

I. Get in & Stay in the Market



- Remain 100% invested in stocks at all times.
 - Don't sit on cash withdrawals can be handled by selling your biggest losers or transferring shares of big winners.
- Market & economic cycles give you opportunities if your approach is truly long-term.
- Most market gains come in just few days in a year (in 2023, almost all gains came from just 6 days).
 - Missing those big moves reduces returns considerably.
- Waiting out market's doldrums is more effective than trying to guess when to get in/out.

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2. Keep Club Portfolios Simple

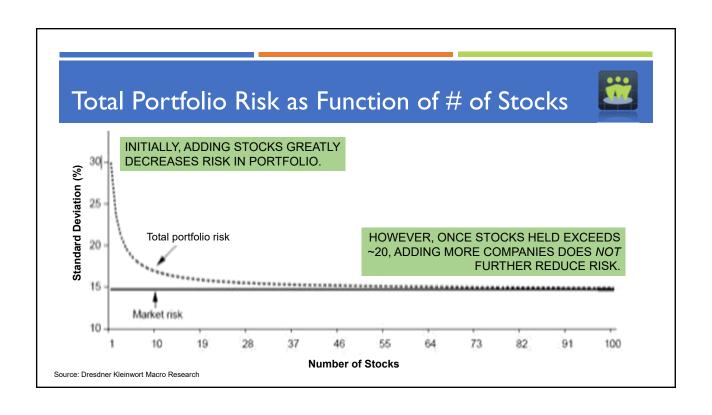


- Invest only in stocks & avoid arcane/problematic investments:
 - Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).
 - Business Development Companies (BDCs).
 - Publicly-Traded Partnerships (PTPs) & Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs).
 - Commodity Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs that hold commodities).
 - Any ETFs or mutual funds (unless portfolio advantages are well-articulated as part of strategy & overcome accounting issues).
- Any of these can complicate tax preparation & unit value accounting.
 - Sell before 12/31 to prevent future tax preparation hassles.

3. Keep Club Portfolios Concentrated



- Hold no stock that's less than 3% of total portfolio.
 - Even if these perform well, won't significantly affect returns.
- 20-25 well-chosen stocks delivers optimal return/risk in diversified portfolio.
 - Owing more stocks effectively turns portfolio into index fund & prevents outperforming broader market.
 - Very large (>\$1M) may add more holdings.
 - # of club members may also affect max # of stocks covered.
- Concentration forces members into making good choices about stock picks & prevents lackadaisical decision-making.



4. Diversify by Company Size



- Diversify by size of revenues to include small, midsized & large companies.
 - Midsized revenues between \$1B and \$10B.
- BI suggests 25% small, 50% mid, 25% large.
 - This is good target even if never precisely achieved.
- Deviate from this plan only with well-conceived, thoughtful strategy that sets custom target.

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Characteristics of Company Sizes



- Micro < \$100 Million.
- More speculative.
- Small < \$1 Billion.
- Mid >\$1 and < \$10 Billion.

Sweet spot for total return.

- **■** Large < \$50 Billion.
 </p>
- Add stability + dividends.
- Mega > \$50 Billion.
- May not provide enough growth to drive prices.

 Π

5. Diversify by Sector & Industry



- Must include healthy allocation of sectors in each Super Sector: Defensive, Sensitive, & Cyclical.
 - Target minimum of 15% in each Super Sector.
- Don't need to include every other **Sector**, but try to include as many as possible to represent broad swath of US economy.
 - Real Estate, Energy, & Utilities sectors may be avoided in club/BI-style portfolios.
- Include many divergent <u>Industries</u>.
 - Avoid companies in overlapping or adjacent industries.
 - Target no industry less than 3% or more than 15%.

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Super Sectors & Sectors



Cyclical

Basic Materials

Consumer

Cyclical

Financial Services

Real Estate*

Sensitive

Communication

Services

Industrials

Technology

Energy*

Defensive

Consumer

Defensive

Healthcare

Utilities*

^{*} Don't often fit the BI model or are not suitable for investment clubs.

6. Keep Focus on Growth



- Disciplined approach to investing (using SSG) is key to performance.
- BetterInvesting's 3 key objectives to outperform market over time:
 - I. Capital appreciation driven by fundamental growth.
 - 2. Value from buying at reasonable prices.
 - 3. Income from dividends.
- Straying from these priorities can lead to underperformance.
 - Seek minimum average EPS growth of 10-12% (so appreciation exceeds market return).
 - If too many stocks are slow-growth, dividends won't lift returns enough.
- Treat club portfolio like growth mutual fund & thus allow members to accommodate club in their personal portfolio approach.

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7. Maintain Active Management



- Avoid human tendency to hold on to underperforming or uncertain companies for too long.
- Better to take action too soon/too often rather than too late.
- Use club's portfolio construction guidelines as fuel for dealing with stocks that have uncertain prospects.
- Use tax harvesting to reduce overweight positions.
- Use "Challenge" approach to swap underperformers for stocks with greater potential.

Investment Club Portfolio Clinic



ANY OPINIONS OFFERED ARE THOSE OF DOUG GERLACH, AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF BETTERINVESTING OR ICLUBCENTRAL. CONDUCT YOUR OWN STOCK STUDIES AND RESEARCH BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR PORTFOLIO.

What I Won't Be Addressing



- Tax considerations:
 - Though they are important in making wise portfolio moves.
- Past performance:
 - Whether or not stock is in gain or loss column is largely irrelevant to its future potential.
- Potential fundamental problems:
 - Problems are easy to spot. Determining if long-term prospects are still good requires research & experience.
 - Don't default to "hold" when you are uncertain.
- Non-club-related issues:
 - Individual investor portfolios don't always face same constraints.

Define Your Portfolio Approach



- ■There is no "one size fits all" approach to portfolio construction.
- Comments come with 3 labels as outlined in my "rules":
 - ■Good, Caution, Warning.
- Few "absolutes," but hopefully these talking points will help your club examine & re-set portfolio construction guidelines that fit your objectives.
- Having practical goals gives members something to work towards.

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CAPGAINS IC

Club Composition



- ■29 members.
- 12 companies.
- Located in Florida.
- Founded in 2015.

- Caution: # of companies is very concentrated.
 - Could potentially reduce overall risk by adding more holdings.
 - Members could follow more companies.

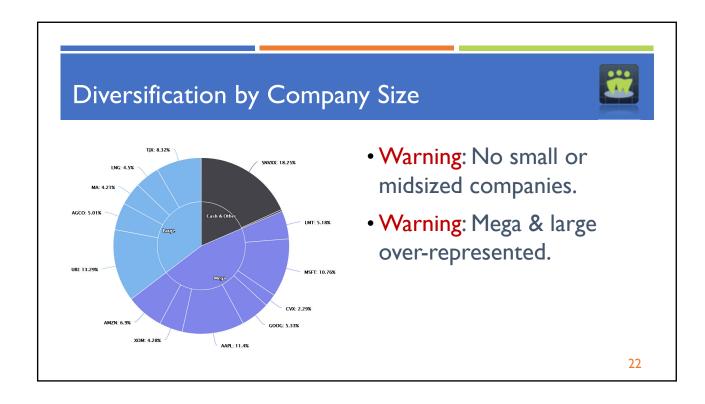
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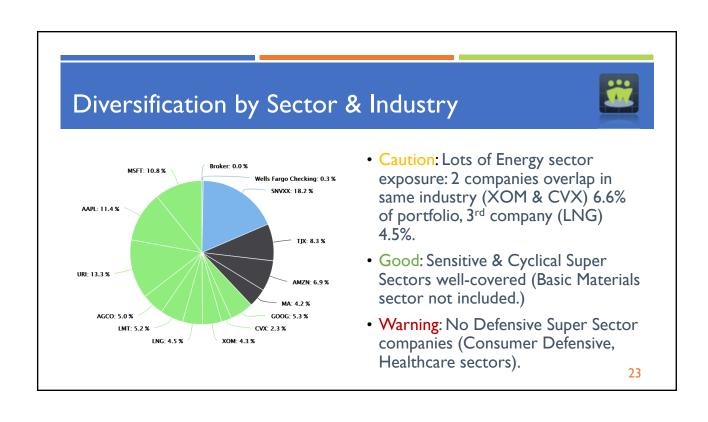
Portfolio Holdings



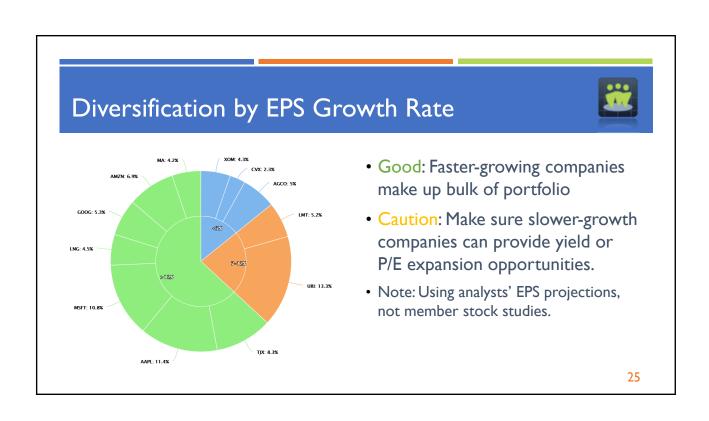
Apple (AAPL)	11.4%
Agco (AGCO)	5.0%
Amazon.com (AMZN)	6.9%
Chevron (CVX)	<mark>2.3%</mark>
Alphabet (GOOG)	5.3%
Lockheed Martin (LMT)	5.2%
Cheniere Energy (LNG)	4.5%
Mastercard Incorp Co (MA)	4.2%
Microsoft (MSFT)	10.8%
TJX Companies (TJX)	8.3%
United Rentals (URI)	13.3%
Exxon Mobil (XOM)	4.3%
Total Securities	81.5%
Cash	<mark>18.5%</mark>

- Caution: One holding may be too small 2.3%.
- Good: No overweight positions (largest holding 13.3%).
- Good: No arcane/problematic investments.
- Warning: Cash is very high 18.5%.











UNIVERSAL INVESTMENT CLUB

26

Club Composition



- 6 members.
- II companies.
- Located in Iowa.
- Founded in 1990s.

- Caution: # of companies is very concentrated.
 - Could potentially reduce overall risk by adding more holdings.
 - Members would need to follow more companies.

Portfolio Holdings



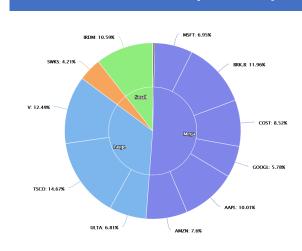
Apple (AAPL)	10.0%
Amazon.com AMZN)	7.6%
Berkshire Hathaway (BRK.B)	11.9%
Costco Wholesale (COST)	8.5%
Alphabet A (GOOGL)	5.8%
Iridium Comm IRDM)	10.5%
Microsoft (MSFT)	6.9%
Skyworks Solution (SWKS)	4.2%
Tractor Supply (TSCO)	14.6%
Ulta Beauty (ULTA)	7.2%
VISA (V)	12.4%
Total Securities	99.6%
Total Cash	0.4%

- Good: No underweight positions (smallest 4.2%).
- Good: No overweight positions (largest 14.6%).
- Good: No arcane/problematic investments.
 - Note: BRKB doesn't fit BetterInvesting model, but who argues with Warren?
- Good: Companies largely fit BI model, owned by other clubs, featured in IAS or SCI newsletters.
- Good: Cash is low 0.4%.

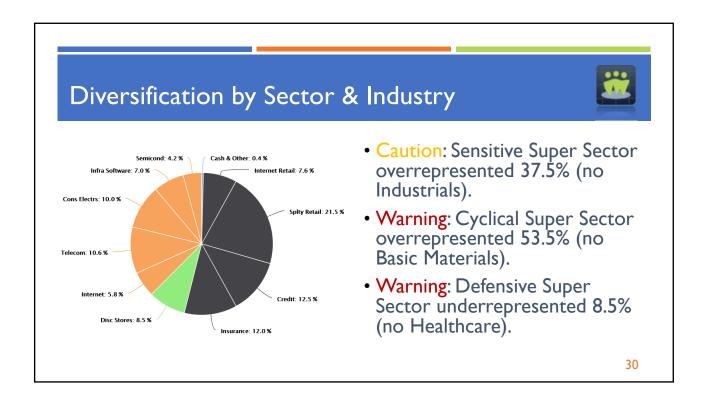
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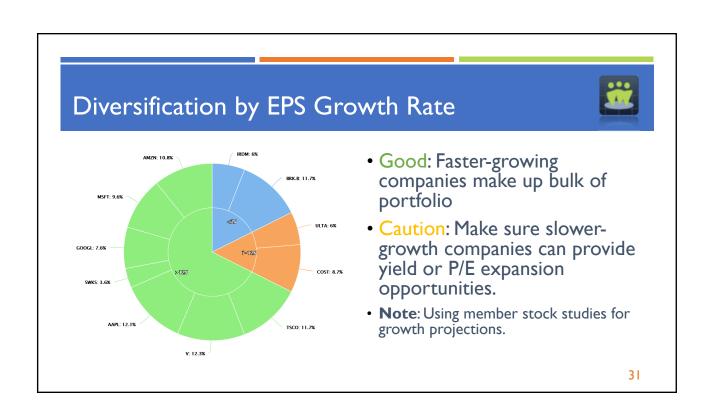
Diversification by Company Size





- Warning: Only I small & I midsized company.
- Warning: Mega & large overrepresented.
- Caution: Only small company (IRDM) is "speculative" (no current EPS or history of EPS growth).







JABEZ LADIES

32

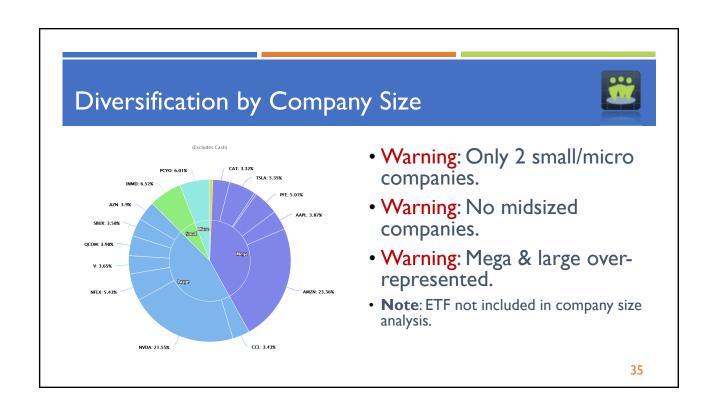
Club Composition

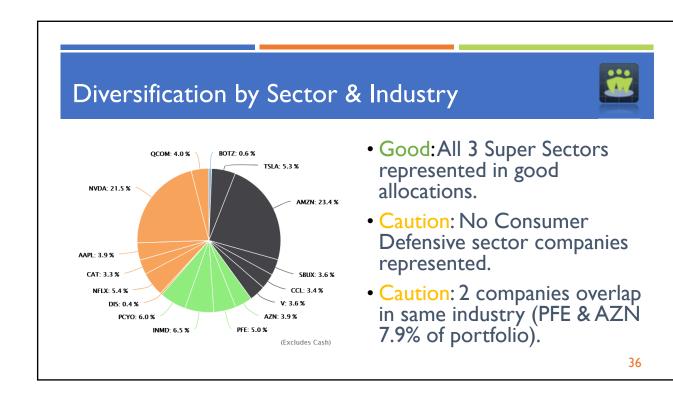


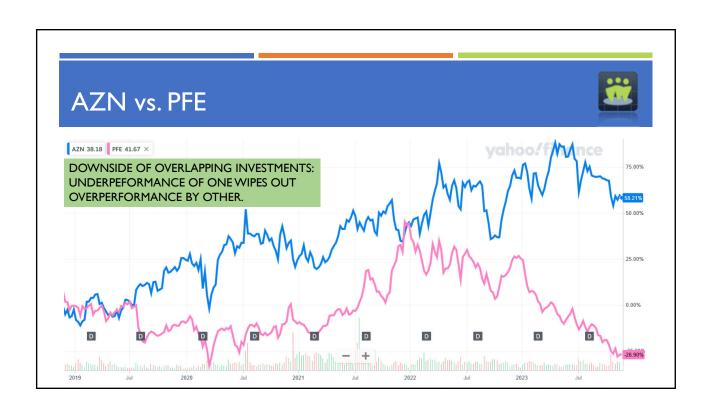
- ■18 members.
- ■16 companies.
- Located in Delaware/New York/Pennsylvania.
- Founded in 2017.

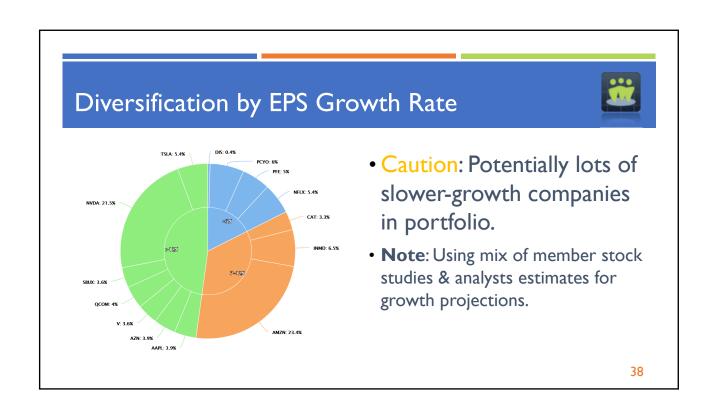
- Caution: Could potentially reduce overall risk by adding more holdings.
 - Members can easily follow more companies.

Portfolio Holdings 3.4% Apple (AAPL) • Warning: 2 significantly underweight Amazon.com (AMZN) 20.7% positions (BOTZ 0.6%, DIS 0.4%) AstraZeneca PLC (AZN) 3.5% 0.6% Global X Robotics & (BOTZ) • Caution: 2 positions each more than Caterpillar (CAT) 2.9% 3X next largest positions (AMZN Carnival (CCL) 3.0% 20.7% & NVDA 19.1%). Disney (Walt) (DIS) 0.4% Inmode (INMD) 5.8% Caution: One ETF (BOTZ 0.6%). Netflix (NFLX) 4.8% Nvidia (NVDA) 19.1% Caution: Several companies don't fit BI Pure Cycle (PCYO) model or seem not to be growth-Pfizer (PFE) 4.4% focused (PCYO, BOTZ). Qualcomm (QCOM) 3.5% Starbucks (SBUX) 3.2% • Warning: Cash is high 11.2%. 4.7% Tesla (TSLA) Visa (V) 3.2% **Total Securities** 88.8% 34 Total Cash 11.2%











Club Composition



- ■8 members.
- 15 companies.
- Located in Idaho.
- Founded in 1996.

 Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.

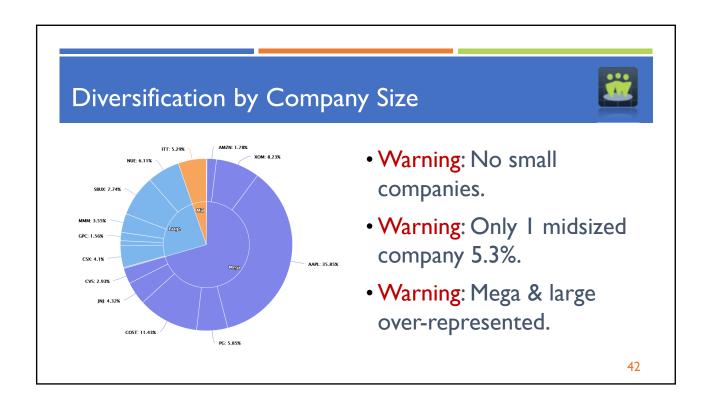
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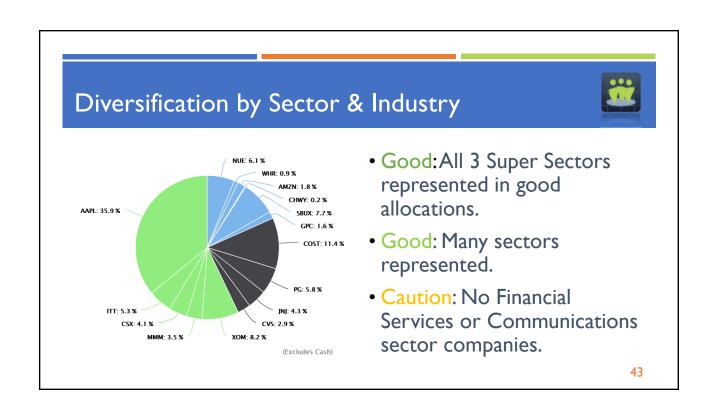
Portfolio Holdings

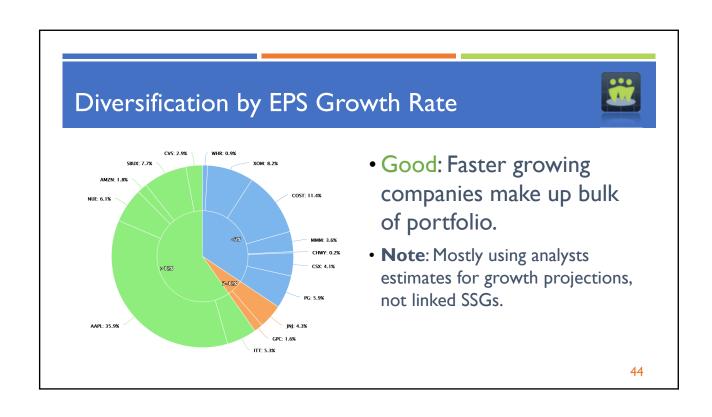


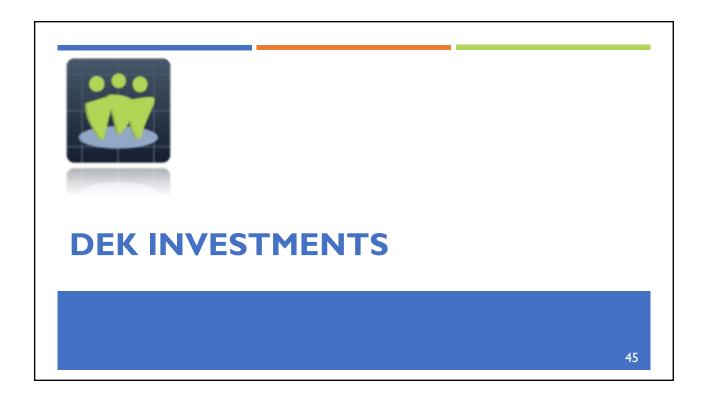
Apple (AAPL)	35.8%
Amazon.com (AMZN)	1.8%
Chewy (CHWY)	0.2%
Costco Wholesale (COST)	11.4%
CSX (CSX)	4.1%
CVS Health (CVS)	2.9%
Genuine Parts Co (GPC)	<mark>1.6%</mark>
ITT (ITT)	5.3%
Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	4.3%
3M Company (MMM)	3.5%
Nucor (NUE)	6.1%
Proctor & Gamble (PG)	5.8%
Starbucks (SBUX)	7.7%
Whirlpool (WHR)	<mark>0.9%</mark>
Exxon Mobil (XOM)	8.2%
Total Securities	99.9%
Total Cash	0.1%

- Warning: I significantly overweight position (AAPL 35.8%).
- Warning: 4 significantly underweight positions below 3% (AMZN 1.8%, CHWY 0.2%, GPC 1.6%, WHR 0.9%).
- Good: No arcane/problematic investments.
- Good: Cash is good 0.1%.









Club Composition



- ■12 members.
- I3 companies.
- Family club.
- Located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois.
- Founded in 2021.

- Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
- Members can easily follow more companies.

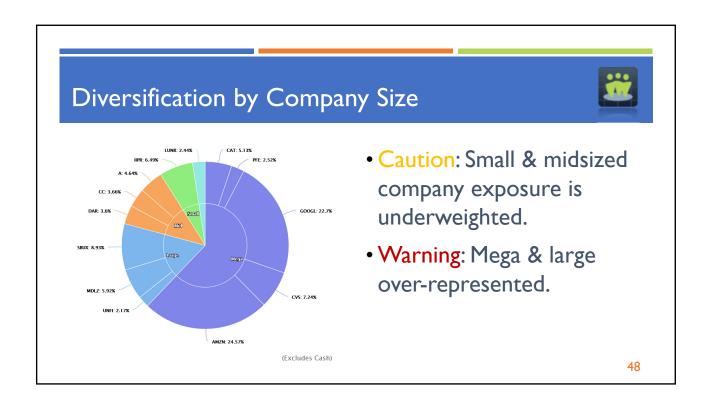
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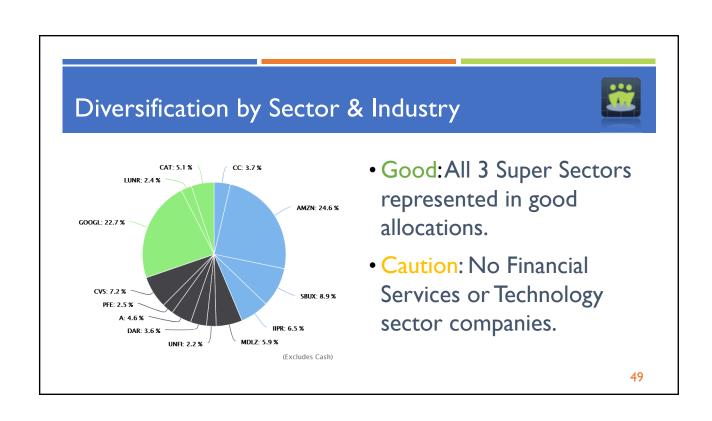
Portfolio Holdings



Agilent Technologies (A)	3.5%
Amazon.com (AMZN)	18.5%
Caterpillar (CAT)	3.9%
Chemours Co (CC)	<mark>2.7%</mark>
CVS Health (CVS)	5.4%
Darling Ingredients (DAR)	<mark>2.7%</mark>
Alphabet A (GOOGL)	17.1%
Innovative Indl Prop (IIPR)	<mark>4.9%</mark>
Intuitive Machines I (LUNR)	<mark>1.8%</mark>
Mondelez Int Cla (MDLZ)	4.4%
Pfizer (PFE)	1.9%
Starbucks (SBUX)	6.7%
United Natural Foods (UNFI)	1.6%
Total Securities	75.2%
Total Cash	24.8%

- Warning: 3 significantly underweight positions below 3% (LUNR 1.8%, PFE1.9, UNFI 1.6%).
 - 2 slightly underweight (2.7% OCC, 2.7% DAR).
- Warning: Cash is excessive 24.8%.
- Caution: 2 companies potentially overweighted vs. non-cash total of portfolio (AMZN 18.5%, GOOGL 17.1%).
- Caution: I speculative company (LUNR 1.8%).
- Caution: I problematic security (IIPR, REIT).





Diversification by EPS Growth Rate



No analysis possible: linked SSGs are incomplete.

50



UMOJA INVESTMENT CLUB

Club Composition



- ■7 members.
- I0 companies.
- Located in Texas.
- Founded in 2002.

- Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
 - Members can easily follow more companies.

52

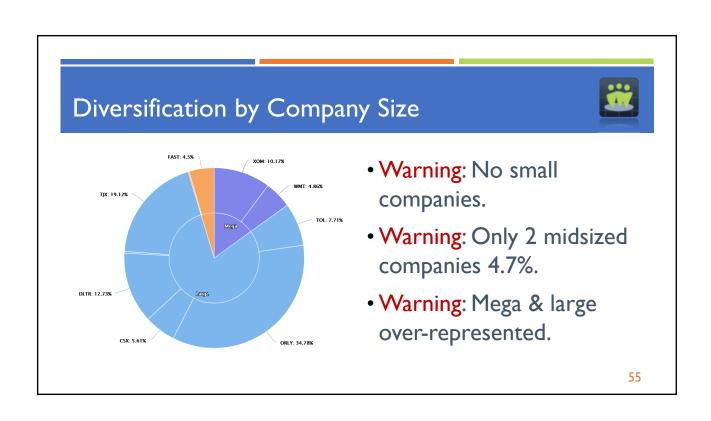
Portfolio Holdings

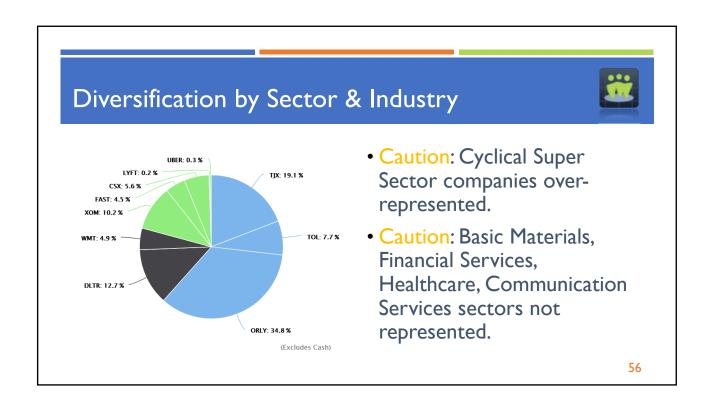


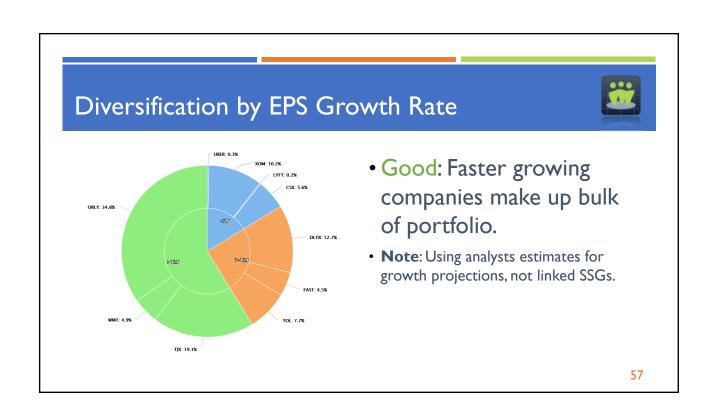
CSX (CSX)	5.3%
Dollar Tree (DLTR)	12.0%
,	
Fastenal (FAST)	4.2%
Lyft (LYFT)	<mark>0.2%</mark>
O'Reilly Automotive (ORLY)	<mark>32.7%</mark>
TJX Companies (TJX)	18.0%
Toll Brothers (TOL)	7.3%
Uber Technologies In (UBER)	<mark>0.3%</mark>
Wal-Mart Stores (WMT)	4.6%
Exxon Mobil (XOM)	9.6%
Total Securities	94.1%
Total Cash	5.9%

- Warning: I significantly overweight position (ORLY 32.7%).
- Warning: 2 significantly underweight positions below 3% (LYFT 0.2%, UBER 0.3%).
- Caution: 2 speculative investments/don't fit SSG model (LYFT 0.2%, UBER 0.3%).
- Caution: 2 overlapping investments (UBER, LYFT).
- Caution: Cash is okay 5.9%.











CONCHRING INVESTMENT CLUB

58

Club Composition



- ■10 members.
- ■13 companies.
- Located in Florida.
- •Founded in 2001.

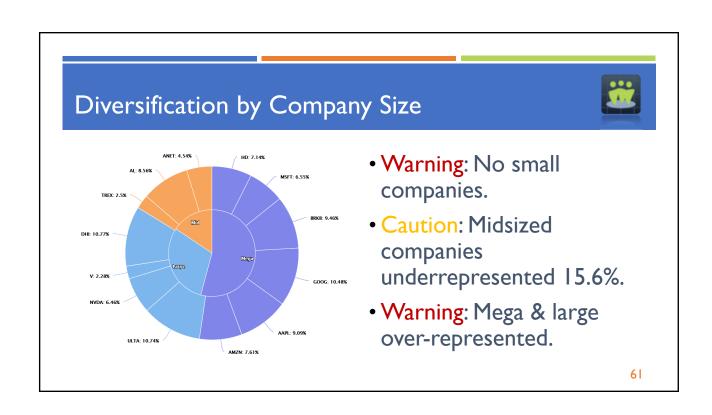
- Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
 - Members can easily follow more companies

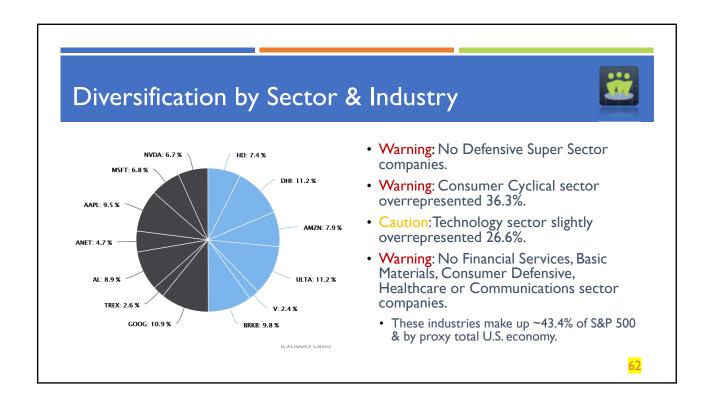
Portfolio Holdings Apple (AAPL) 8.7% Caution: 2 moderately underweight positions below 3% (TREX 2.4%,V 2.2%). Air Lease (AL) 8.2% Amazon.com (AMZN) 7.3% Arista Networks (ANET) 4.3% Good: No arcane/problematic Berkshire Hathaway (BRK.B) 12.6% D.R. Horton (DHI) 10.3% investments. ALPHABET (GOOG) 10.0% • Note: BRKB doesn't fit BetterInvesting Home Depot (HD) 6.8% model, but who argues with Warren? Microsoft (MSFT) 6.3% Nvidia (NVDA) 6.2% Good: Companies largely fit BI model, Trex Company (TREX) 2.4% owned by other clubs, featured in IAS Ulta Salon Cosmetics (ULTA) 10.3% or SCI newsletters. 2.2% Caution: Cash is okay 4.4%. **Total Securities** 95.6%

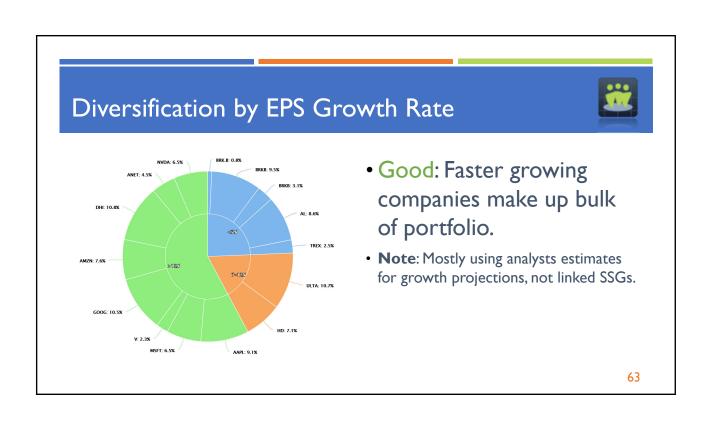
60

4.4%

Total Cash









ROSY FUTURES

64

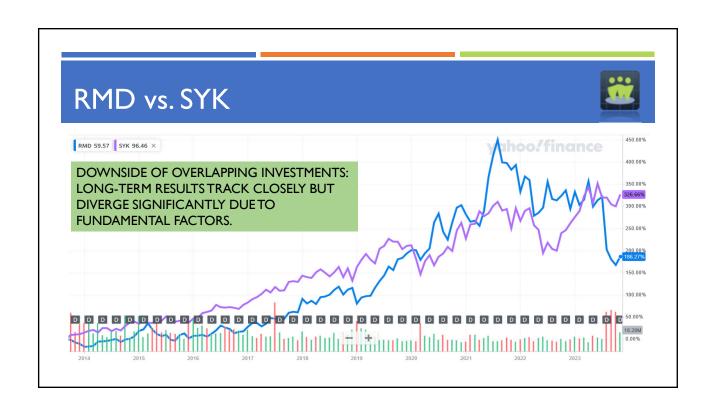
Club Composition

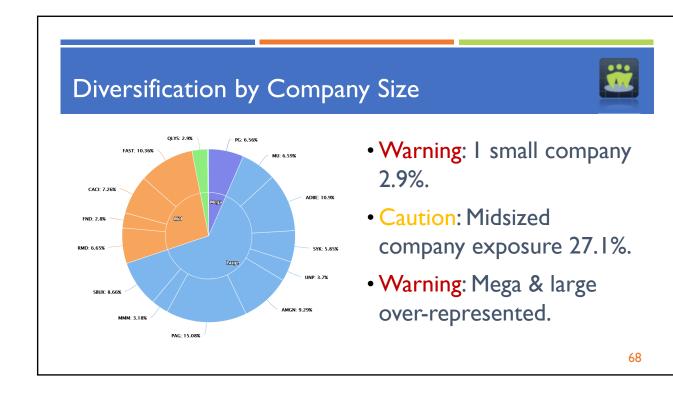


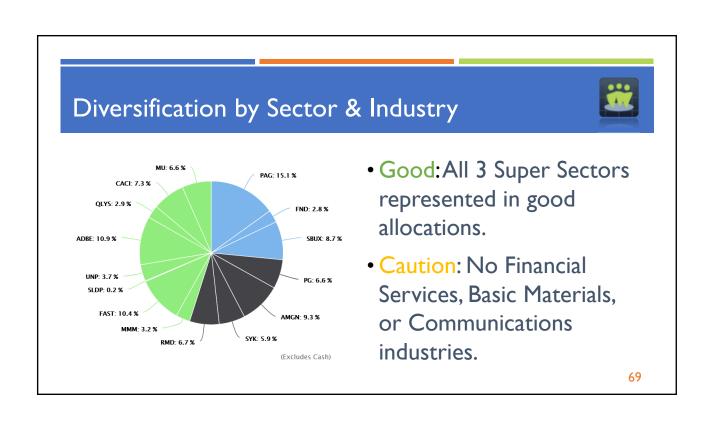
- 6 members.
- ■15 companies.
- Located in Colorado.
- Founded in 1997.

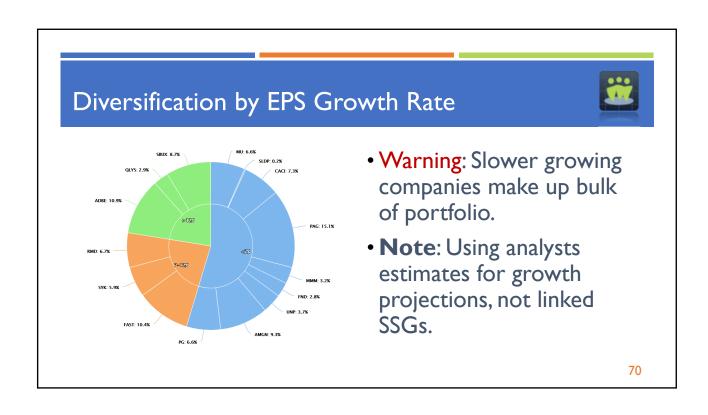
- Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
 - Members can easily follow more companies

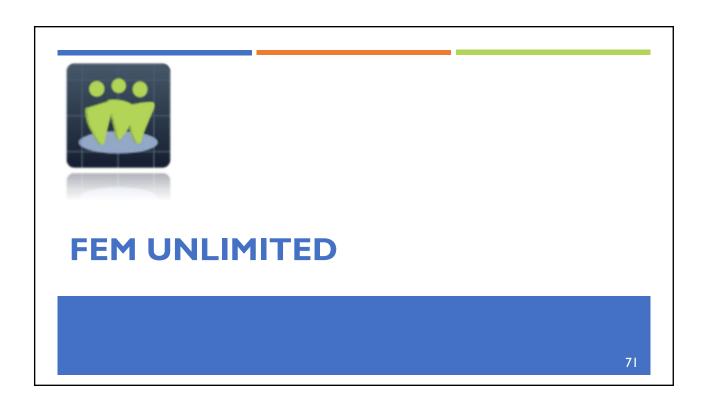
Portfolio Holdings 10.8% • Warning: I significantly underweight positions below 3% (SLDP 0.2%). Adobe Systems (ADBE) Amgen (AMGN) 9.2% Caci Intl (CACI) 7.2% Fastenal (FAST) 10.3% • Caution: 2 overlapping investments Floor & Decor Holdings (FND) 2.8% (RMD 6.6%, SYK 5.8%). 3 M Company (MMM) 3.2% Micron Technology (MU) 6.5% • Warning: I speculative Penske Automotive Gr (PAG) 15.0% investments/doesn't fit SSG model Procter & Gamble (PG) 6.5% (SLDP 0.2%) QUALYS (QLYS) 2.9% ResMed (RMD) 6.6% Good: No arcane/problematic Starbucks (SBUX) 8.6% Solid Power (SLDP) 0.2% investments. Stryker (SYK) 5.8% Good: Cash is good 0.7%. Union Pacific (UNP) 3.7% **Total Securities** 99.3% **Total Cash** 0.7% 66











Club Composition



- ■20 members.
- 47 companies.
- Located in California.
- Founded in 2000.

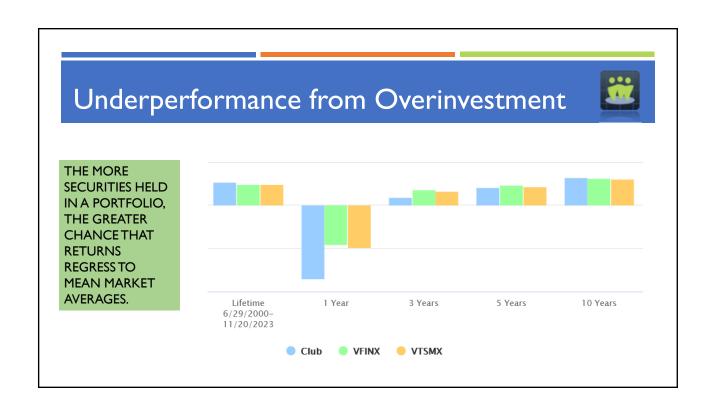
- Warning: Holding fewer companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
 - May be more companies than members can efficiently manage.



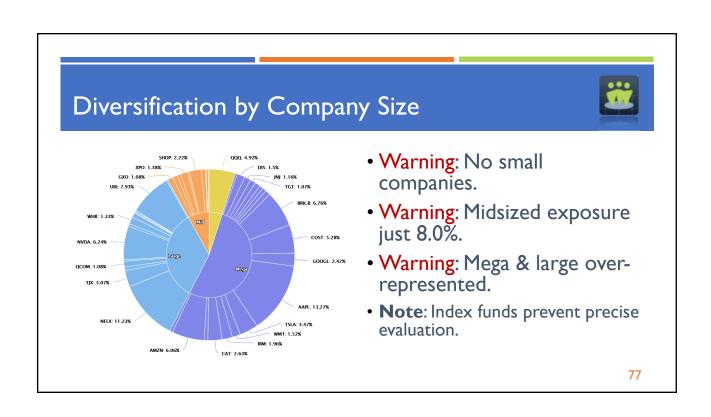
Portfolio Holdings

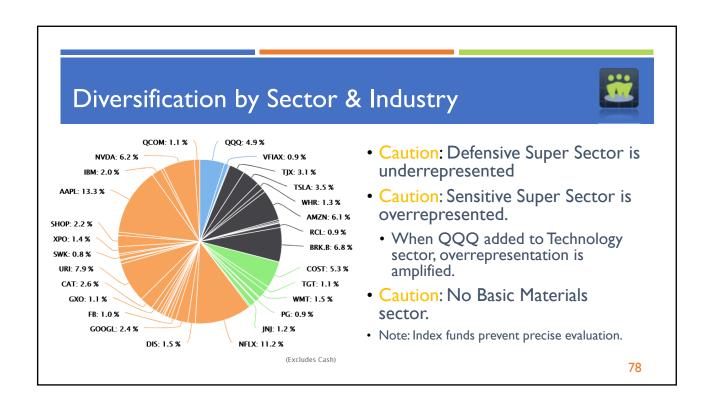


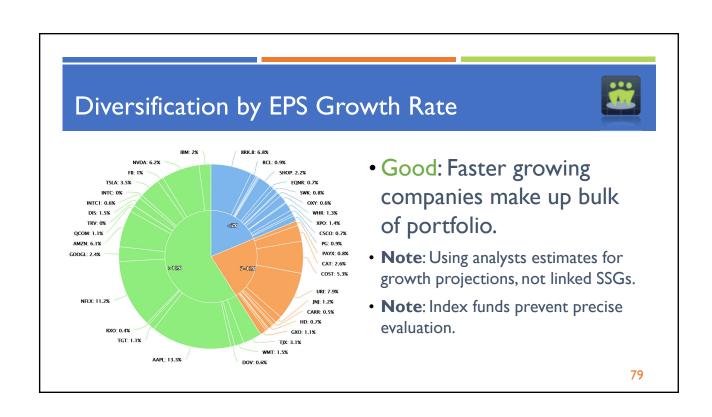
- Warning: 35 underweight positions below 3%, making up 30.8% of portfolio.
 - Smallest holding is worth \$350 in \$1M portfolio.
- Warning: 3 overlapping investments (CCL 0.3%, NCLH 0.2%, RCL 0.8%).
 - · Other closely-related companies in portfolio as well.
- Warning: One arcane/problematic investment (IEP 0.2%).
- Warning: At least I company doesn't fit SSG model (EQNR 0.7%).
- Warning: 2 Broad-market index funds (1.2%).
- Warning: I sector index fund (QQQ 4.9%).
 - 9 companies in portfolio, 50% of club value, are also held in QQQ.
- Good: Cash is good 0.1% (is club parking money in index funds?).













SHOWDOWN INVESTMENT CLUB

80

Club Composition



- **27** members.
- ■13 companies.
- Located in Michigan.
- •Founded more than 50 years ago.
- Caution: Holding more companies could be good for overall risk/return of portfolio.
 - Members can easily follow more companies.

Portfolio Holdings



Apple (AAPL)	<mark>41.4%</mark>
Amazon.com (AMZN)	9.4%
Axon Enterprise (AXON)	3.2%
Chevron (CVX)	<mark>2.1%</mark>
EXACT Sciences (EXAS)	<mark>2.7%</mark>
Alphabet A (GOOGL)	10.4%
JP Morgan Chase & Co (JPM)	3.9%
Lam Research Cp (LRCX)	<mark>4.8%</mark>
Microsoft (MSFT)	8.7%
ON Semiconductor Cor (ON)	<mark>5.7%</mark>
Tesla (TSLA)	3.5%
Zoetis (ZTS)	3.1%
Total Securities	98.9%
Total Cash	1.1%

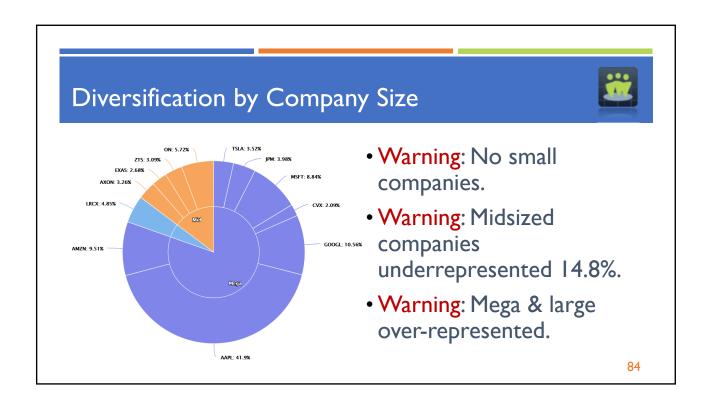
- Warning: I significantly overweight position (AAPL 41.4%).
- Warning: I slightly underweight position below 3% (CVX 2.1%).
- Warning: I position doesn't fit SSG model (EXAS 2.7%).
- Warning: 2 overlapping investments (LRCX 4.8%, ON 5.7%).
- Good: No arcane/problematic investments.
- Good: Cash is good 1.1%.

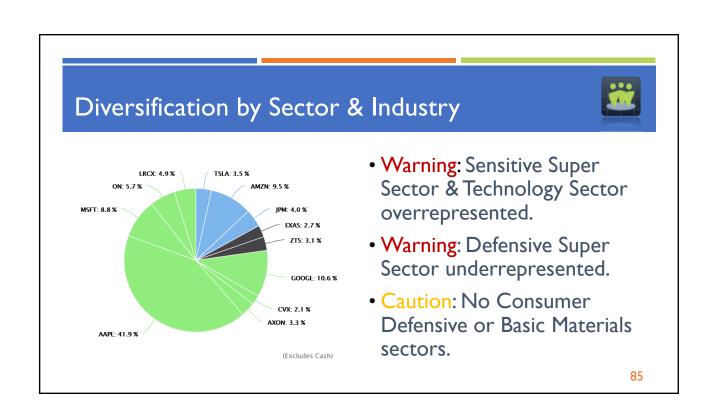
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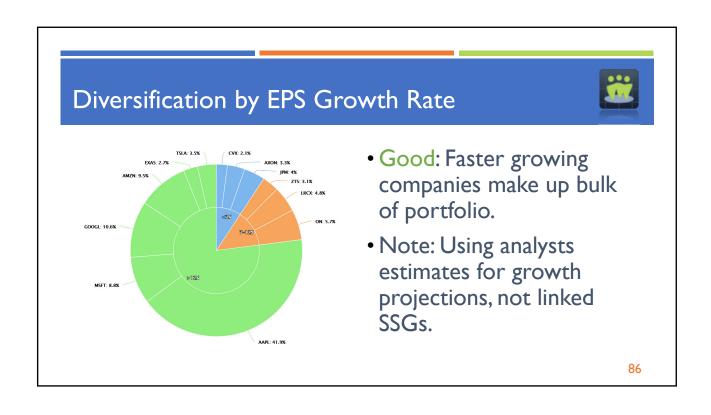
Handling Overweighted Positions

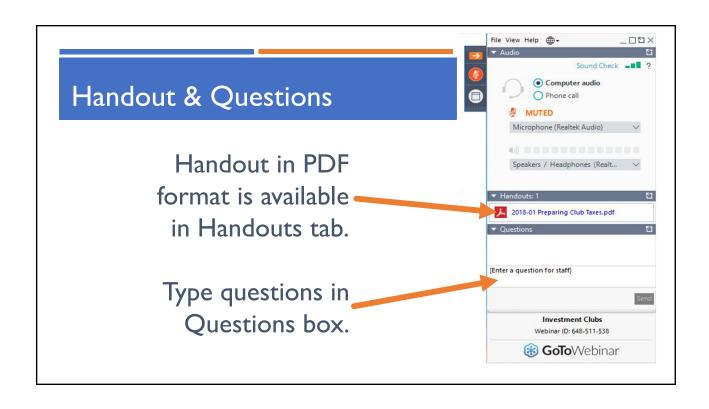


- I. Use capital losses to harvest gains from selling portions of overweight holdings.
 - Clean up portfolio at year-end by selling losers, allowing offset of realized gains.
- 2. Transfer shares in full member withdrawals (defers gains for remaining members until they withdraw).
- 3. Invest in positions diametrically opposed to overweight holding.
- 4. Bite the bullet & sell even though it would realize gains.









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