and headlines we see every day are negative. As a result, it can easily feel like there's nothing good going on in our country. And it's true that the United States of America has many issues to work on and problems to solve, like all nations do. But as we mourn for those lost in recent tragedies like the shooting just experienced by the community of Highland Park; I think it's still a good thing to remind ourselves of what's going right in America.

As you know, the Fourth of July is for celebrating our country's birthday, as it were. But it's also an opportunity to see how far we've come as a people, as a society. So, in honor of Independence Day, here are some of the things I personally appreciate about the United States of America!

#### **Our Economy**

The U.S. has the largest economy in the world. We are ranked among the Top 5 countries in the world in terms of both economic freedom and global competitiveness according to various studies.

#### **Our Generosity**

According to The World Giving Index, the United States is the most charitable country in the world per capita over the last decade. On an international level, the United States has contributed more in foreign aid than any other nation.

#### **Our Natural Beauty**

From rainforests to deserts, from dense forests to vast prairies, the United States is home to almost every type of climate and ecosystem imaginable. As a result, we're blessed with sixty-three national parks, eighty-five national monuments, thirteen national lakeshores and seashores, and nineteen national preserves.

#### **Our National Highway System**

Connecting all this is a series of interconnected highways and interstates that allow almost every American to experience the wonders of our country. This might seem an odd thing to mention, but I think it's worth noting. If you've ever driven long distances in other countries, you know that this is no small achievement!

#### **Our Water Quality**

Recently, a friend of mine returned home after living abroad for a few years. I asked him what he missed about the United States the most while he was gone. High at the top of the list? Tap water. Given that some studies rank the U.S. as tied for #2 in the world in water quality, that's not a surprise. Nearubiquitous access to safe, clean water for drinking, bathing, and washing is something we too often take for granted.

#### **Our Culture**

From BBQ to the blues, from sports to science, from our contributions to cinema to our colleges, the United States has been at the forefront of many of the world's most beloved art forms, cuisines, technological advancements, and pastimes.

#### **Our Patriotism**

It's no secret that America is politically divided. But while we all may have different opinions about how the U.S. should be run, there's one thing we all share: Love for our country. It's not something that can be captured in statistics, although some rankings have the United States as the most patriotic nation in the world. It's reflected in the eyes of the aging veteran saluting the Stars and Stripes. In the eyes of the youngest child, staring up at the "rockets' red glare" lighting up the night sky.

And it resounds in our hearts whenever we hear the strains of the Star-Spangled Banner and remember that it is through our patriotism that this remains the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

So, what would your list look like? What do you appreciate about our country? Whatever it is, I hope you had the chance to reflect on it this Fourth of July. From all of NelsonCorp, we wish you and your family a very happy Independence Day!

## **3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BEAR MARKETS**

After two years, the bear is back. That means it's time to review three things every investor should know about how to take advantage – that's right, advantage – of this bear market.

As you probably know, a bear market is a 20% drop from a recent peak. In this case, the recent peak was on January 3, when the S&P 500 closed at 4,796 points.<sup>1</sup> By June 13, the S&P was at 3,749.<sup>1</sup> That's a drop of 21.8%. Bear markets can be a nerve-wracking time for investors, but in my experience, they can also be an opportunity if you know these three things about them.

## 1. The cause of the current bear market.

The first thing to know is why we're in a bear market. As human beings, we fear things we don't know, so understanding the cause of a bear market can make the situation seem less scary. That, in turn, helps us make decisions that are more rational and less emotional.

This current bear is primarily driven by two things: Inflation and interest rates. As inflation has gotten continually worse over the last six months, the Federal Reserve has started raising interest rates to bring prices down. On Wednesday, June 15, the Fed announced their biggest rate hike since 1994.<sup>2</sup>

The reason the markets are down so much is because investors are afraid that the combination of high current inflation (which might squeeze profit margins) and rising rates, might push the U.S. economy into a recession. Unfortunately, no one knows for sure when a recession might occur or how bad it would be, so investors often sell their stocks and move to cash or other assets well in advance if they're afraid a

Bear market start date	1 month later	3 months later	6 months later	1 year later
October 21, 1957	3.4%	5.5%	9.7%	31.0%
May 27, 1962	-2.0%	5.9%	11.9%	23.1%
August 29, 1966	2.4%	7.9%	17.6%	24.6%
January 29, 1970	4.4%	-4.5%	-8.9%	11.8%
November 27, 1973	2.1%	0.7%	-7.4%	-26.9%
February 22, 1982	1.1%	3.0%	1.3%	30.4%
October 19, 1987	6.8%	10.9%	14.7%	23.2%
March 12, 2001	0.3%	6.4%	-7.4%	-1.2%
July 10, 2002	-1.3%	-12.7%	0.8%	7.4%
July 9, 2008	4.1%	-26.9%	-28.5%	-29.1%
February 23, 2009	10.7%	19.3%	38.0%	47.3%
March 12, 2020	12.5%	22.6%	34.7%	59.0%

recession is in the cards. That's essentially what a bear market is - investors making a fear-based decision based on something that might happen in the future. This is where a disciplined approach like NelsonCorp's Risk Aware Investing process can really add value. In our managed accounts, exposure to risk assets has been reduced as the potential for negative outcomes has increased, allowing us to better withstand further declines should they take place. Which brings us to the second thing to know: What happens after a bear market. It's called a recovery.

#### 2. Bear markets are temporary.

No two bear markets are the same. They're all caused by different factors. Some predate recessions and others don't. Some can last a few months; others can last over a year. But they are all temporary.

Measured from when the S&P 500 hits a 20% decline, bear markets last an average of 95 days.<sup>3</sup> Of course, bear markets that come with recessions typically last longer, but historically, the markets have always rebounded sooner or later. Now, as you know, past performance is no guarantee of future results. But history does often serve as a handy guide. With that in mind, Figure 1 shows the recent history of how the markets have performed between 1 and 12 months after a bear market.<sup>4</sup>

Again, there's no way to know what the immediate future holds for this current bear market. What we do know, however, is that the recovery can be one of the most fruitful time periods for investors - because you're essentially getting in on the ground floor of the next bull market. As you can see, one year after a bear, the markets often will have recovered what they lost and sometimes gone on to new heights! This is where we can see the payoff from raising cash through our risk management process as we are able to put that cash back to work in risk assets like stocks.

#### 3. The key to turning a bear market to your advantage is patience and discipline.

You know people often say how they wish they had a time machine so they could "go back and invest in Company X?" Well, take any high-performing company you want. Early investors in that company had to show patience and discipline before they could Figure 1

ever reap the rewards. The good news is that we don't need a time machine. All we need is the patience and discipline to have a well-defined process and stick to it.

" "S&P 500 Historical Prices," The Wall Street Journal, https:// www.wsj.com/market -data/ quotes/index/SPX/historical-prices

<sup>2</sup> "Fed rolls out biggest rate hike since 1994," Reuters, https:// www.reuters.com/markets/ us/fed-seen-revving-up-inflation-fight-with-sharp-ratehike-2022-06-15/

<sup>3</sup> "Here's How Long It Takes For Stocks to Recover From Bear Markets," Forbes, https:// www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2022/05/23/ heres-how-long-it-takes-forstocks-to-recover-frombearmarkets/?sh=655019002565

<sup>4</sup> "How the S&P 500 Performs After Closing in a Bear Market," The Wall Street Journal, https:// www.wsj.com/livecoverage/ stock-market-today-dow-jonesbitcoin-fed-rates-06-14-2022/ card/howthe-

s-p-500-performs-after-closing-in-a-bear-market-yBwgfJw-W8HGSNJaKg6LB 6

## HOW DO I KNOW WHICH INVESTMENTS OPTIONS ARE BEST FOR ME

In recent newsletters, we have discussed a number of topics about investing, including:

• How the Dow Jones, S&P 500, and NASDAQ indices work and which companies they include.

• How the values of these indices are calculated.

• How stocks actually work, and how they differ from bonds.

• How investment funds work, including the differences between passive and active funds.

• The pros and cons of mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and hedge funds.

As you can see, when it comes to investing, there's a lot to know, a lot to consider, and a lot to choose from. And while choice is always a good thing, many investors often come to us with their heads spinning because they're not sure where to start, what to do, or which option to choose. They all come with some variation of the same question. The question we are going to answer right now.

### How do I know which investment options are right for me?

When it comes to this question, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that there is no one-size-fits-all answer. The good news is that there is no onesize-fits-all answer. Yes, you read that right.

To illustrate what I mean, think about your clothing for a moment. Do you buy one-sizefits-all attire? Of course not – and there's a reason for that. "Onesize-fits-all" wouldn't look very good. It wouldn't feel very good. And it simply wouldn't work for every person and every lifestyle.

In life, we have a variety of different clothes we can choose from. We make those choices based on several factors. Climate: pants or shorts. Employment: jeans or slacks. Occasion: a day at the beach or a day at a wedding. Personality: colorful vs dark, brazen vs muted. Figure: from extra-small to extra-large. You choose your clothes - and your style - based on what's right for you. Based on your wants, your needs, your nature. Investing, believe it or not, is much the same. There is no one-size-fitsall. No single "best" option. Only the best for you, based on your wants, your needs, your nature.

This might seem like a nobrainer, but it's critical all the same. That's because, as an investor, you will often hear the media say otherwise. You will hear people claim that the Dow is more important than the S&P (or vice versa). That stocks are better than bonds, or bonds are safer than stocks. That passive is better than active (or vice versa), or that ETFs are always better than mutual funds (or vice versa).

As we've seen, the truth just isn't that simple.

While we have answered a number of investment questions already, now, there are six more for you to consider. Six questions you must not be afraid to ask. Questions only you can answer. Those questions are as follows: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

Who am I? Are you cautious by nature or a risk-taker? Are you a family-oriented person, or more of a lone wolf? An adventurer or a caretaker? Someone with a few simple wants, or big, bold dreams? Or – as many people tend to be – are you a mixture of all these things?

What kind of lifestyle do I want? Simple or extravagant? Always trying new things, or staying in your comfort zone? One focused on work and personal accomplishment, or one focused on family and community? Or again – and I can't stress this too much – a mixture of these things, depending on what stage you're at in life?

When will I most need money? Do you need it soon because you're buying a new home or starting a new business? Or do you need it later when you're about to retire?

Where do I see myself in ten years? Or twenty? Life is all about change and growth. That means you need to ensure you're investing for long-term growth to reach your long-term goals.

Why do I need to invest? To help send your kids to college? To retire? To see the world? To give to charitable causes? To feel like you always have a safety net?

How will I pay for retirement? This is key. Because, regardless of your other goals, there's probably going to come a time when you want to stop working. But you can't just pick a day to not show up at work. Retirement creates a massive lifestyle change, one that will be quite upsetting to your finances if you don't prepare for it.

It's these questions that should determine the right investment options for you. The types of assets you invest in. How much risk you take on. Whether your portfolio is simple or complex. Active versus passive. You get the idea.

### NelsonCorp Nuggets

The 3 busiest airports in the world (as measured by 2021 passenger traffic) are Atlanta (GA), Dallas-Ft. Worth (TX), and Denver (CO).

> Source: Airports Council International



## FOUR STEPS TO BECOMING A FINANCIALLY SAVVY INVESTOR

They're simpler than you think!

#### PLAN

#### 1. Have an overall financial plan

X X X X Setting specific goals is the first step to being a savvy investor. When you make investing part of an overall financial plan, it's easier to understand what you're doing and why. Investing for specific *goals* is a great way to be more confident that the investments in your portfolio are right for you.

#### UNDERSTAND

#### 2. Understand your appropriate level of risk

All investing comes with risk. Take on too much and you could be putting your whole financial future at stake. Take on too little, and your money may never grow enough to reach your overall goals. Start by determining what your own needs and goals are, and what kind of return you'll need to meet them. That will help you understand what kind of risks you can afford to take.

#### LEARN

#### 3. Learn more about your employer's retirement plan

For many people, most of their investing comes in the form of a company retirement plan like a 401(k). But studies show that many investors have no idea what's even in their 401(k), which investments they've selected, or how much risk they are taking on.\* Take the time to learn what investment options are available so you can choose the *right* investments for you.

#### COMMUNICATE

#### 4. Talk to your partner about your investments



Investing doesn't just affect you. It affects your entire family! It's important that everyone be on the same page so there are never any misunderstandings, misgivings, or unpleasant surprises. Take time to involve your partner in the investing process, or get involved with *their* process. That way, you can reduce the risk of fights and hurt feelings, which can have a serious impact on reaching your goals.

\* Richard Eisenberg, "We're Flying Blind Investing for Retirement," Next Avenue, June 12, 2014. http://www.nextavenue.org/were-flying-blind-investing-retirement/

## NELSONCORP MEDIA APPEARANCES

Be sure to catch our weekly educational content featured locally on television, radio, and the newspaper. If you missed any of it, it is available at www.nelsoncorp.com.

On 4 Your Money in June we covered many topics. John Nelson talked about the issues in the housing market, in particular the growing gap between new housing starts and new housing completions. David Nelson continued our many discussions on the topic of inflation. In this segment, he focused on how stocks perform when CPI is rising vs. how they perform when CPI is falling. David had another segment in which he discussed corporate earnings and the potential deceleration we are seeing in the data. He shares the view that even with the recent decline we have seen in stocks, there doesn't appear to be too much priced in as far as slowing earnings and weakening economic growth are concerned. If those were to come to pass, the stock market may still see further losses.

Financial Focus, Οn Nate Kreinbrink and Andy Fergurson talked about the recent changes to Iowa state income tax rules. They hit on two main points, the reduction of the top rate and no longer taxing retirement They point out that income. the rate change will be phased in over the next four years and there will be a lot of opportunity for tax planning. David Nelson this month talked about the turmoil we have seen in financial markets, and not just typical risk assets like stocks, but bonds have seen large losses and very high volatility levels. Nate Kreinbrink and James Nelson wrapped up the month by recapping the first half of 2022 in financial markets and the economy.



4 Your Money airs Tuesday mornings on FOX 18 News at 8am and on WHBF CBS Local 4 News at around 6:10pm.



Financial Focus airs every Wednesday at 9:00 am on KROS FM 105.9 and AM 1340.

### CLINTON HERALD

David Nelson is a guest columnist every 1st and 3rd Saturday in the Clinton Herald.

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

#### **DAVID NELSON**

Sally and I have been busy since the arrival of our twin grandsons, bringing the total number of grandchildren to 12. We are blessed. Here is our most recent family picture, a few months before the twins were born.

Sally is enjoying her retirement and echoes the sentiment of many other retirees of "How did I have time to work!". She's very busy with the new grandsons, and their older brother Willy. When not wearing her Nana hat, she enjoys playing pickleball and working in her gardens.

I'm enjoying the beautiful mornings to get out and take long rides on my bike. I also played my first round of golf (in two years) a few weeks ago and hope to get out and play more this summer and fall.



#### **EUGENE KRUEGER**

Welcome to the summer of 2022 everyone. Isn't it a wonderful time of the year? Even though both my wife Susan and I experienced a quite severe bout of COVID back in June, we are continuing to get back on our feet and able to enjoy work and golf as well as visiting our children and their families.

We celebrated Lydia's 15th birthday on July 6th, which is so hard to believe. She has really taken a liking to the game of golf and now when the family travels, golf clubs are one of the first things in the car. Libby came and teamed up with Susan in her Mother's Member Guest Golf Tournament and the 2 of them took 2nd Place. Their matching dresses were an important factor in that near victory.

I wish you all a healthy Summer and as always, not only do I thank you for using our services but more importantly, for your friendship.



#### BRAD FRITZ

Life's changes continue for Carol and me. We did travel to Washington DC in May for Bruce & Sarah's wedding and the entire trip was fantastic. We saw lots of sights in the DC area and just had a very neat week being a tourist in our nation's capital, I would recommend it for anyone thinking about doing it. This summer we have a couple of reunions to attend, one is a class reunion, and the other is my family out near Omaha, NE in July, looking forward to the family one as the last two attempts were cancelled due to Covid issues. Most of our time is spent enjoying our new down-sized, slower pace of life in the condo, while we really haven't done much it seems like we are on the go all the time. Carol is still enjoying her Monarch butterfly nursery and helping to cultivate them locally.

She started off slow this year due to the late spring cold weather, but it is starting to take off now. Summer heat is upon us and this year we are glad for not having a couple of acres to take care of in the country, we sure do miss it but not that much. Enjoy your summer and see you at one of our next events if not sooner.



#### **KEN NELSON**



As promised in our previous newsletter! Here is a picture of the beautiful little twins that are starting to pack on the pounds, and they are growing very nicely in length. A wonderful sight after being born not so long ago in the 2-pound range! Mom and Dad are starting to pull their hair out, or what remains of it, as these two little curtain climbers are off and running. Actually, up and walking on their own and into everything as you can imagine. Papa and Nana are in our element when we get to see the little characters and look forward to spending as much time as possible with them as seen in this picture during our recent trip into Chicago. Our other granddaughter is doing great as well, and she will be highlighted in our next newsletter. Unfortunately, with the distance between where the twins live and Amina nearer to where we live, we are not able to get pictures of the three of them together besides holidays as you can imagine. Hope all is well with everyone and wishing you a wonderful remainder to your summer!

#### **AMY CAVANAUGH**

I hope you are all enjoying the summer. We celebrated three birthdays with the granddaughters this spring and summer. Nora turned one in April, and she is enjoying her very own Mini Cooper. Lennon turned two and Sage turned three in June. We are enjoying our Mini Copper too. We plan to take a trip down to Lake Rathbun in southern lowa for golf and kayaking and also out to Winterset lowa to see the covered bridges of Madison County. We'll be out and about on the state highways and back road so wave if you see us!



#### NATE KREINBRINK

July is here, and it's safe to say, so is summer. Our household has had a busy month of June with baseball and golf. It's always sad to see seasons end but is nice to have some free weekends and evenings until the next season starts. No big plans for the rest of the summer, just enjoying having everyone home for the summer and enjoying the outdoors and sunshine before we start thinking back to school.



#### **JAMES NELSON**



Happy Summer! I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the nice temperatures. We have been busy at our house with summer activities. Our two oldest, Sophia and Violet have been playing softball this summer. They have also enjoyed golfing with me. Our youngest, Amelia, has liked watching her sisters play and enjoys time in the pool. We just recently went to Northern Minnesota for a week and had a great time. Enjoy the rest of summer! I hope to see you at one of our client events soon.

#### **JOHN NELSON**



I hope you are all doing well. Summer is here and we are thoroughly enjoying time outdoors at our house. Will and Isabelle are pictured on a recent trip to the strawberry patch. They loved picking, eating, and wearing the strawberries on a warm June day. With more of our outdoor client events taking place over the coming months, I look forward to seeing many of you there. Enjoy your summer!

#### JAKE WOODCOCK

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. We just returned from a great trip out West, visiting South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. Our children enjoyed going through five different mountain chains, including the Sawtooth Mountains, which Samantha and Zara took a horseback ride through while Gabriel, Daria, Claudia and I took a boat ride and did some hiking. We visited Shoshone Falls and discovered a number of natural hot springs in Idaho. We hiked in the Grand Tetons and made our way to beautiful lakes and waterfalls. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you at the office soon.



#### VAL HILL

Happy Summer from the Hill's! We are all doing well. Alan has begun the countdown to his retirement date, so he's been compiling a list of "things to get done around the house" in retirement. My guess is the top 3 on the list are golf, hunting and fishing- Nitro and Hogan will be especially excited about the hunting. Elle is still working at the Abbe Mental Health Center in lowa City. She finds the work interesting yet challenging. I love summer and working outside in the yard and garden. I keep purchasing more plants but I'm running out of room to put them. Enjoy your summer!



#### **JAMIE HUGUNIN**



Hello Summer! I hope everyone is doing well and keeping cool. My family and I have been getting outside as much as we can, but sometimes it's a little too hot for our youngest, Everett, who is just about four months old. Now Miles, our two and a half-yearold is another story. Good luck getting him to come back inside, he loves everything about the outdoors. Everett is becoming more and more aware. He has started laughing, which is just about the cutest thing. He loves to watch his big brother and is all smiles when doing so. We can't wait until they can play together...well maybe not quite yet, because mom still wants her babies to be little! We went to the zoo about a month ago. Everett slept almost the whole time and Miles loved seeing all the animals, especially the monkeys and the giraffe.

#### **MICHELLE EVERSOLL**

My husband and I celebrated our 29th wedding anniversary by taking a trip with friends to Ireland. We discovered some real gems on this beautiful emerald isle. We flew into Dublin and spent 8 days traveling the stunning countryside. Some of our favorite stops included kissing the Blarney Stone, Caha Pass, Gap of Dunloe, Cliffs of Moher, a beautiful but sketchy ride along Slea Head Drive, and of course a few pubs! Ireland was full of breathtaking landscapes, and we can't wait to go back.



#### **MIKE STEIGERWALD**

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, and spending some time with family, friends, and loved ones. We have stayed very busy in our household as our twins arrived a few weeks ahead of schedule: Joseph Kasper Steigerwald and Thomas Nelson Steigerwald were welcomed to the world on May 19, 2022. Both boys are

## **ON A PERSONAL NOTE...**

doing very well and are growing so quickly. Their older brother William adores them and offers a helping hand any chance he gets. Catherine and I are so grateful to have such wonderful family and friends that have been helping us get adjusted to life with three boys under the age of two! Although we do not have any vacations planned, all the boys have enjoyed weekly family outings to the farmer's market walks around the and neighborhood for some fresh air. It was great to meet some of you at our client events at the start of this spring and summer, and I look forward to seeing you again soon!



#### **TRAVIS MOREHEAD**



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. I was able to get away for a bit and attend a good friend's wedding in Cancun! We stayed at an all-inclusive resort and enjoyed the beach and warm weather. The service was top notch, and the food was fantastic. I look forward to filling the rest of summer with some golf and catching a few baseball games.

#### AMANDA SCHAVER

Hello! I hope you have been

enjoying your summer! With the warmer temperatures and longer hours of daylight, I have been out as usual on my walks. l'm looking forward to planning a staycation for this summer or possibly for fall. There are so many things that I want to accomplish and would also like to have some down time. Here's a picture from one of my walks. It was a beautiful and calm day, and you can see the bridge's reflection in the muddy Mississippi.



#### **AUSTIN ECK**

Summer is here, my favorite time of the year! We had a great time last month on our family vacation to Disney World. While my wife and I really enjoyed the Star Wars exhibits, our girls had more fun meeting the "real life" princesses at the castle. Overall, it was an exhausting but fun and magical trip. Here I am pictured with our two kiddos, Emma and Lily, in front of the Magic Kingdom Castle. Take care, and we hope everyone is well!



#### HANNAH VAN HYFTE

Hello everyone! I am Hannah Van Hyfte, and I am so grateful to be joining the NelsonCorp team! As you may have read in an earlier note, my husband and I have two kids. Tyler is enjoying his relaxing summer break before starting high school and Madison recently moved back to the area. Normally summer is a busy time for us and my parents to get ready for county fair season showing beef cattle, but with all the changes for my daughter and I, we haven't been able to spend as much time out on the farm. We'll see if we make it to any fairs this year. Lastly, I am an avid reader so if you are in the office and have a good book recommendation, I would love to hear your suggestions. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and hope you enjoy your summer!



#### **BOB LEE**

In early Summer, Joyce and I headed to western lowa and eastern Nebraska. Along on the journey were sister Barb, daughters Jen and Jessica, and two grandkids, Braley and Bohdi. This has become a recent tradition for family and friends to get together. The first stop is my hometown. Shenandoah I۵ where we see lifelong friends and visit generational cemetery grave sites. The next day we motor to Omaha and Beemer, NE where we visited with multiple layers of family. The highlight this year was an afternoon and evening at our niece Sarah's and husband Scott's family campground at their legacy farmstead. Near the Elkhorn River the multi acre property is peaceful and green. The site has an historic barn, sheds, and a cook house. The fire pit was piled

high and served as the focus of a wonderful evening gathering with its warmth and color. It was a day we enjoyed reconnecting with all of the family gathered.



#### **RICH PHELAN**

Sometimes, I feel Carolyn and I have lived a charmed life in so many ways. As I get a little older, I see many of my generation having significant health issues. It's not that I have had no issues, but I thank God each day that they have all been manageable. We have such wonderful health care advantages in our country. I recently had my right knee replaced. I was up and walking a few hours later and home the next day. I won't say there wasn't a little pain, but the wonders of modern medicine! My parent's generation would not even have conceived of a total knee replacement. They just suffered increasingly as they got older. The blessing of modern medicine.



#### **STEVE GRIMES**

These are three buddies from my college days and myself at a recent get together. We all played basketball together and have stayed close friends over the years. We count our blessings for good friends and family and are thrilled to be able to get together

#### JULY 2022

#### NELSONCORPNEWS 11

on occasion. We know that we each have the others back and will always be there for each other. We thank our wives and families for putting up with us and our boring stories that they have heard over again, and again. It's always great to see the guys! I hope that all of you are able to get together with old friends and family over the summer and retell those stories that bring a laugh or a tear to everyone and remind us all what is truly important in life...



#### ANDY FERGURSON

Summer is a busy time at our house. Every night is softball or baseball or church activities. Weekends are not much easier. Busy life is exciting though. Summer is about ½ over and we have a lot left to do. Then the hustle of back to school. My oldest daughter Delainey will be attending college at BYU-I in Idaho. We are excited for her but anxious about sending our first baby into the world 20 hours away. Fortunately work gets a little easier for a little while, lots of training and planning. I hope your summer has been full of memories and experiences. This is a picture from High School Graduation this year. We should be doing this every even year until 2034!



#### **MIKE VANZUIDEN**

Summer seems to get here a little faster each year. I am grateful for another busy and successful tax season. I am also thankful for its conclusion. It is nice to have life slow down just a little bit and catch our breath from the season that was. My wife, Christy, is a teacher so this is also an enjoyable time of year for her. It is a time to recharge and to reflect. We don't have any big trips planned this year, but will take a couple of weekend trips, including one to Chicago very soon. We have enjoyed a trip to Circa 21 to see "Beauty and the Beast" and recently celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary. I hope that your summer brings you time for recharging, reflection, and fun. Be blessed!



#### **TABATHA WESTPHAL**

Hi everyone! Baseball/softball season for the kids is coming to a close here very soon, and while I will miss it, it will be fun to be able to just enjoy summer and what it has to offer. This year has gone by so fast with a super busy tax season to start the year off. I am coming up on my two years of being here, and it is nice to be able to say that I am starting to recognize more and more people from stopping in the office. We are headed to Nashville on the 4th of July to begin a muchneeded vacation and I cannot wait.



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHARITY IS FULTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Fulton Police Department's annual National Night Out this year is on August 2nd, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Drives Park, 1300 Park Drive in Fulton, IL.

National Night Out promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live and work.

This year's event will feature Law Enforcement, Fire Department, and other Public Safety personnel and equipment, plus food vendors, business displays and much more!

For more information contact Officer Adam Wherry or Sgt. Duane Hamilton at the Fulton Police Department, 815-589-3617.

#### **JEANS FOR CHARITY**

Every Friday, the team at NelsonCorp Wealth Management wears "Jeans for Charity". In exchange for getting to wear jeans to work, we each pay a \$5 weekly fine. At the end of the month, the fines are donated to a charity. NelsonCorp will match the fines that are collected, up to \$250.



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