



A whole generation of Americans will retire in poverty instead of prosperity because they simply are not preparing for retirement now.

Scott Cook – Co-founder of Intuit Inc.

FUNDAMENTALS AND STRATEGIES FOR RETIREMENT

Part One

One of the tenets of Banta Asset Management is helping position your family's **financial road map** with navigational expertise that not only strengthens the journey, but more importantly, secures the goal – we call this *finishing well*. For many hard-working families, **retirement** is a destination that requires a specific goal, careful planning, and strategic execution. In this first installment, we provide a guide for **retiring early**, addressing critical planning tactics required for implementation throughout one's working years. In a forthcoming second installment, we will provide a guide for **estate planning**, addressing the fundamentals for securing the assets you have worked so long and hard to create.

Realizing Your Dreams – Savings Strategies from Your 20s to Your 60s

Your 20s

- Tighten up on spending – ratchet up your savings
- Establish good money-management habits early
- Put savings on autopilot – have a direct deposit program to ensure you pay yourself first
- Live below your means – learn how to manage debt
- Create an “escape fund”– immediately enroll in your employer's retirement plan

Your 30s

- Concentrate on your career – build your professional foundation
- Set financial goals – college savings accounts, rainy day accounts, and investment accounts all require individual goals and strategies
- Stash your cash – direct extra savings into stocks, bonds, and exchange traded funds

Your 40s

- Continue to feed your “escape fund/retirement account”
- Monitor your debt – look for ways to control and reduce debt

- Refine your retirement goals – you will need more money than you think
- Get to work – create your early retirement “work goals”

Your 50s and 60s

- Review your real estate holdings – consider whether you will stay in your primary residence or examine different types of living lifestyles
- Stay with stocks – even though you’re getting ready to retire, your money isn’t
 - Keep your portfolio focused on equities – that is the best way to make your money last and hedge against inflation
- Do a benefits check – look at your company’s retirement plan and medical benefits
- Cut the cord – don’t establish or continue a co-dependent financial relationship with your children
- Devise a tax strategy – taking money out of tax-deferred retirement accounts requires special assistance and planning
- **Review your estate plan – forthcoming in Part Two**

From Working for a Living to Retiring for a Living

At Banta Asset Management, we know that realizing your retirement goals requires a **road map** anchored on attainable goals and steadfast strategies. Our services put **your retirement** at the forefront of our mission – *helping you achieve your long-term goals while enjoying peace of mind*. In our forthcoming letter, we will discuss the next phase of retirement which involves **managing your estate**.

With continued confidence,

Banta Asset Management