

Back in the day...

Many people just into their twenties refer to their parents youthful years as "back in the day" - little do they realize how much things have changed - economically, socially, and politically. These changes impact every American, but especially those considering retirement right now.

"Back in the day", people worked at one job to save adequate money for their retirement. Unfortunately, these days company pensions are disappearing. Only about 40% of the baby boom generation, just now starting to retire, will have any sort of pension. Life-long health insurance benefits that were once a part of every package offered are for the most part a thing of the past.

When the government introduced IRA accounts in 1975, they seemed to be a good way for people to save money on taxes, but it was strictly the individual's responsibility. Six years later, 401K plans came along. This included contributing parts from the employee and the employer. Once again, it sounded like a great idea:

So why are Americans facing a retirement crisis?

For starters, only a little over a half of employees who were offered a 401K participated. Some of those cash out their plans when they leave often needed the money for living expenses while they look for another job.

While some of the non-participants have IRA accounts or other savings plans, The AARP Bulletin poll recently reported that a disturbing 31% of workers 40 or older admit they have not saved anything for retirement. In the same poll they found that 28% of those who have already retired have saved nothing!

"But I still have my pension...right?"

Wrong. Many companies have converted pension funds into 401Ks, expecting employees to figure out on their own how to invest for their futures. Some companies simply fund 401Ks with 100% company stock. What if the company goes bankrupt?

Where do you stand?

If you are participating in an IRA or 401K, by all means keep saving. Social security will only replace about 40% of the income you will need during retirement. The average couple receives about only \$20,000 annually from social security. Maybe this does work you. Perhaps you are on the right track. Congratulations, you are in the fortunate minority.

How do people get into this fix? There are many reasons. First, real wages have remained stagnant since the mid-1970s. This means that despite very hard work, many have needed every penny just to get by; and the desire to have it all, or have it now, has caused debt to rise dramatically.

Is retirement security a luxury you can't afford?

With the uncertain economy, skyrocketing healthcare and energy costs, and little help from employers, retirement may seem impossible to you. It doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to spend your retirement years filled with anxiety and stress. Even if you are approaching retirement with little savings, there is still time to make up for the shortfall, relax, and enjoy the rest of your life.

It is all in your hands. But you must be willing to take control of your finances and turn your life around. The government will help you out a little bit, but you will need to find a way to earn about 60% of what you will need.

Even if you need to stay home and take care of your ailing spouse or aged parent, there is a way. There is a business you can run from your home, your RV, your vacation cottage, even a chair on a sunny beach. All you need is a computer with Internet connection and a telephone. Skilled professionals who took back their lives will be happy to teach you their secrets to success.

The sooner you begin to free yourself from anxiety, the sooner you can be happy and free. You can look forward to enjoying the rest of your life as you live out your best years.

“Limitations live only in our minds. If we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.”

For information go to <http://www.Kosteffectives.com>