

LIFE

ASSURED

Preparing Your Portfolio for Retirement

Moving from saving mode to pulling money out of your retirement fund once you stop working necessitates re-evaluating how your portfolio is structured and what priorities to consider.

When you've been diligently putting money into your retirement portfolio for most of your life, it can be a shock transitioning to taking money out. Formerly bold investors can become timid, and frugal savers may suddenly go on a spending spree. The best way to avoid a bump in the road is to pull over several years ahead of retirement and create a plan with your financial advisor.

"You start to re-analyze the portfolio and discuss with your advisor any strategic changes that need to be made, and ensure that those changes have been implemented two to three years before retirement," says Brooke V. May, managing partner at Evans May Wealth in Carmel, Indiana. "If you start to look at what your mix should be in retirement five years in advance, you can come up with a plan and then make adjustments to the plan and ensure that it's actually implemented two to three years prior to retirement." ▶



“Put several years’ worth of income into bonds, a bond fund, or a CD ladder.”

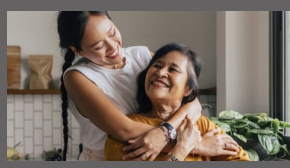
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www.csa.us

March 12, 2024

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Here's what you'll want to consider:

Shift your mindset from growth to preservation.

Take a look at how much of your portfolio is in more conservative assets like bonds, which tend to increase in value when stocks go down. They also don't return as much as stocks over time. Assess your risk tolerance and make a plan for keeping a balanced portfolio.

Decide when withdrawals will begin.

Estimate when you plan to retire from the workforce, and if you'll continue to work part-time afterward. It's fine to change your mind later, but best to make a plan now based on your best guess. You may be able to delay withdrawals while you use other sources of income or continue working.

Estimate your withdrawal rate.

Check with your advisor to see how much you can reasonably withdraw, based on the value of your portfolio. Research based on past returns suggests a 4% rate is safe over 30 years with a 50/50 portfolio of stocks to bonds, but every situation is unique.

Put away enough cash for a year of expenses.

Having cash on hand will give you peace of mind if the market falls. You should have enough to pay for all of your needs, except what is covered by a pension, Social Security or other source of income.

Does 100 Minus Your Age in Stocks Still Work?

The old rule of thumb was to start with 100, then take away your age to arrive at what percentage of your portfolio should be invested in stocks. But with longer lifespans and better returns from stocks than bonds, professionals are rethinking the advice.

"We don't use a hard and fast rule when applying the asset allocation," May says. "It's more important to understand one's risk tolerance, and then figure out the mix that works best for them. If you start to look at what your mix should be in retirement five years in advance, you can come up with a plan and then make adjustments to the plan and ensure that it's actually implemented two to three years prior to retirement."

Invest a few years' worth of income in stable assets.

Put several years' worth of income into bonds, a bond fund, or a CD ladder. This will allow you to hold stocks if the market takes a sustained hit, and not to sell when prices have dropped. Replenish this cushion as you spend it down. ►

PLEASE ADDRESS MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENCE TO:

LIFE ASSURED
ASSURED LIFE ASSOCIATION
6025 S Quebec St, Ste 320
Centennial, CO 80111
1-800-777-9777
assuredservice@assuredlife.org

ONLINE RESOURCES

Society Website
www.assuredlife.org

Facebook Page
facebook.com/assuredlifeassociation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tanya S. Unrein,
Chair
875 Condor Rd. Eaton, CO 80615-9002

Lance C. Foreman
2748 Black Canyon Way Castle Rock, CO 80109

Ernest T. Giambra
4 Belleview Blvd., Unit 301 Belleair, FL 33756

Billy B. Hill Jr.
4117 Canoas Dr. Austin, TX 78730

Douglas H. Oury
P.O. Box 418 Tabernash, CO 80478-0418

Chris A. York
258 Lexington Circle Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Email Board Members at: board@assuredlife.org

OFFICERS

Gary R. Wheeler,
President/Treasurer
Windsor, Colorado
800-777-9777 Ext. 3810
GWheeler@assuredlife.org

Diane L. Muller,
VP Operations/Secretary
Lone Tree, Colorado
800-777-9777 Ext. 3830
DMuller@assuredlife.org

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Take another look at your diversification.

You may have become overloaded on assets that have done well recently, or on company stock, for example. Check over allocations on an annual basis and rebalance.

Consider switching from growth stocks to dividend producers. When your goal is steady income, high-dividend stocks have an advantage over growth stocks, which often offer no dividend or an extremely small one.

Plan to be tax-efficient.

You may be able to roll over assets from tax-deferred accounts to a Roth, or plan to take more income from taxable or tax-free accounts in certain years to control your income. You can also use charitable donations in your favor, especially at age 70½.

Check for fees.

Now is a good time to check expense ratios on ETFs and funds. Assess whether you could get a similar product for less.

Start thinking about required minimum distributions (RMDs). They won't start until age 73 for most folks, but they are withdrawals stipulated by the government that will trigger ordinary income taxes on your tax-deferred accounts. Continue to look at your plan annually. Everything changes, from your health to your hobbies to taxes. A retirement plan has to be flexible to reflect your actual life, not the one you planned for last year or a decade ago. Update it every year to reflect the new you.

This article is not intended to be a substitute for professional financial advice from a qualified financial advisor.

Sources:

<https://financebuzz.com/post-retirement-investment-tweaks>

<https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/401ks/articles/how-to-rebalance-your-portfolio-after-retirement>

WHOLE LIFE 2020* Permanent Whole Life Insurance

With the Whole Life 2020 you are guaranteed your premium will never change, and you will know in advance the cash value accumulation you can expect each year – level premiums – level death benefit – for life. You can enjoy long-term peace of mind, knowing the Whole Life 2020 is not subject to fluctuations in interest rates. Just look at what the Whole Life 2020 has to offer:



- Issue Ages 0-80
- Minimum Face Amount: \$5,000
- Certificate Fee: \$36/annually (Add \$12 annual membership dues)
- Non-Nicotine Premium Rates Available (get a break for non-nicotine use)
- Guaranteed Premiums
- Guaranteed Cash Values
- Guaranteed Death Benefit

Certificate holders may access the cash value of the Whole Life 2020 through a certificate loan. Interest rate on certificate loans is 7.4% payable in advance.

*Only available directly through the home office. Not available in all states. Fully Underwritten (medical requirements for certain ages and face amounts).

Call the Home Office for available states and an application: 800.777.9777.
Talk to Heather at Extension 3834

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ASSOCIATION

6025 S Quebec St, Ste 320 Centennial, CO 80111

Phone 303.792.9777
Toll-Free 800.777.9777
Fax 866.663.8560

www.assuredlife.org | assuredservice@assuredlife.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Assured Life Association's Board of Directors is composed of seven voting members, who are Benefit Members of the Society, and the President who serves as an ex-officio voting member of the Board. In accordance with the Society's Bylaws, the Election Committee is currently accepting nominations for the four board positions up for election in 2024; board position numbers four, five, six and seven.

Society Directors receive compensation as determined by the Committee on Legislation and are reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with official business of the Society.

Following is the criteria and qualifications for board nominees:

BOARD MEMBER CRITERIA

Board candidates must meet the following minimum criteria:

- A Benefit Member of the Society.
- Other than the President, who is an ex-officio voting member of the Board, no other Officer or employee, or spouse or significant other of an Officer or employee, or persons who are under contract with the Society as licensed agents or brokers may be a member of the Board.
- No conflict of interest that might impair the independence of judgment or adversely influence the decisions or actions of the nominee if he/she is elected as a director.
- A commitment to expend the necessary time to the work of the Board and its committees, including preparation and attendance at meetings.
- Travel may be required for Board meetings.
- Shall not serve beyond December 31 of the calendar year in which age 80 is attained.

BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

The Election Committee, a Committee of the Board, identifies, investigates, recruits, and recommends candidates for membership on the Board of Directors to the existing Benefit Members. Nominees must have the appropriate background, experience and integrity to fulfill their prospective roles such as the education, experience, intelligence, independence, fairness, character, reasoning and judgment to lead the Society. The Election Committee will also assure that the qualifications, expertise and experience of a nominee includes such qualities as integrity, accountability, informed judgment, financial literacy, mature confidence, and high-performance standards.

The following qualifications for nominees for Director should be considered when reviewing the background of potential candidates:

- Proven integrity and a record of substantial achievement.
- A high degree of leadership experience in a complex organization such as a corporation, university, foundation, professional organization or governmental unit, or commensurate non-profit experience. ►

- A reputation for sound business judgment. It is important that a candidate understands the role of the Board and the workings of the Society in the current business environment. A candidate should be able to objectively appraise management's plans, programs, achievements and shortcomings while working as part of a team in an environment of collegiality and trust.
- The financial and subject matter expertise required to provide effective oversight of a diversified and heavily regulated financial services or insurance business.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time to the work of the Board and its committees.
- Demonstrated record of community support and involvement.

The Election Committee will assess a nominee's independence and evaluate whether the nominee's skills are complementary to the existing Directors' skills and the Board's and Society's needs. As the Election Committee reviews nominees, it will take into consideration that the Board has the various core competencies needed to oversee the Society.

Please send your information to:

Diane L Muller, Secretary
6025 S. Quebec St, Ste 320
Centennial, CO 80111
dmuller@assuredlife.org

Deadline for submission is July 31, 2024, postmark shall govern.

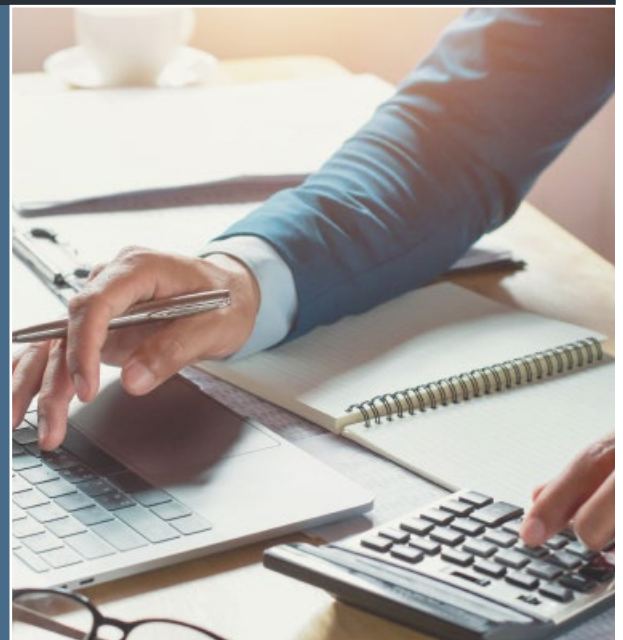
If you have any questions, please feel free to call Diane at (800) 777-9777, extension 3830.

ASSURED LIFE ASSOCIATION

Financial Summary

Below is a recap of Society financial information as of year end December 31, 2023 and year ended December 31, 2022, as filed in its Statutory Statements:

	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Assets	\$59,070,732	\$59,414,767
Liabilities	\$45,542,602	\$46,152,314
Surplus	\$13,528,130	\$13,262,453
Net Income	\$121,748	\$440,378
Surplus Ratio (Surplus/Assests)	22.90%	22.32%
Number of Certificates in Force	10,563	12,371
Benefits Paid to Members	\$4,357,691	\$4,211,607



2024 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Assured Life Association will provide approximately 30-40 scholarship awards for the 2024-2025 school year with awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. There is no restriction as to age, sex, or area of study.

Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must be certificate holder, or child or grandchild of a certificate holder, of Assured Life Association of Centennial, CO. Certificate must be active at time of scholarship application and at the time scholarship funds are distributed.
2. **Must have at least a 2.50 GPA.**
3. Must be a senior in high school or an undergraduate or graduate student.
4. Must be taking a minimum of 12 credit hours in an accredited college, university, junior college or trade school.

Submit Online Application OR Mail applications to:

**Assured Life Association
Scholarship Committee
6025 S Quebec St, Suite 320
Centennial, CO 80111**

Applications must include:

- Name, address, e-mail address and telephone number of applicant; certificate number, name of certificate holder and relationship to applicant; and a recent, photograph of applicant suitable for publication (not required if you do not want your photo published) – digital photos are best and may be emailed to the email address below. NOTE: scholarship checks are mailed in September so please use permanent address on application.
- The most recent official high school or college transcript including the 2024 Spring semester or quarter. **We MUST have an official transcript to qualify for our scholarship program.**
- A current list of extracurricular activities including volunteering, community service, honors or awards previously earned, and ultimate education and occupational goals.
- **An essay of at least 250 words and not more than 500 words to answer the following topic:**
"What is the most significant challenge facing your generation, and what solutions would you propose to address it?"

The essay will be judged on content, grammar, organization, creativity, originality, and compliance with the 250 to 500-word restriction. **Complete application must be received or postmarked no later than June 15, 2024.** Incomplete application packages will not be considered.

Questions? Please e-mail: assuredservice@assuredlife.org or call: 1-800-777-9777 or go to www.assuredlife.org and click on the Benefits link.

Look after your hearing in 2024 with Hear In America hearing care benefits! No enrollment fees or premiums!

The new year often comes with a renewed focus on health and wellness. For example, you might be thinking about preventative screenings you may need or setting up appointments with your primary care provider, dentist, or eye doctor. But have you considered checking your hearing?

Your hearing health has significant impacts on your overall well-being. In fact, research shows that addressing hearing loss may lead to improvements in your mental and emotional health, your relationship with your spouse or partner, and your sense of safety and independence.¹

At Assured Life Association, we believe hearing is part of whole-body health. That's why we offer our members access to high-quality hearing aids. And you can save off the average retail price through Hear In America®.



The hearing aids are available in a variety of styles and offer features that seamlessly integrate into your life:

- **Enhanced speech clarity** that lifts voices above background noise, helping you focus on the people and moments that matter most
- **Bluetooth® streaming** from your phone directly to your hearing aids for convenient calls, music, movies, and more
- **Fuss-free battery life** with rechargeable hearing aids²

As part of the program, a provider will perform a comprehensive hearing exam (\$0 copay). If hearing aids are needed, your provider will help you determine the best option for your lifestyle, hearing loss profile, and budget.

Additionally, hearing aid purchases include the following:

- 60-day, money-back trial period for exchanges and returns
- 3-year repair warranty
- 3-year loss and damage coverage
- 3 years of hearing aid cleaning and check-up service
- 3 years of free batteries

Getting started is simple:

1. Call Hear In America at 1-855-243-9935 to schedule an appointment with a qualified provider near you
2. At your appointment, your provider will conduct a thorough hearing exam and help you choose hearing aids if needed

If you think you might have hearing loss, we hope you'll take advantage of your program.

Call Hear In America at 1-855-243-9935 to get started with taking care of your hearing health this year.

¹ MarkeTrak 2022. Hearing Industries Association (HIA).

² Available on select models.



ANNUITY*

Individual Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity (FPDA)

With this Annuity you can protect the funds you have accumulated in the safety of a flexible premium deferred annuity certificate. Check out these benefits:

Minimum initial premium: \$2,500

Owner-driven certificate – death benefit payable at the death of the owner

Available as qualified or non-qualified annuity

Current crediting rate of 5.0%

Guaranteed interest rate of 3.0%
Guaranteed interest rate on an annuity certificate is guaranteed for the duration of the contract

Maturity Date: age 100 of annuitant

Death Benefit: accumulation value at time of death

A partial surrender or withdrawal may be made at any time after the first certificate year.

Surrender or Withdrawal Charges: None

*Only available to current members directly through the home office. Not available in all states.

Call the Home Office for available states and an application: 800.777.9777.
Talk to **Heather at Extension 3834**

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YOUNG ESTATE STARTER*

Single Premium Increasing Convertible Term to Age 25 Life Insurance



The most important gift you can give your children or grandchildren (even your great grandchildren) early in life is insurance protection. Our Young Estate Starter is a single premium, increasing term life insurance plan to the age of 25. Available for children aged 0—18. **Look at these advantages** (for one unit of coverage):

- Issue Ages 0-18
- \$395 single premium to age 25; plus \$12 member dues
- Starts with \$10,000 of term life insurance coverage to certificate anniversary date following the 18th birthday
- Increases to \$25,000 of term insurance coverage from age 18 to the certificate anniversary date following the 25th birthday
- On certificate anniversary date following the 25th birthday-certificate automatically converts to permanent whole life insurance with a \$100,000 face amount without having to provide further evidence of insurability-**premiums begin at time of conversion**
- Purchase up to 3 units of coverage

*Only available directly through the home office. Not available in all states.

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You are Important to Us and to Your Family.

ASSURED LIFE ASSOCIATION

Assured Life Association has partnered with Life Line Screening, the nation's largest provider of preventive health screenings, to bring our members convenient, painless, and non-invasive health screening services.

Four Vital Screenings for \$135 Add Osteoporosis screening for only \$10



Carotid Artery Disease: an ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.



Atrial Fibrillation (AFib): a 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.¹



Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): an ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.



Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD): an Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.²

¹American Heart Association <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation>

²American Heart Association <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/peripheral-artery-disease/about-peripheral-artery-disease-pad>

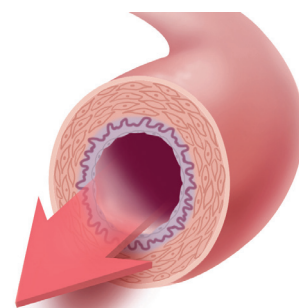
Call toll-free to schedule: 1-888-763-4161

Priority Code: BDHW211

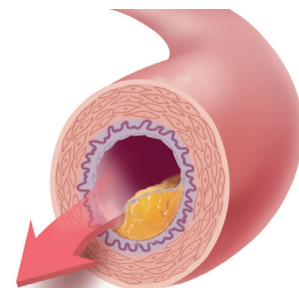
Online: lifelinescreening.com/ala



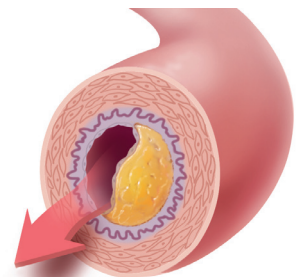
Plaque buildup can lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and aneurysms.



A normal artery allows blood to flow through easily.



As you age, arteries can become partially blocked.



Plaque buildup reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.