



Your 2019 Financial To-Do List:

Month by Month—July through September

by Philip Herzberg, CFP®

July: 1. Hurricane season is here. Don't wait until a hurricane watch is issued, because it may be too late to take certain precautions. Make sure your home's structure has adequate insurance coverage. Check your homeowners policy limit and verify the amount is sufficient to rebuild your home in the event you're hit with a destructive storm. Create a home inventory to speed up the claims process, facilitate applying for disaster aid, and substantiate losses for income tax purposes. Walk around inside/outside and take photographs. Understand your hurricane deductible, which affects the bottom line of an insurance payout. Keep on hand non-perishable emergency supplies, such as extra batteries, first aid supplies, a flashlight, drinking water, and food that you don't have to refrigerate or cook.

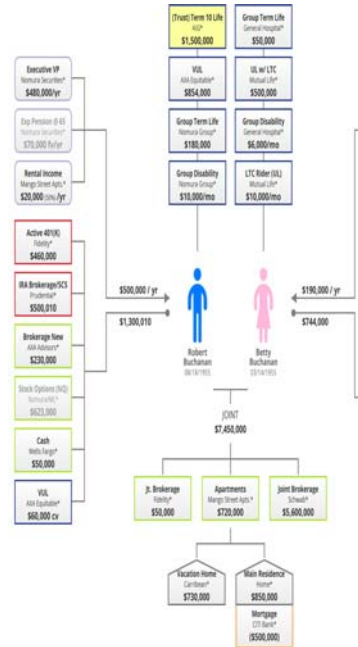
2. Ensure you are on track at mid-year to max out your employer's retirement plan contributions - \$19,000 or \$25,000 if age 50 and over. Allocate any 2019 bonuses towards your company's retirement plan to ramp up retirement savings.

August: 1. Assess your emergency fund. Unanticipated expenses can crop up for unplanned life events, making it essential to hold liquid reserves, to pay for them. Set up a separate account for this emergency fund apart from your daily checking account and long-term retirement assets.

2. If funding your children's or grandchildren's education is a priority and you have positive cash flow, consider contributing to a 529 savings plan to save for education in a tax-advantaged manner (you don't pay taxes on earnings to cover qualified higher education expenses). Be aware that limits for 529 plans are complex. There are no annual contribution limits for 529 plans, but the total balance per beneficiary is limited to the expected amount of future qualified education expenses, depending on the state. You can currently gift \$15,000 per beneficiary per year without paying a gift tax. Married couples can annually give \$30,000 per beneficiary. You also have the option to front-load your gifts and contribute five years' worth of the annual exclusion in one year without incurring gift tax

(continued on page 3)

Asset Map Over time, we are all likely to accumulate a number of accounts, retirement plans, policies and more.



Do you ever wish there was a simple way to see everything in one place? Our personalized Asset Map gives you clarity by letting you see your financial life, visually, in one page.

Would you like to see your Asset Map?

Contact us and we'll be happy to help. 305.670.4440

Your Financial Life on One Page

Are you interested in having an LFG expert present to your office, study group or community group?

Topics include: Navigating through Today's Market Volatility, Blended Families with Baggage and Planning Ahead for a Secure Retirement.

Our advisors and professionals are dedicated to your financial education. Some presentations can also be delivered in Spanish. Let us know if you'd like to know more. Nancy Mele 305 670 4440

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Are you on LinkedIn? If so, connect with The Lubitz Financial Group page for more articles!



What's Inside

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes 'Around the Office', 'Your 2019 Financial To-Do List (continued)', and 'Financial Thoughts/Lesson from GAME OF THRONES'.

AROUND THE OFFICE

In the News ... Phil authored April's Journal of Financial Planning column, "Estate Planning Strategies After Tax Reform." You can read the article which is posted on our website under, "We're in the News" ([please click here to see article](#)). Debbie was quoted in the May 21st USA Today newspaper, [Are you still supporting your college graduate?](#)

Giving Back to the Community ... Linda supported The Women's Fund by attending the Power of the Purse Luncheon in May. The Super Bowl has partnered with The Women's Fund to help raise awareness of sex trafficking during Super Bowl 2020. Phil successfully completed his term as 2018-19 year Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami President. LFGers were amongst the 27,000 people who ran or walked downtown Miami on April 25th for the 35th annual Mercedes-Benz Corporate 5k Run. Phil served as team captain for this annual event, which promotes workplace health and wellness

Furthering the Profession ... Phil presented as a panelist during a national Financial Planning Association (FPA) webinar on "Leveraging Estate Planning Strategies for Clients." In March, Jorge gave a presentation at an FPA chapter on "What Advisors Need to Know About the New World of Crypto and Digital Assets."

Education ... Linda attended her Capstone Study Group meeting in Des Moines, and was accompanied by Jorge joining as part of the group's 'Next Gen' group. FPA (Financial Planning Association) NorCal Conference is an educational highlight of the year for Linda. She was honored to sit next to the Conference Key Note Speaker, Dr. Marci Rossell, Economist formerly with CNBC, Oppenheimer Funds and the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. Great down-to-earth economic forecast. Research Affiliates invited Linda to join their Elite Advisor Research Roundtable to provide input on their model portfolios and direct indexing.

Jorge attended the Investment and Wealth Institute Annual Conference in Las Vegas to get in-depth updates on the economy, investment strategies and wealth planning ideas. You all may know by now that Madeline left LFG to pursue a new opportunity; but not before she

"walked" as she earned her Bachelors Degree from Miami Dade College. Linda and Phil attended the April 3rd joint FPA Miami / Association Corporate Growth (ACG) South Florida / Greater Miami Tax Institute Dinner Event on "Preparing Owners for the Sale of a Business" and "Planning with Structured Credit. Phil and Debbie attended the May

8th joint FPA Miami/CFA Society Miami Dinner Event on "IRAs with Nontraditional or Alternative Assets: Planning Considerations." Phil attended March 21st Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami Dinner Event on "The Hatfields & The McCoys: Pitfalls When Planning Devises of Real Estate" and "Holistic Multidisciplinary Planning Considerations for Aging Parents with a Child Living with Diverse Abilities", the April 24th Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami Dinner Event on "Florida Legislative Law Update" and "Estate Planning Trends for International Clients" and the May 16th Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami Dinner Event on "Tax and Estate Planning for Business Owners" and "Case Law Update".

Exotic Travel ... Jorge spent a few days in Sedona, AZ on a mini-retreat to relax and recharge. Every year, Nancy looks forward to her May Kentucky Derby trip. She still attends with college friends! Nercys enjoyed a long weekend with friends and family in Bimini.

Family & Personal Matters Norm's daughter, Anaelisa, gave birth to a healthy, beautiful baby girl named Sawyer. They live in Los Angeles so flights now will go north and south, not just east and west! Linda and Norm moved out of their beloved Oakland home to downsize, save their knees from the 41 steps from garage to kitchen and join the thriving downtown Oakland "scene" in a condo on Lake Merritt. Condo renovation still underway and a mid-summer occupancy is expected. Nancy was happy to celebrate her mom's 96th birthday in May.

Office Happenings ... Kudos to Nercys who works tirelessly to convert our administrative tasks to Dynamic Wealth Advisors. Here at the office, we celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, milestones. Who's wearing the birthday hat in May?



May. The Super Bowl has partnered with The Women's Fund to help raise awareness of sex trafficking during Super Bowl 2020. Phil successfully completed his term as 2018-19 year Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami President. LFGers were amongst the 27,000 people who ran or walked downtown Miami on April 25th for the 35th annual Mercedes-Benz Corporate 5k Run. Phil served as team captain for this annual event, which promotes workplace health and wellness

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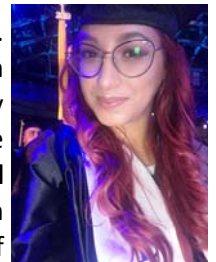
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consequences, as long as you do not contribute for the following 5 years. In addition, you can now make up to \$10,000 per year of tax-free and penalty-free withdrawals from your 529 plan to cover private K-12 tuition costs and computers, laptops, and other technology items used for education.

September: 1. September 16th is the date for quarterly estimated tax payments.

2. Think about a Roth IRA Conversion if you want to lower your expected marginal tax bracket during your retirement years. If you are interested in laying the foundation for tax-efficient withdrawals in retirement, it would be sensible for you to have a mix of traditional and Roth accounts, so that you will be able to withdraw monies from taxable and nontaxable accounts to keep your taxable income in the lowest possible tax bracket. If you are projecting lower income in 2019 or had some large capital losses, you can consider converting some traditional IRA or 401(k) money into a Roth IRA, where withdrawals in retirement are tax-free (assuming you are age 59 ½ and older and have owned your Roth IRA for five years). Be mindful that you will pay income taxes in 2019 on the converted amount.

To run tax projections for the Roth IRA conversions, call your LFG Advisors at 305.670.4440. We are here to guide you on your planning.



Financial Thoughts/Lesson from GAME OF THRONES

by Deborah Badillo, CFP®

The Financial Planning Association recently asked their members, somewhat whimsically, about possible financial lessons, money lessons and life lessons we might usefully draw from this saga. Deborah Badillo, CFP®, shared the following:

When I think of the financial lessons to be learned from Game of Thrones, a couple of things come to mind.

“Winter is Coming”, is the motto of House Stark. The first lesson is to have a financial plan. One needs to be prepared for both uncertainty and an emergency. Do you have an emergency fund? The amount of your emergency fund varies from 3 to 6 months of living expenses depending of your situation.

Khaleesi the Mother of Dragons surrounds her self with trusted advisors such as Tyrion Lannister to obtain her goal of taking back the Iron Throne. You, too, may want to seek out trusted professionals, such as a CFP®, to assist you with your financial plan.

“A Lannister always pays his debts.” The motto of House Lannister has a couple of meanings. But, for this exercise we will focus on the financial meaning. An important goal is to pay off debts in order to maintain a good credit rating. A good credit score will assist you in obtaining a lower interest rate when applying for a loan to purchase big ticket items, such as a house. House Lannister must maintain a good reputation of paying its debts so it may continue to obtain funding from the Iron Bank in order to fund their battles to hold the Iron Throne and rule Westeros.

As the TV show Game of Thrones starts its final season, my concluding lesson on the show is the one certain thing in life is change. The characters of the show that have survived to the end have been able to adapt to the uncertainty in the world. Arya and Stanzas Stark are prime examples of survivors that have adapted to the world’s uncertainty after the assassination of their family during the bloody wedding episode. During volatile times, is your portfolio well diversified to minimize risk? Are your funds too concentrated in one area? A well-diversified portfolio will help avoid being severely damaged by an underperforming security, sector, industry, or country.

In conclusion, if this seems overwhelming, remember how all the main characters of the show have trusted advisers to assist them in claiming the Iron Throne. Don’t hesitate to reach out to a CFP® for help in reaching your financial goals.

We welcome the opportunity to help you, your family and friends achieve peace of mind related to wealth and life transition planning.

305-670-4440

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Summer Quotes from Country Living



There's no need for those winter blues, y'all (fun things to do ... click on the links for grilling recipes, road trips and more!)

[Summertime is finally here!](#) As the days begin to get longer and the temperatures start to climb, you know what this season brings:

[relaxing nights on the patio](#), [taking weekend trips with the family](#), and enjoying all the [backyard barbecues](#) your neighborhood has to offer.

If all of that doesn't get you excited, these summer quotes certainly will.

"If it could only be like this always — always summer always alone, the fruit always ripe."

~ Lilly Evelyn Waugh

"If summer had one defining scent, it'd definitely be the smell of barbecue."

~ Katie Lee

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

~ Audrey Hepburn