

# EPIC's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Participant Newsletter 2013

## **2014 IRS Contribution Limits:**

Participants will be allowed to contribute \$17,500 in 2014, in employee contributions. An additional \$5,500 catch-up contribution is allowed for those employees over the age of 50.

## **MARKET OVERVIEW**

Investors celebrated a stellar year of returns in the market for 2013. The Dow earned 26.5% for the year and the S&P 500 posted gains of 29.6%. The Dow posted the highest annual gain since 1995, climbing for the fifth year in a row. Records have been broken this year in the equity markets, as the ten-year returns of most large, mid and small cap funds continued to gravitate back to their mean. The bond market experienced a correction in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2013, as a result of rising interest rates and on the fear of the Fed easing up on its bond buying program. Importantly, we believe bonds will post positive returns for 2014.

One of two things will happen to the investment markets in 2014:

1. They will continue to go up. A number of investment fund managers are projecting equity returns in the high single to low double digits.
2. The market will have a normal correction of between 8-15% at some point in 2014. EPIC believes this is the most probable scenario, with the overall markets trending upward after the correction.

*As always, we recommend you contact EPIC for an account review.*

We note that January is often called "the barometer of the market". As for the past 85 years, a market gain or loss in January has preceded a full year result of the same up or down direction 73% of the time.

Most important, we wish 2014 brings you and your family nothing but health, happiness and prosperity.

## **FOR QUESTIONS AND PERSONAL INVESTMENT GUIDANCE, PLEASE CONTACT EPIC**

You may feel free to contact EPIC directly. EPIC consultants are available between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time Monday – Friday. You can call or email:

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When contacting EPIC, kindly identify yourself and your employer and if possible provide a copy of your 401(k) statement.

## **PLEASE READ YOUR RETIREMENT PLANNING NEWSLETTER ATTACHED**

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