Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6047(e), 6057(b), and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2012

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan;
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan; or
- [X] a single-employer plan;
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report;
- [ ] the final return/report;
- [ ] an amended return/report;
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [ ] Form 5558;
- [ ] automatic extension;
- [ ] the DFVC program;
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401K PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1990

2a Plan sponsor's name and address; include room or suite number (employer, if for a single-employer plan)

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

726 EXCHANGE STREET, SUITE 700
BUFFALO, NY 14210

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

2c Sponsor's telephone number
716-858-3379

2d Business code (see instructions)
522120

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/10/2013	JULIE M. LAFOREST
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/10/2013	JULIE M. LAFOREST
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address; include room or suite number. (optional)

Preparer's telephone number (optional)

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor Name [ ] Same as Plan Sponsor Address	**3b** Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b** EIN	
a Sponsor's name	**4c** PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	6463
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year (welfare plans complete only lines **6a, 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a Active participants	**6a**	6192
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	4
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	1187
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	7383
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	**6e**	6
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	7389
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	5573
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	12
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2O 2T

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	[ ]	Insurance
(2)	[ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[X]	Trust
(4)	[ ]	General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	[ ]	Insurance
(2)	[ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[X]	Trust
(4)	[ ]	General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

(1)	[X]	**R** (Retirement Plan Information)
(2)	[ ]	**MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(3)	[ ]	**SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

(1)	[X]	**H** (Financial Information)
(2)	[ ]	**I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3)	[ ]	**A** (Insurance Information)
(4)	[X]	**C** (Service Provider Information)
(5)	[X]	**D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
(6)	[ ]	**G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2012** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401K PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

CHARLES SCHWAB INVESTMENT MGMT INC.

94-3106735

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosure on eligible indirect compensation

CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST COMPANY

42-1558009

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MILLIMAN, INC.

91-0675641

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 36 37 38 50 59 64 70	NONE	210782	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [X]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

94-1737782

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
19 59	NONE	49209	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [X]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ALLIANZ FUNDS 33-0457728	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
COLUMBIA 93-0577450	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
GARTMORE 93-6274329	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JANUS 43-1804048	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
NUVEEN 36-3817266	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF FUNDS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK 04-3276558	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF FUNDS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ROYCE 52-2343049	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF FUNDS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ALLIANZ FUNDS 33-0457728	.25%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
COLUMBIA 93-0577450	.40%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JANUS 43-1804048	.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
GARTMORE 93-6274329	.25%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
NUVEEN 36-3817266	.25%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK 04-3276558	.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ROYCE 52-2343049	.20%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
SCHWAB FUNDS 94-3106735	.22%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JANUS 43-1804048	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
NUVEEN 36-3817266	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK 04-3276558	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.	19 59	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ROYCE 52-2343049	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF PLAN ASSETS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ALLIANZ FUNDS 33-0457728	.25%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
COLUMBIA 93-0577450	.40%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC,	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JANUS 43-1804048	.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
GARTMORE 93-6274329	.25%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
NUVEEN 36-3817266	.25%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK 04-3276558	.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ROYCE 52-2343049	.20%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
MILLIMAN, INC.	19 59 60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
SCHWAB FUNDS 94-3106735	.20%

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a	Name:	**b** EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	**b** EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	**b** EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	**b** EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	**b** EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2012

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401K PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MORLEY STABLE VALUE FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): GARTMORE TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
93-6274329-001	C	8701650

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2012

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401K PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	251828	70948
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	3449707	4159329
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	3264307	4516183
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	7062712	8701650
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	107689532	149009211
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	21858927	23381954
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	143577013	189839275
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	143577013	189839275

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	11249557	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	19979552	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	15173434	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	681752	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		47084295
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	363	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	167639	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		168002
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	865941	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	4475126	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		5341067
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	2884264	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	3665566	
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		-781302
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	-1192371	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		-1192371

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		87424
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		10865589
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		61572704
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	15099795	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		15099795
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses: **(1)** Professional fees	2i(1)	210647	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		210647
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		15310442
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		46262262
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [X] Unqualified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? [ ] Yes [X] No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: BONADIO & CO., LLP **(2)** EIN: 16-1131146

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	4b		X	

			Yes	No	Amount
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		40000000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i	X		
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **Amount:**

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

Part V Trust Information (optional)

6a Name of trust	**6b** Trust's EIN

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2012

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 401K PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions **1**

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 42-1558009 _____

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year. **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section of 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a	The current year	**14a**	
b	The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**14b**	
c	The second preceding plan year	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a	The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b	The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a	Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b	If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP
401(K) PLAN

Financial Statements as of
December 31, 2012 and 2011
and
Supplemental Schedule
Together with
Independent Auditor's Report

Bonadio & Co., LLP
Certified Public Accountants

Bonadio & Co., LLP
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 27, 2013

The Retirement Benefits Committee of
First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.:

Report on the Financial Statements
We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the First Niagara Financial Group 401(k) Plan (the Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements
Plan management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Plan's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the First Niagara Financial Group 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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(Continued)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
(Continued)

Report on Supplemental Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2012 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements, but is supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Such information is the responsibility of the Plan's management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Bonadio & Co., LLP

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
INVESTMENTS, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	$ 149,009,211	$ 107,689,532
First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. common stock	23,381,954	21,858,927
Common/collective trust fund	8,701,650	7,062,712
Money market account	4,159,329	3,449,707
Total investments	185,252,144	140,060,878
NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS	4,516,183	3,264,307
CASH	70,948	251,828
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT FAIR VALUE	189,839,275	143,577,013
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in common/collective trust fund relating to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(167,057)	(183,166)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	$ 189,672,218	$ 143,393,847

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

	2012	2011
ADDITIONS:		
Employee contributions	$ 19,979,552	$ 15,231,347
Employer contributions	11,249,557	8,833,240
Rollover contributions	15,855,186	3,417,076
Interest and dividend income	5,341,431	4,311,241
Net appreciation in fair value of investments, including realized gains and losses on sales	8,995,448	-
Interest on notes receivable from participants	167,639	157,826
Total additions	61,588,813	31,950,730
DEDUCTIONS:		
Net depreciation in fair value of investments, including realized gains and losses on sales	-	16,045,212
Distributions to participants	15,099,795	10,537,837
Administrative expenses	210,647	310,546
Total deductions	15,310,442	26,893,595
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	46,278,371	5,057,135
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS - beginning of year	143,393,847	138,336,712
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS - end of year	$ 189,672,218	$ 143,393,847

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the First Niagara Financial Group 401(k) Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General
The plan is a defined contribution plan with salary reduction features as permitted under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan is funded by employee and employer contributions and covers substantially all eligible employees of First Niagara Bank N.A. and its Subsidiaries, which is owned by First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. (First Niagara) (collectively, the Company). The Plan is intended to conform with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and subsequent legislation, when applicable.

The assets of the Plan are maintained by Charles Schwab Trust Company (Schwab), as Trustee and Milliman, Inc., as recordkeeper for the Plan. The Retirement Benefits Committee (RBC) ensures compliance with the IRC as well as ERISA. The RBC is responsible for the operation of the plan and management of assets for all qualified retirement plans sponsored by the Company.

On April 9, 2010, the Company acquired all of the outstanding common shares of Harleysville National Corporation ("Harleysville"), the parent company of Harleysville National Bank and Trust Company, and thereby acquired all of Harleysville National Bank and Trust Company's 83 branch locations across nine Eastern Pennsylvania counties. In accordance with the Plan, upon completion of the acquisition, former Harleysville employees were eligible to participate in the Plan and were credited for their years of service with Harleysville.

On April 15, 2011, the Company acquired all of the outstanding common shares of NewAlliance Bancshares, Inc. (NewAlliance), the holding company of NewAlliance Bank and thereby acquired all of NewAlliance's 88 branch locations in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. In accordance with the Plan, upon completion of the acquisition, former New Alliance employees were eligible to participate in the Plan and were credited for their years of service with New Alliance.

Both Harleysville and NewAlliance had 401k plans which were officially terminated during 2012.

Eligibility
All employees who have completed three months of service, as defined in the Plan, have attained the age of 21, and who are not represented by a collective bargaining unit are eligible to participate in the Plan.

Contributions
Employees who are eligible to participate in the Plan may elect to contribute up to 100% of their annual compensation, as defined in the Plan, subject to the annual limitations provided by the IRC. Employees who are age 50 or older by the end of the calendar year are allowed to make an additional "catch-up" contribution. This contribution was limited to $5,500 in 2012 and 2011. The "catch-up" contribution is not subject to the employer matching contribution.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Contributions (Continued)
Effective January 1, 2009, safe harbor provisions were adopted by the Plan, for which eligible participants shall be allocated a safe harbor match in an amount equal to 100% of the first 4% of compensation plus 50% of the next 2% of compensation deferred by a participant, up to a total of 5% of compensation.

The Company may also make an annual discretionary contribution to the Plan. No discretionary contributions were made to the Plan during 2012 and 2011. Participants may also rollover amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans.

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may change their investment allocation on a daily basis.

Participant Accounts
Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and an allocation of (a) the Company's contributions, (b) Plan earnings and losses, and (c) administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting
All participants are immediately 100% vested in their contributions, plus allocated earnings thereon. Effective January 1, 2009, eligible participants receiving a safe harbor matching contribution shall be 100% vested in those contributions. For employer matching contributions made prior to January 1, 2009 and employer discretionary contributions, vesting will remain the same as follows:

Less than 2 years	0%
2 years	20%
3 years	40%
4 years	60%
5 years	80%
6 years	100%

Notes Receivable from Participants
Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of $1,000 per loan up to a maximum amount, which is the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Note terms range from one to five years or up to 15 years for the purchase of a principal residence. The notes are collateralized by the participant's account and bear interest at the rates available for comparable notes from commercial lending institutions. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions. During the Plan year ended December 31, 2012, notes totaling $231,893 were rolled-over into the Plan from the New Alliance Bank 401(k) Plan and from the Harleysville Bank 401(k) Plan in conjunction with the termination of those plans.

Forfeited Accounts
Forfeitures of nonvested employer contributions may be used for Plan administrative expenses or to reduce the employer's future contributions. During 2012 and 2011, forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions amounted to $305,190 and $66,831, respectively. Unused forfeited account balances were $8,739 and $266,912 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Plan Termination
Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

Administrative Expenses
All major loan and administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Plan unless otherwise paid by the Company. Administrative expenses include trustee fees.

Payment of Benefits
Employees are eligible for retirement benefits upon reaching age 65. Upon termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant or their beneficiary may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or distributions based on various annuity options or fixed income payments. For termination of service for other reasons, a participant may receive the value of the vested interest in his or her account as a lump-sum distribution. Participating employees may take financial hardship withdrawals under prescribed circumstances, up to the value of vested contributions to their account.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting
The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Generally accepted accounting principles requires that fully benefit-responsive investment contracts held by a defined-contribution plan are to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for the portion of net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan that is attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

The Plan invests in investment contracts through a common/collective trust and, as required by generally accepted accounting principles, presents the fair value of the investment in common/collective trust as well as the adjustment of the investment in the common/collective trust from fair value to contract value relating to the investment contracts in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits. The Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is presented on a contract value basis.

Use of Estimates
The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition
The Plan's assets are invested in various investments through Schwab, the plan custodian. Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition (Continued)
Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Net appreciation includes gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Payment of Benefits
Benefits are recorded when paid.

Risks and Uncertainties
The Plan's assets include various types of investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, currency, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments and the level of uncertainty related to the value of such investments, changes in the values of investments will occur and such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Current accounting guidance establishes a fair value hierarchy based on the transparency of inputs participants use to price an asset or liability. The fair value hierarchy priorities these inputs into the following three levels:

- **Level 1 Inputs** - Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that are available at the measurement date.

- **Level 2 Inputs** - Inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These might include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (such as interest rates, volatilities, prepayment speeds, credit risks, etc.), or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by market data by correlation or other means.

- **Level 3 Inputs** - Unobservable inputs for determining the fair value of the asset or liability and are based on the entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use to price the asset or liability.

A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. A description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy, is set forth below.

Our valuation methodologies may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. While we believe our valuation methodologies are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different estimate of fair value at each measurement date.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following tables summarize our assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2012. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. For the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, no transfers in or out of Level 1 or Level 2 occurred.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
December 31, 2012				
Mutual Funds:				
Target Retirement Funds	$ 37,719,421	$ -	$ -	$ 37,719,421
Large Cap Funds	26,515,011	-	-	26,515,011
Bond Funds	28,973,677	-	-	28,973,677
Foreign Funds	14,941,943	-	-	14,941,943
Mid Cap Funds	11,890,659	-	-	11,890,659
Equity Income Funds	17,104,139	-	-	17,104,139
Small Cap Funds	11,864,361	-	-	11,864,361
First Niagara common stock	23,381,954	-	-	23,381,954
Common/collective trust fund	-	8,701,650	-	8,701,650
Money market accounts	4,159,329	-	-	4,159,329
	$ 176,550,494	$ 8,701,650	$ -	$ 185,252,144

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
December 31, 2011				
Mutual Funds:				
Target Retirement Funds	$ 27,539,590	$ -	$ -	$ 27,539,590
Large Cap Funds	19,522,319	-	-	19,522,319
Bond Funds	21,292,473	-	-	21,292,473
Foreign Funds	9,681,930	-	-	9,681,930
Mid Cap Funds	8,750,913	-	-	8,750,913
Equity Income Funds	12,187,294	-	-	12,187,294
Small Cap Funds	8,715,013	-	-	8,715,013
First Niagara common stock	21,858,927	-	-	21,858,927
Common/collective trust fund	-	7,062,712	-	7,062,712
Money market accounts	3,449,707	-	-	3,449,707
	$ 132,998,166	$ 7,062,712	$ -	$ 140,060,878

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2012 and 2011.

Mutual funds, First Niagara common stock, and money market accounts are valued using unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in active markets.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Common/collective trust fund consists of conventional and synthetic investment contracts, which are valued as follows:

- The fair value of conventional investment contracts is determined using a discounted cash flow methodology where the individual contract cash flows are discounted at the prevailing interpolated yield curve rate as of year-end.

- Individual assets of the synthetic investment contracts include domestic and foreign fixed income securities and investments in investment companies or collective investment trusts. When available, the fair value of fixed income securities is based on quoted prices of identical assets in active markets. When quoted prices are not available, the first priority is to obtain prices from third party pricing methodologies and to confirm they are utilizing observable market information. Their methodologies vary by asset class and include inputs such as estimated cash flows, benchmark yields, reported trades, broker quotes, credit quality, industry events and economic events.

4. INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2012 and 2011 the fair values of investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets were as follows:

	2012	2011
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	$ 17,641,569	$ 15,154,305
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Fund	$ 14,941,943	$ 9,681,930
PIMCO Total Return Admin Fund	$ 12,006,878	$ 7,503,795
Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index Fund	$ 10,186,849	$ 8,668,155
Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund	$ 9,708,801	$ 7,660,492
Oakmark Equity & Income I Fund	$ -	$ 8,456,399
First Niagara common stock	$ 23,381,954	$ 21,858,927

Net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of investments, including realized gains and losses on investments sold during the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 was as follows:

	2012	2011
Mutual funds	$ 10,865,572	$ (9,818,757)
First Niagara common stock	(1,973,673)	(6,263,802)
Common/collective trust fund	103,549	37,347
	$ 8,995,448	$ (16,045,212)

5. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500:

	2012	2011
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 189,672,218	$ 143,393,847
Adjustment from contract value to fair value	167,057	183,166
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	$ 189,839,275	$ 143,577,013

The following is a reconciliation of changes in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500:

	2012	2011
Net increase in net assets per financial statements	$ 46,278,371	$ 5,057,135
Adjustment from contract value to fair value	(16,109)	74,801
Net increase in net assets per Form 5500	$ 46,262,262	$ 5,131,936

6. TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by letter dated August 28, 2012, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Generally accepted accounting principles require entities to disclose in their financial statements the nature of any uncertainty in their tax positions. For benefit plans, qualified status itself is deemed to be an uncertainty, as events could potentially occur to jeopardize their qualified status. As of December 31, 2012, the Plan did not have any uncertain tax positions. The Plan files the Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan (Form 5500) in the U.S. federal jurisdiction. The Plan is no longer subject to U.S. federal tax examinations for years before 2009.

7. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

In 2012 and 2011, certain Plan investments were managed by Schwab. Schwab was the trustee of the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, and therefore these transactions with Schwab qualify as party-in-interest.

Notes receivable from participants of $4,516,183 and $3,264,307 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, with interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 10.25% also qualify as party-in-interest. Interest earned on the notes receivable from participants totaled $167,639 and $157,826 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Dividend income earned on First Niagara common stock totaled $865,941 and $1,454,905 for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Net depreciation on First Niagara common stock totaled $1,973,673 and $6,263,802 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 27, 2013, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2012

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Fair Value
		CASH	$ 70,948
		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS:	
*	Charles Schwab Trust Co.	Schwab Retirement Advantage Money Fund	4,159,329
		COMMON/COLLECTIVE TRUST FUND:	
	Principal Funds Distributor, Inc.	Morley Stable Value Fund	8,701,650
		MUTUAL FUNDS:	
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard 500 Index Fund	17,641,569
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index	14,941,943
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index	10,186,849
	The Oakmark Funds	Oakmark Equity & Income I	9,328,276
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	9,708,801
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid Cap Index	7,158,522
	Royce Fund Services, Inc.	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Invmt	7,027,718
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	7,333,134
	Allianz Global Investors Distributors LLC	PIMCO Total Return Admin	12,006,878
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index	6,779,950
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2015	4,055,905
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	5,314,920
	Nuveen Investments	Nuveen Equity Income Fund	7,775,863
	T. Rowe Price	T. Rowe Price Large Cap Growth	8,873,442
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	1,628,789
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020	3,981,722
	Janus Distributors LLC	Perkins Mid Cap Value T	2,671,270
	Janus Distributors LLC	Janus Enterprise T	2,060,867
	Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc.	Columbia Small Cap Value I Z	2,012,877
	Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc.	Columbia Acorn Z	2,823,766
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	3,387,513
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	1,865,494
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	197,173
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	245,970
			149,009,211
*	First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	Common Stock	23,381,954
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates range from 3.25% to 10.25%	4,516,183
			$ 189,839,275

* Denotes party-in-interest

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP 401(k) PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
DECEMBER 31, 2012

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Fair Value
		CASH	$ 70,948
		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS:	
*	Charles Schwab Trust Co.	Schwab Retirement Advantage Money Fund	4,159,329
		COMMON/COLLECTIVE TRUST FUND:	
	Principal Funds Distributor, Inc.	Morley Stable Value Fund	8,701,650
		MUTUAL FUNDS:	
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard 500 Index Fund	17,641,569
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index	14,941,943
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index	10,186,849
	The Oakmark Funds	Oakmark Equity & Income I	9,328,276
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	9,708,801
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid Cap Index	7,158,522
	Royce Fund Services, Inc.	Royce Pennsylvania Mutual Invmt	7,027,718
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	7,333,134
	Allianz Global Investors Distributors LLC	PIMCO Total Return Admin	12,006,878
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index	6,779,950
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2015	4,055,905
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	5,314,920
	Nuveen Investments	Nuveen Equity Income Fund	7,775,863
	T. Rowe Price	T. Rowe Price Large Cap Growth	8,873,442
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	1,628,789
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020	3,981,722
	Janus Distributors LLC	Perkins Mid Cap Value T	2,671,270
	Janus Distributors LLC	Janus Enterprise T	2,060,867
	Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc.	Columbia Small Cap Value I Z	2,012,877
	Columbia Management Investment Distributors, Inc.	Columbia Acorn Z	2,823,766
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	3,387,513
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	1,865,494
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	197,173
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	245,970
			149,009,211
*	First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	Common Stock	23,381,954
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates range from 3.25% to 10.25%	4,516,183
			$ 189,839,275

* Denotes party-in-interest

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.