



# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## SPARTAN SENIOR NEWSLETTER

June-July 2024

VOL. 45, NO. 7



### REGISTER NOW FOR 2 SUMMER EVENTS

#### Brunch on July 10

MSURA and Newman Lofts are hosting a brunch on July 10, 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Club Room in Newman Lofts, 200 Albert St., East



**NEWMAN**  
LOFTS

Lansing. Please plan on arriving between 10:00 and 10:20 a.m. Enjoy interacting with friends and colleagues while having a light brunch and

admiring the view of the campus from the sixth floor. Space is limited. RSVP to Chris DeFouw at [defouw@msu.edu](mailto:defouw@msu.edu) by June 30.



Join MSURA at a  
Lugnuts Game on  
Friday, Aug. 16, 7:05 p.m.

Deadline for registration is July 12. Cost is \$42. Includes all you can eat in the Clubhouse. Bar available throughout the game. Fireworks. Group raffle. Space is limited. Tickets can be picked up at Will Call. Find the link to the registration form on this page: <https://retirees.msu.edu>

### Bruce Smith named 2024 Volunteer of the Year

**B**ruce Smith, an active participant in the MSU Retirees Association for nine years, received the Volunteer of the Year award at the annual meeting on May 7.

He has served on the board as an at-large member and has played a vital role in helping design how we use Zoom to broadcast events to our members. He is at every membership meeting recording the speakers for publication on the MSURA website. He also manages the content on the media server for MSURA too. Smith is a key person in reaching out to the retirees and making our events accessible to more retirees.

Smith worked on campus for 27 years. He spent time in several units, but ended in Administrative Information Services/IT Services. He retired in 2013.

Smith is active in his church. His dedication to MSURA and the community is appreciated by many.



Bill Anderson, chair of the nominating committee, presents Bruce Smith with the Volunteer of the Year award at the annual meeting on May 7.

“I was totally surprised and moved by being granted this award,” Smith said. “I am glad to have been able to contribute. It has been rewarding to work with MSURA and its leadership.”

### 75th Anniversary celebration in the books

More than 100 people gathered at the University Club on May 7



for the annual MSURA Annual Meeting and Luncheon. But this year was a special one — we also celebrated

MSURA’s 75th Anniversary.

Before everyone sat down for

lunch, many folks lined up to get a photo with a very special guest, Sparty.

Jacqie Babcock, president of MSURA, kicked off the program with introductions of special guests, including several former presidents of the organization: Roger Baldwin, Angela Brown, Kay Butcher, Jerry Hull, Don Jost, Patrick Scheetz and Rick Vogt.

Please see 75th ANNIVERSARY on page 9

Don’t forget to join your fellow retirees at the summer monthly lunches at Brody Hall. See page 5 for details.

# MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2023-2024

President	Jacqie Babcock	517-282-6861
President-Elect	Dave Brower	517-282-4883
Vice President	Rick Vogt	517-242-1324
Vice President-Elect	Angie Brown	517-974-1770
Secretary	Kate Wight	248-563-3210
Treasurer	Dave Brower	517-282-4883
Treasurer-Elect	William Humphrey	517-331-2884
At-Large	Mike Gardner	517-290-7090
At-Large	William Anderson	517-290-7750
At-Large	Bruce Smith	517-323-9579
At-Large	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813
Office Manager	Elizabeth Thomas	517-351-7611
Asst. Office Manager	Gayle Gower	517-332-0194

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Budget	Dave Brower	517-282-4883
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Membership	Jacqie Babcock	517-282-6861
MSU Shares	Darlene Wenner	517-339-1685
Nominations	Roger Baldwin	517-599-3395
Program	Angie Brown	517-974-1770
Scholarship	Angela Brown	517-974-1770
SIG Contact	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813
Volunteer Coordinator	Christina DeFouw	517-388-1813

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E-Notices Editor	Rick Vogt	517-242-1324
Facebook Manager	Cheryl Pell	517-214-4845
Videographer	Bruce Smith	517-323-9579

## Volunteers needed

We are looking for volunteers to help in various organizational roles. We're not asking you to put in 20 hours a week or anything — just to help out when we need an extra hand or two. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris DeFouw at [defouw@msu.edu](mailto:defouw@msu.edu) or call her at 517-388-1813. MSURA is an all volunteer organization and we need volunteers. Thank you.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jacqueline Babcock

**H**ard to believe, but here we are at the end of our 2023-2024 academic year. Congratulations to recent graduates and their families. This is what MSU is about — students, laying the foundation for life-long learning, and moving forward for future generations.

This newsletter completes the celebration of the 75th Anniversary year of MSURA. The board worked hard to provide programming and events for all members and we appreciate every member who participated. YOU are MSURA.

This is also my last report to you as President of MSU-RA. Thank you for allowing me to represent all of you. I look forward to working with the new board and David Brower as your President.

It has been exciting this year to see some new volunteers in various capacities. Thank you for your time and energy. There are lots of small ways to participate and everyone is welcome. Over the summer months the Board will be looking at potential speakers for next year's monthly meetings and member suggestions are welcome.

Dave Brower and Bill Anderson will represent MSURA at the BiG Retirees Association meeting in Columbus, OH in July. Angela Brown and Bill Anderson attended a luncheon of The University of Michigan Retirees Association in April. The two boards are exploring ideas for possible collaboration of events for our two organizations. You will recall there was a representative from UMRA at our kick-off meeting in September 2023.

Wishing you a great summer. MSURA continues with some summer social gatherings which are listed in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!



Are you a new retiree? Welcome to the MSU Retirees Association! You are already a member. There are no membership fees. We publish this newsletter seven times a year to keep you informed about membership meetings, campus issues surrounding retirees and more. You'll also receive two E-Notices (emails) a month. Please get involved by coming to a membership meeting. They are normally held the second Monday of every month, September to April, at the MSUFCU branch on Mt. Hope and Farm Lane. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please email [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu).

# Dave Brower elected president of MSURA

At our recent 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting, David Brower was elected to be the MSURA president for FY 24-25. Dave has served as the MSURA Treasurer for the past 10 years and was an at-large board member prior to that. Brower is a native of the Lansing area, having



David Brower

graduated from Okemos High School in 1965. He attended MSU, completing his BA in accounting in June 1969 and his MBA in finance in December 1970. He was an

auditor at the public accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst, Lansing Office, from 1971 until October 1979, when he started working at MSU as an assistant controller. He held various positions at MSU over the next 32 years, retiring at the end of December 2011, as MSU assistant VP, CFO and controller.

Brower is honored to serve as the next MSURA president and to continue working with a great group of board members and other volunteers to serve MSURA members.

“Together we will strive to continue to provide our members an interesting array of programs and opportunities, providing opportunities to connect with other MSU retired faculty and staff and, to support MSU students and programs,” Brower said.

## RECEIVE CAMPUS EMERGENCY MESSAGES

You can subscribe to the Michigan State University Alert System to receive text messages when emergency issues arise on campus. All you need to do is send a text to 888777 with the message “MSUALERT” (all caps).

# In Memoriam



The Spartan Senior Newsletter prints in each issue of the newsletter the names of MSU retirees who have recently died. In publishing this notice to mark their passing, we honor them for their contributions to improve MSU and the Greater Lansing community.

Maryann Banner	4/6/2024
Robert Eash	4/5/2024
Frederick Fico	3/29/2024
Sheila Fitzgerald	2/22/2024
Gale I. Harris	4/16/2024
Kenneth W. Harrow	4/14/2024
Robert D. Helman	3/27/2024
Crystal A. Hyde	2/19/2024
Richard Ives	4/27/2024
Mary M. Kostecki	4/1/2024
Kyung W. Kwun	3/29/2024
Andrew McEntee	3/29/2024
Charles McKee	3/25/2024
Judith M. Peterson	3/26/2024
Laura R. Roehler	3/14/2024
Susan Kay Smith	3/5/2024
Stuart G. Verhaeghe	3/11/2024
Brigidanne Warren	2/20/2024



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# Robertson enjoys acting in local theatre in retirement

## SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT



BY JATASIA POWERS

JaTasia Powers is a double major in media journalism and mass communication. She hopes to have a career as a music journalist when she graduates next spring.

**J**eanette Robertson dedicated 41 years to Michigan State University working as a secretary in both the College of Business and the College of Engineering before her retirement in 2017.

Robertson's favorite part about working as a secretary was the students, as she was always eager to help. She recalls that it was extra special seeing the athletes walking around campus and assisting them, as it was always a surprise to see a 6'6" man right in front of her desk.

Robertson has been immensely enjoying her retirement.

"Life has been amazing. I think to myself, why didn't I do this earlier?" Robertson said.

She enjoys her retirement living on the same farm she grew up on with her soon-to-be 94-year-old mother.

"We used to have a dairy farm, there were about 60 head of cattle and the crops usually were soybeans and corn," she said. "It was always fun for me because I named all the cows. All 60."

Even though she doesn't take care of 60 head of cattle, she does take care of some kittens and other animals that come to her door seeking some food. Robertson enjoys the calm that comes with living on the farm.

"The peacefulness of it," she said. "You know you can take a nice walk down to the lake. It's just really meditating."

In her free time, Robertson likes to get involved with theater arts.

"I belong to the Fowlerville Community Theater. It's really fun to get together with all these people," she said. "It is just a really fun group to be around and connect with the arts."

In the past, she has participated in plays, such as Footloose, Wizard of Oz, and Beauty and the Beast, with her most recent one being Cinderella.

Robertson and her castmates spent three months preparing for their big show. Robertson played both the minister and a towns-person this year, as well as helping out backstage.

"I helped with a lot of props, putting them up, helping Cinderella put on outfits," she said. "You just feel like a family, you really do. The neat thing about it, too, is you are meeting all of these people — you know these



Above: Jeanette Robertson and Sparty enjoyed a moment at the MSURA 75th anniversary celebration on May 7. Left: Robertson enjoys acting and has been in numerous plays. Recently, she played two roles on stage during the Fowlerville Community Theatre's production of Cinderella.

young kids who are in high school or even elementary. You get to know people in the community."

Robertson has always had a passion for choral music. She has been in quite a few symphony orchestras throughout cities in Michigan, such as Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, and the Livingston County women's chorus for 20 years.

A special memory she has is performing with a 1200-member choir in 1987 when Pope John Paul II visited the Silverdome.

"I have a big love for music and chorus music, so this was a nice avenue to go and you know, use my craft, as they say," she said.

# Join the Lunch Bunch at Brody Hall this summer

We are excited to let you know that our new initiative of having a monthly lunch at Brody Hall is going well, and we are continuing this fun program throughout the summer. There is no program at these events. This is just time to meet and socialize with your friends and meet some new ones. Plan to attend and invite your friends as well. Luncheons are held on the second Friday of the month at MSU Brody Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Please note the time change for the summer.)

## SUMMER BRODY LUNCH DATES

June 14

July 12

August 9

## Purchasing your meal

Meals can be purchased in advance for a discounted price at [EatAtState.msu.edu](https://EatAtState.msu.edu) or in person. Also daily menus are available on the [EatAtState.msu.edu](https://EatAtState.msu.edu) website. Prices at the door: Lunch or Dinner: \$14 plus sales tax. Debit & Credit cards accepted. If purchased in advance on the website, \$9.50 per meal plus sales tax, 10 meal minimum purchase.

Purchased meals on the [EatAtState.msu.edu](https://EatAtState.msu.edu) website are placed on your MSU ID card. If you need an MSU Retiree ID card, you can get one at the MSU ID Office

located in the MSU International Center.

## Location of the luncheon

The Brody Hall Cafeteria is located on the second floor. An elevator is located near the front entrance that will take you up to the cafeteria. Stairs are also available.

## Parking

Your MSU retiree parking permit allows you to park on campus anywhere an MSU employee parking permit is allowed to park.

If you need an MSU retiree parking permit, you can order one for free on the MSU Parking Office website at <https://parking.msu.edu/>. From the menu at the top of the page, select “Permits” and “Retiree.” Follow the instructions to order your permit. Note: You will need to know your MSU NetId and password. If you do not know your MSU NetId and password, contact MSU IT Services Help Desk at 844-678-6200 or 517-432-6200.

Parking is available at Jenison Field House with your MSU retiree parking permit or by Pay-By-Plate. Kellogg Center parking ramp is now Pay-By-Plate.



# HANG OUT WITH ART!

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WEDNESDAY–SUNDAY, 10AM–6PM

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ART MUSEUM**

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# Meet the 2024 scholarship winners

**The MSU Retirees Association gives endowed scholarships every year to deserving incoming or current students. The student needs to be a child or grandchild of an MSU employee or retiree. Read more about this year's exceptional recipients, and if you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please see below.**

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE MSURA ENDOWED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

If you're interested in giving to the MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, here are two ways to do so.

### Mail

Make checks payable to Michigan State University with MSURA Endowed Student Scholarship written in the memo line.

Mail to:

University Advancement  
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

### Online

- Go to <https://givingto.msu.edu/gift/>
- Type in "MSURA Endowed Scholarship Fund" for Areas to Support.
- Click on "Add to Cart."
- Enter any gift amount you wish.
- Click on "Proceed to Checkout."
- Complete donation.



## MARSHALL HUDSON

**MARSHALL** is from East Lansing and will be a sophomore this fall. His father, Michael Hudson, is the director of Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities on campus.

- **Major:** Business, Supply Chain Management with a minor in Sustainability
- **Plans after graduation:** My degree allows me a wide range of possibility, but I recently began an internship with John Deere which is providing me new insights and holds the potential for turning into a career

### ■ What do you like about being a student at MSU?

One of the things I most enjoy about MSU is the green space present on campus. The Sanford Natural Reserve as well as the nature spread throughout my walk to classes makes everything feel more alive and welcoming. Also, the opportunities offered through Broad for networking have proven to be very beneficial for my career development so that has provided for a great experience during my first year.

### ■ What do you enjoy during your free time?

In my free time I tend to enjoy taking walks, reading and participating in various club around campus. During the school year, I became

Please see **MARSHALL** on page 7



## LILLIAN JEHL

**LILLIAN** is from Chicago and will be a freshman this fall. Her paternal grandfather, Joseph Jehl, was a pharmacy supervisor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine.

### ■ Major: Theatre

■ **Plans after graduation:** Stage manage. I also plan to dual-degree and get a degree in biology if possible. I'm not sure what bio field I would like to go into, but I will likely pursue a masters after undergrad.

### ■ What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?

Virtually my entire family attended MSU at some point, and they've all had a good time, so I'm assuming I will too. MSU seems like a great college with a great community where I can make friends and enjoy my independence.

### ■ What do you enjoy during your free time?

Reading, creative writing, playing piano, drawing, and watching movies are some hobbies I enjoy!



## HAZEL VON MAUR

**HAZEL** is from Grand Rapids and will be a 5th year senior this fall. Her grandfather was an associate clinical professor for the College of Medicine.

■ **Major:** I am working toward two degrees simultaneously—a BA in Spanish, and a BS in nursing with minors in global studies in the arts and humanities and environmental & sustainability studies.

■ **Plans after graduation:** I chose nursing to contribute valuable skills to my community and to ensure all patients receive equitable care. I hope to use my Spanish speaking skills to ease the stress and uncertainties that native Spanish-speakers often face in the healthcare setting. In addition to this, my two minors guide me toward being a more effective and empathetic member of my profession and community.

■ **What do you like about being a student at MSU?**

I enrolled at Michigan State University because of the wide range of opportunities available to engage socially, educationally, and in service. MSU's College of Nursing stands out from the rest, as it highlights the importance of cultural competence, ethics, and advocacy in nursing practice

Please see HAZEL in far right column



## NATHANIEL TORRENCE

**NATHANIEL** is from DeWitt and will be a freshman this fall. His mother, Liberty Torrence, works in the College of Nursing.

■ **Major:** I plan to major in business.

■ **Plans after graduation:** I would like to eventually start my own business.

■ **What do you think you will like about being a student at MSU?**

I have always been an MSU fan so it will be very cool to experience the campus.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?** I like to hangout with friends and play baseball and soccer.

## MARSHALL, cont. from page 6

very involved with the MSU Spartan Catholics so I have spent a lot of time going to Church as well as participating in activities around that.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** I thank everyone for the incredible opportunity the MSU-RA has provided. I look forward to the rest of my time at MSU and this financial contribution will help me to achieve my goals. Go green!

## HAZEL, cont.

■ **What do you enjoy during your free time?**

In order to maintain a healthy work/life balance, I've been exploring my creative side outside of the classroom. During my time off I love to crochet, take care of my house plants, sew and mend clothes, draw, and photograph my surroundings. These creative practices help me to de-stress, and learn about who I am through art.

■ **What else would you like to tell our readers?** My Opa served as my father figure, and was one of my staunchest supporters. We lost him to cancer earlier this year, but I know he would be delighted to hear of this award, which stems from his acts of service. As I follow his footsteps into a career in the healthcare field, I will carry forward his legacy of dedication to service in the community.

**WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION ON THIS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY! MSU IS THE LEADING GLOBAL PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IT IS TODAY THANKS IN PART TO OUR RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE. I AM GRATEFUL TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS CONTINUING SERVICE TO RETIRED MEMBERS AND SPOUSES.**

**SINCERELY,  
KEVIN M. GUSKIEWICZ  
MSU PRESIDENT**



**Congratulations**

on

**75 Years!**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON 75 YEARS!**

Thank you, MSU Retirees Association, for your dedication to community and providing lifelong belonging and connection between our retirees and the university.

With Gratitude,

**Christina K. Brogdon,**

Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**ON 75 YEARS,**

**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION!**

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**HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY!!**

What a great achievement for MSURA!

Congratulations to all the members and volunteers for keeping the connections with MSU and one another strong and vibrant!

The longevity of this group is a testament to the wonderful employees of Michigan State University over the years.

We are honored to support such a fine organization, your membership and mission.



**STRAIGHTLINE**

EDUCATE PLAN INVEST



MSU’s new president, Kevin Guskiewicz, gave many attendees their first in-person glimpse of him, and he congratulated MSURA on its 75 years of service to retirees.

The keynote speaker was Mike Garland, former assistant coach of the Spartan men’s basketball team, and forever friend of Tom Izzo. Garland talked about the power of relationships and how his relationship with Izzo began when they were college freshmen.

Garland’s book, “Agoge,” was also for sale at the luncheon, and he was available for signings before and after the program.

Other highlights included the introduction of two of this year’s scholarship winners; the announcement of this year’s Volunteer of the Year award; and the presentation of a certificate of appreciation to the MSU student journalist who writes for the newsletter.

**See photos from the event on pages 10-11.**

Dave Brower was elected president and Angela Brown was elected vice-president. New to the board is Bill Humphrey, who was elected to the treasurer’s position. Bill Anderson and Bruce Smith were reelected as at-large board members. Terms begin on July 1.

Thanks to MSUFCU for donating a gift bag and MSU Culinary Services for Eat At State meal tickets for doorprizes. In addition, each attendee received Michigan Mints by Hanover Chocolates, donated by Mary and Warren Faloon, a 75th Anniversary ink pen and a special commemorative booklet celebrating the event. MSURA would also like to acknowledge StraightLine for helping to underwrite the cost of the luncheon.

## Subscribe to E-Notice emails to keep up with what’s going on

MSURA communicates via email to retirees twice monthly throughout the year about various topics and events. If you do not receive our E-Notice emails and would like to, please provide us with your email address and we will add you to the recipient list. Email us at [msura@msu.edu](mailto:msura@msu.edu) with your name and email address with the subject line, “Subscribe to MSURA E-Notices.”









## Take control of your healthcare experience

### Have you explored MyHumana?

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# Humana

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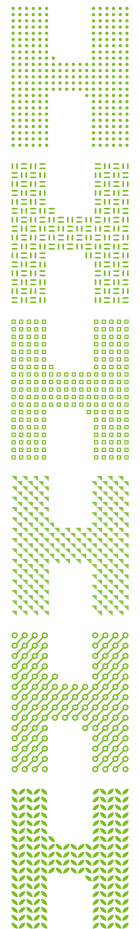
-  Easily check your coverage details
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-  Check the status of a claim
-  Keep track of your medications all in one place
-  Update your communication preferences
-  View your Humana member ID card



Activate your MyHumana account today by visiting [Account.Humana.com](https://Account.Humana.com).



**Still have questions?** Watch a short video that shows how to set up your MyHumana account in 5 simple steps.



# Moments from the 75th Anniversary Luncheon



Mike Garland, former assistant coach of MSU men's basketball, was the keynote speaker at the annual luncheon and shared details about his long friendship with Tom Izzo.



MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz spoke briefly to the retirees and congratulated the organization on its 75th Anniversary.



Download a copy of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Program [here](#).

To watch videos of various parts of the event, please click [here](#).



It's always a special moment when scholarship committee chair Angela Brown introduces the year's scholarship winners. Nathaniel Torrence (L) and Marshall Hudson (R) both attended the luncheon with their parents, and each expressed gratitude to those who have donated to the scholarship fund. See pages 6-7 for more information on this year's scholarship winners.



JaTasia Powers, who writes Spartan Spotlights for this newsletter, was honored by MSURA with a certificate of appreciation from Cheryl Pell. Pell works with Powers on the stories she writes.





1407 Building, MSU  
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East Lansing, MI 48823-5239



*HAPPY SUMMER!*

## Straight to the Point

**Market Update** - Stock markets have done well in recent months, as earnings and economic data have continued to signal strength in the US economy. Additionally, there has been a broadening of returns, as tech stocks have taken a breather and other sectors have managed to catch up. Recent weakness in the April labor data has opened the door to a summer interest rate cut from the Federal Reserve. Further easing of monetary conditions only adds more optimism to the outlook for investors and would be positive for lagging areas such as small-cap stocks and bonds. We remain cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the economy and markets. The larger trends around the reshoring of manufacturing and the buildout of AI capabilities are likely to remain the driving force behind economic activity for the foreseeable future, and despite some inevitable ups and downs, the US economy remains the envy of much of the world.

StraightLine is a fiduciary that provides professional financial planning and account management. Our experienced advisors and dedicated research staff allow us to offer unbiased information to the MSU faithful. Our quarterly newsletter (StraightTalk) highlights our recent educational content, our current thoughts on markets, and additional company updates.

Please contact us if you are interested in receiving these newsletters or discussing how we can assist with your financial strategy.

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