



Consumer Sense

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

In This Issue:

I'm Thinking about Retiring

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Knowing how you will manage your finances once you retire is as much a personal issue as a financial one. Developing a strategy that affords you the most enjoyable retirement, while minimizing the stress of managing your money wisely and for the duration of your retirement, is an important part of planning for your future.

Spend Wisely

As Americans live longer and retire earlier, the number of years spent in retirement is increasing. According to Association for Retired Persons (AARP), people often spend more money during retirement than expected. Before you retire, develop a realistic budget for all your potential expenses, such as medical expenses, living expenses or travel. Planning carefully, investing wisely and spending thoughtfully will help increase the likelihood that your retirement will be

financially secure.

Distribution Options

Make sure you are aware of the distribution options available from your retirement accounts. Generally, most 401(k) plans do not offer distributions in the form of annuity payments, allowing you to withdraw funds slowly over a long period of time to conserve the principal balance. IRAs typically offer more distribution options, and allow you to consolidate assets. Consider if rolling over assets to a Traditional IRA is right for you.

Social Security

No matter what your full retirement age is, you may be eligible for benefits as early as age 62. However, if you start at an early age, your benefits may be reduced. By delaying retirement, you could increase your Social Security retirement benefit.

Part-Time Employment

Consider looking for part-time employment. Not only would it provide an additional source of income but it may help ease the transition into retirement. According to AARP, 68% of retirees named the

need for money as the primary reason for working beyond retirement, followed by a need for healthcare coverage.

Who Can Help Me?

There are many choices when searching for a financial professional who will work with you to identify your retirement goals, develop and implement an investment plan, and provide ongoing advice. The best place to begin your search is at SACU.

Below are a few questions to ask when meeting with your financial professional for the first time to plan your retirement:

- Exactly what financial services will you provide?
- How are you qualified to provide those services?
- How will I pay for your financial products or services?

Schedule your complimentary appointment with a CFS investment representative at SACU by calling toll free 800-234-7228, extension 1442 today.

Investment Services offered through CFS*

Have you read...?

The 5 Years Before You Retire: Retirement Planning When You Need it the Most by Emily Guy Birken

Please visit this source for more information:

<http://www.aarp.org/retirement/>

SACU

Your Dream Is Our Mission...

At SACU, our CFS* investment representatives 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 800-234-7228 ext. 1442 or ext. 1071.