

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). <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2013 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>10/01/2013</u> and ending <u>09/30/2014</u>	
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan; ☐ a multiple-employer plan; or ☒ 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 <u>THE RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><u>001</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1952</u></td> </tr> </table>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1952</u>	
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>				
1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1952</u>					
2a Plan sponsor's name and address; include room or suite number (employer, if for a single-employer plan) <u>FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u> <u>726 EXCHANGE STREET</u> <u>SUITE 700</u> <u>BUFFALO, NY 14210</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2c Sponsor's telephone number <u>716-858-3390</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>522120</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> </table>	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u>	2c Sponsor's telephone number <u>716-858-3390</u>	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>522120</u>	
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u>					
2c Sponsor's telephone number <u>716-858-3390</u>					
2d Business code (see instructions) <u>522120</u>					

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.	05/12/2015	MARYLISA OROSS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	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 ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor Name ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor Address	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
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: a Sponsor's name	4b EIN 4c PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 1584
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 364
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	6b 517
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits.....	6c 627
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a , 6b , and 6c	6d 1508
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	6e 48
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f 1556
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6h 0
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: 1A 1I 3D	
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) ☒ 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) ☒ 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) ☒ 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) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☐ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

SCHEDULE SB (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2013 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2013 and ending 09/30/2014

▶ **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**

▶ **Caution:** A penalty of \$1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

A Name of plan <u>THE RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF <u>FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u>
E Type of plan: ☒ Single ☐ Multiple-A ☐ Multiple-B	F Prior year plan size: ☐ 100 or fewer ☐ 101-500 ☒ More than 500

Part I	Basic Information
1 Enter the valuation date: Month <u>10</u> Day <u>01</u> Year <u>2013</u>	
2 Assets:	
a Market value	2a <u>116285580</u>
b Actuarial value	2b <u>116285580</u>
3 Funding target/participant count breakdown:	
a For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment.....	3a <u>552</u> <u>43117313</u>
b For terminated vested participants.....	3b <u>631</u> <u>18380521</u>
c For active participants:	
(1) Non-vested benefits	3c(1) <u>0</u>
(2) Vested benefits	3c(2) <u>8399512</u>
(3) Total active.....	3c(3) <u>401</u> <u>8399512</u>
d Total.....	3d <u>1584</u> <u>69897346</u>
4 If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b)..... ☐	
a Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions	4a
b Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor.....	4b
5 Effective interest rate	5 <u>6.31</u> %
6 Target normal cost	6 <u>227970</u>

Statement by Enrolled Actuary

To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

SIGN HERE		<u>05/12/2015</u>
Signature of actuary		Date
<u>JOHN B. WUKITSCH, ASA</u>		<u>14-05731</u>
Type or print name of actuary		Most recent enrollment number
<u>MILLIMAN, INC.</u>		<u>518-514-7100</u>
Firm name		Telephone number (including area code)
<u>250 WASHINGTON AVENUE EXTENSION</u> <u>ALBANY, NY 12203-5401</u>		
Address of the firm		

If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions ☐

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice and OMB Control Numbers, see the instructions for Form 5500 or 5500-SF.

Schedule SB (Form 5500) 2013
v. 130118

Part II Beginning of Year Carryover and Prefunding Balances		
	(a) Carryover balance	(b) Prefunding balance
7 Balance at beginning of prior year after applicable adjustments (line 13 from prior year)	5528155	0
8 Portion elected for use to offset prior year's funding requirement (line 35 from prior year)	0	0
9 Amount remaining (line 7 minus line 8)	5528155	0
10 Interest on line 9 using prior year's actual return of <u>2.93</u> %	161975	
11 Prior year's excess contributions to be added to prefunding balance:		
a Present value of excess contributions (line 38a from prior year)		0
b Interest on (a) using prior year's effective interest rate of <u>7.04</u> % except as otherwise provided (see instructions)		0
c Total available at beginning of current plan year to add to prefunding balance		0
d Portion of (c) to be added to prefunding balance		0
12 Other reductions in balances due to elections or deemed elections	0	0
13 Balance at beginning of current year (line 9 + line 10 + line 11d – line 12)	5690130	0

Part III Funding Percentages		
14 Funding target attainment percentage	14	158.22 %
15 Adjusted funding target attainment percentage	15	166.36 %
16 Prior year's funding percentage for purposes of determining whether carryover/prefunding balances may be used to reduce current year's funding requirement	16	181.25 %
17 If the current value of the assets of the plan is less than 70 percent of the funding target, enter such percentage	17	%

Part IV Contributions and Liquidity Shortfalls					
18 Contributions made to the plan for the plan year by employer(s) and employees:					
(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees	(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees
Totals ►			18(b)	0	18(c) 0

19 Discounted employer contributions – see instructions for small plan with a valuation date after the beginning of the year:		
a Contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years.	19a	0
b Contributions made to avoid restrictions adjusted to valuation date	19b	0
c Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date	19c	0
20 Quarterly contributions and liquidity shortfalls:		
a Did the plan have a "funding shortfall" for the prior year?	☐ Yes ☒ No	
b If line 20a is "Yes," were required quarterly installments for the current year made in a timely manner?	☐ Yes ☐ No	
c If line 20a is "Yes," see instructions and complete the following table as applicable:		

Liquidity shortfall as of end of quarter of this plan year			
(1) 1st	(2) 2nd	(3) 3rd	(4) 4th

Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost

21 Discount rate:				
a Segment rates:	1st segment: 4.94%	2nd segment: 6.15%	3rd segment: 6.76 %	☐ N/A, full yield curve used
b Applicable month (enter code).....				21b 2
22 Weighted average retirement age				22 63
23 Mortality table(s) (see instructions) ☐ Prescribed - combined ☒ Prescribed - separate ☐ Substitute				

Part VI Miscellaneous Items

24 Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☐ Yes ☒ No
25 Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☐ Yes ☒ No
26 Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☒ Yes ☐ No
27 If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment.....	27

Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years

28 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years	28	0
29 Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a).....	29	0
30 Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29)	30	0

Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year

31 Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):												
a Target normal cost (line 6).....	31a	227970										
b Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a	31b	227970										
32 Amortization installments:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Outstanding Balance</th> <th>Installment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a Net shortfall amortization installment.....</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b Waiver amortization installment</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Outstanding Balance	Installment	a Net shortfall amortization installment.....	0	0	b Waiver amortization installment	0	0
	Outstanding Balance	Installment										
a Net shortfall amortization installment.....	0	0										
b Waiver amortization installment	0	0										
33 If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount	33											
34 Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33)...	34	0										
		Carryover balance	Prefunding balance									
35 Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement.....	0	0	0									
36 Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35).....	36	0										
37 Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c).....	37	0										
38 Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)												
a Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)	38a	0										
b Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances	38b	0										
39 Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37)	39	0										
40 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years	40	0										

Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under Pension Relief Act of 2010 (See Instructions)

41 If an election was made to use PRA 2010 funding relief for this plan:			
a Schedule elected	☐ 2 plus 7 years ☐ 15 years		
b Eligible plan year(s) for which the election in line 41a was made	☐ 2008 ☐ 2009 ☐ 2010 ☐ 2011		
42 Amount of acceleration adjustment	42		
43 Excess installment acceleration amount to be carried over to future plan years	43		

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider 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
		2013
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2013 and ending 09/30/2014

A Name of plan <u>THE RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u>

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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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)..... ☐ 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

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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

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?
11 50	NONE	150588	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ 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?
59 71	NONE	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

CHARLES SCHWAB BANK

42-1558009

(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?
21 59	NONE	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	32224	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)

HARTER SECREST & EMERY LLP

16-0766172

(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?
29 50	NONE	7172	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.	59 71	0
<p>(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation</p> <p>ALLIANZ FUNDS</p> <p>06-1349805</p>		
<p>(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.</p> <p>SHAREHOLDER SERVICING FEES RATE OF 0.30% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSET(S)</p>		
<p>(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2</p> <p>CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.</p>		
<p>(b) Service Codes (see instructions)</p> <p>59 71</p>		
<p>(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation</p> <p>0</p>		
<p>(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation</p> <p>SCHWAB FUNDS</p> <p>94-3106735</p>		
<p>(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.</p> <p>SHAREHOLDER SERVICING FEES RATE OF 0.25% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSET(S)</p>		
<p>(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2</p> <p>CHARLES SCHWAB BANK</p>		
<p>(b) Service Codes (see instructions)</p> <p>21 59</p>		
<p>(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation</p> <p>32224</p>		
<p>(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation</p> <p>MILLIMAN, INC.</p> <p>91-0675641</p>		
<p>(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.</p> <p>PAYMENT FOR TRUST AND CUSTODIAL RELATED SERVICES</p>		

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

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name: BONADIO & CO., LLP	b EIN: 13-1131146
c Position: ACCOUNTANT	
d Address: 6400 SHERIDAN DRIVE SUITE 230 WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221	e Telephone: 716-633-8885

Explanation: A NEW AUDITOR FOR FIRST NIAGARA'S QUALIFIED PLANS WAS CHOSEN AS A RESULT OF AN RFP.

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 H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2013 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>10/01/2013</u> and ending <u>09/30/2014</u>		
A Name of plan <u>THE RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>42-1556195</u>	

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	106872	115695
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)	9724154	5013624
(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)	576136	479255
(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)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(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)	105878418	113454738
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(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	116285580	119063312

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 through 1j)	1k	0	0

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	116285580	119063312
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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 Contributions:**

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)		
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		0

b Earnings on investments:**(1) Interest:**

(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(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)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0

(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	2539947	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		2539947
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	521344	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		521344
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	4427705	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		4427705

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(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)		
c Other income	2c		17421
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		7506417

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	4503781	
(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)		4503781
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)	150588	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)	74316	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4)	2i(5)		224904
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		4728685

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		2777732
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) ☐ 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 ☐ No

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

(1) Name: **INSERO AND COMPANY, CPAS, P.C.**

(2) EIN: **16-1016457**

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:

- 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.)
- 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.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	
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.)		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.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	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?		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?		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?		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.)	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.)	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?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)			
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.			

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)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

Part V Trust Information (optional)

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

<div>SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>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).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2013</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div>
For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2013 and ending 09/30/2014		
A Name of plan THE RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
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 0
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 9
Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 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		
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice and OMB Control Numbers, see the instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2013 v. 130118		

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: 23% Investment-Grade Debt: 69% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: 8%
- 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): _____

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014



***RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.***

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Employee Benefits Administration Committee of the Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of the Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. (the Plan), which comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of September 30, 2014, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the 2014 financial statements based on conducting the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Plan Administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in Note 8, which was certified by Charles Schwab Bank, the custodian of the Plan, except for comparing this information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the Plan Administrator that the custodian holds the Plan's assets and executes transactions. The Plan Administrator has obtained certifications from the custodian as of and for the year ended September 30, 2014, that the information provided to the Plan Administrator by the custodian is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the 2014 financial statements.

Other Matter – 2013 Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Plan as of and for the year ended September 30, 2013, were audited by other auditors whose report, dated July 10, 2014, did not express an opinion on the 2013 financial statements for the same reason described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph. Their report also indicated the form and content of the information included in the 2013 financial statements, other than that derived from the information certified by the custodian, was presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure Under ERISA.

Other Matter

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of September 30, 2014, and supplemental schedule of reportable transactions for the year ended September 30, 2014 are required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and are presented for the purpose of additional analysis but are not a required part of the financial statements. The supplemental schedules are the responsibility of Plan management. Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedules.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the 2014 financial statements and supplemental schedules, other than that derived from the information certified by the custodian, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Respectfully Submitted,

Insero & Company CPAs, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

Rochester, New York
May 11, 2015

***RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.***

**STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS		
Investments, at Fair Value		
Mutual Funds	\$ 82,810,694	\$ 79,806,379
Unit Investment Trusts	30,644,044	26,072,039
Money Market Fund	5,013,624	9,724,154
Common Stock	<u>479,255</u>	<u>576,136</u>
Total Investments	118,947,617	116,178,708
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>115,695</u>	<u>106,872</u>
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u>\$ 119,063,312</u>	<u>\$ 116,285,580</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Additions to Net Assets Attributed to:		
Interest and Dividends	\$ 2,539,947	\$ 3,221,063
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	4,949,049	154,342
Other Income	<u>17,421</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Additions	<u>7,506,417</u>	<u>3,375,405</u>
Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to:		
Benefit Payments	4,503,781	4,564,407
Administrative Expenses	<u>224,904</u>	<u>227,970</u>
Total Deductions	<u>4,728,685</u>	<u>4,792,377</u>
Change in Net Assets	2,777,732	(1,416,972)
Net Assets Available for Benefits		
Beginning of Year	<u>116,285,580</u>	<u>117,702,552</u>
End of Year	<u>\$ 119,063,312</u>	<u>\$ 116,285,580</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 1* Description of Plan**

The following brief description of the Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for more complete information.

General

The Plan is a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan sponsored by First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. (the Company). The Plan, formerly known as The Retirement Plan of First Niagara Financial Group in RSI Retirement Trust, was merged with The Retirement Plan of The Troy Savings Bank in RSI Retirement Trust, and The Retirement Plan of Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes, FSB in RSI Retirement Trust, effective January 3, 2005 and was renamed the Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. The Retirement Plan of Hudson River Bank and Trust Company was merged into the Plan effective September 30, 2005. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. is the Plan Sponsor and the Plan Administrator is the Employee Benefits Administration Committee of First Niagara. The custodian and trustee of the plan assets is Charles Schwab Bank.

Effective on the Plan Freeze Dates as listed below, the Company modified the Plan, such that: (a) no employee could commence or recommence participation in the Plan after the Plan Freeze Date, (b) average annual earnings would not include any future compensation after the Plan Freeze Date, and (c) credited service and the accrual of all participants' future benefits ceased. Employment service after the Plan Freeze Date is recognized under the Plan only for purposes of determining vesting service, early retirement eligibility, and eligibility for the special preretirement survivor benefit.

Future benefit accruals ceased as of the following dates for the following plans:

- The Retirement Plan of First Niagara Financial Group in RSI Retirement Trust - February 1, 2002
- The Retirement Plan of Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes, FSB in RSI Retirement Trust - December 31, 2002
- The Retirement Plan of The Troy Savings Bank in RSI Retirement Trust - December 31, 2003
- The Retirement Plan of Hudson River Bank and Trust Company - December 31, 2004

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 1* Description of Plan - Continued**

Eligibility

Effective on the Plan Freeze Date, no employee is eligible to become a participant in the Plan. Prior to the Plan Freeze Date, participation in the Plan commenced when an employee attained age 21 and completed 1,000 hours of eligible service.

Vesting

Employees became fully vested in employer contributions after five years of service, as defined.

Pension Benefits

All employees of the Company who meet the age and service requirements, as defined, and who were employed prior to the Plan Freeze Date, are eligible to participate in the Plan.

Employees who were participants of The Retirement Plan of First Niagara Financial Group in RSI Retirement Trust, and attained the later of age 65 or five years of service, as defined, are entitled to receive annual pension benefits. Those retiring are entitled to receive a benefit equal to (a) 2% of average annual earnings for each year of service or fraction thereof rendered prior to March 31, 1998 and (b) 1.25% of average annual earnings for each year of service rendered after March 31, 1998, not to exceed 30 years. Additionally, the Plan provides early retirement options for participants who terminate their employment on or after age 60 with a minimum of five consecutive years of credited service. Early retirement benefits are also available to participants who have attained age 55 and completed 20 or more years of vested service, or have completed 30 years of vested service. The normal form of benefit is a certain life annuity for single participants and a joint and survivor annuity for married participants.

Employees who were participants of The Retirement Plan of Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes, FSB in RSI Retirement Trust, and attained the later of age 65 or five years of participation, as defined, are entitled to receive annual pension benefits. Those retiring are entitled to receive a benefit equal to 2% of average annual earnings for each year of service or fraction thereof rendered not to exceed 30 years, reduced by estimated Social Security benefits. Average annual earnings are computed based on the three consecutive years of highest compensation during the last ten years of service. The normal form of benefit is a 50% joint and survivor benefit with the spouse as the designated beneficiary or a straight life annuity if the participant does not have a spouse. Other forms of benefit can be elected. Early retirement benefits are also available to participants who have completed a minimum of five consecutive years of credited service and (a) have attained age 60, or (b) met the Rule of 75 (attained age plus vested service with this employer and any prior participating employer). The early retirement benefit is calculated in accordance with the normal retirement formula as of the early retirement date with benefits discounted if payments commence before the normal retirement date.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 1* Description of Plan - Continued**

Pension Benefits - Continued

Employees who were participants of The Retirement Plan of The Troy Savings Bank in RSI Retirement Trust, and attained the later of age 65 or five years of participation, as defined, are entitled to receive annual pension benefits. Prior to May 1, 2001, the normal retirement benefit was an annual amount equal to 2% of the average annual earnings during the highest 36 months of the participant's final 120 months of employment, multiplied by the years of creditable service and any fraction thereof not exceeding 32.5 years plus 0.4% of the average annual earnings during the highest 36 months of the participant's final 120 months of employment which is in excess of one-half of the Social Security wage base, multiplied by the years of creditable service and any fraction thereof not exceeding 30 years. Effective May 1, 2001, the Plan was amended in order to change the formula for calculating the annual normal retirement benefit. Effective May 1, 2001, the normal retirement benefit is an annual amount equal to the sum of (i), (ii), and (iii) below. The total number of years and any fractions thereof of credited service under subsections (i) and (ii) below may not exceed 32.5 years.

- (i) 2% of the average annual earnings during the highest 36 months of the participant's final 120 months of employment, multiplied by the years of creditable service and any fractions thereof credited prior to May 1, 2001;
- (ii) 1.67% of the average annual earnings during the highest 36 months of the participant's final 120 months of employment, multiplied by the years of creditable service and any fractions thereof credited on or after May 1, 2001;
- (iii) 0.4% of the average annual earnings during the highest 36 months of the participant's final 120 months of employment which is in excess of one-half of the Social Security wage base as of the participant's date of termination of service, multiplied by the years of creditable service and any fractions thereof credited prior to May 1, 2001, not to exceed 30 years.

A participant is eligible for early retirement benefits upon attaining age 60 and completion of five consecutive years of vesting service, or upon attaining age 55 and completion of ten consecutive years of creditable service. The benefit, if deferred to age 65, is generally calculated in the same manner as the normal retirement benefit. At the option of the participant, an immediate benefit or a benefit deferred to any date subsequent to retirement, but not beyond age 65, is payable in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. If the benefit commences prior to age 65, it is reduced to an actuarial equivalent of the benefit otherwise commencing at age 65 in accordance with the Plan's provisions. Effective October 1, 1994, a retired participant who is in receipt of a normal retirement benefit, postponed retirement benefit, or early retirement benefit under the provisions of the Plan or prior plan shall be entitled to a supplemental retirement benefit of 1% of the retired participant's monthly benefit, multiplied by the number of calendar years commencing with the retired participant's initial year of receipt of retirement benefits and ending with the 1994 calendar year.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 1* Description of Plan - Continued**

Pension Benefits - Continued

Employees who were participants of The Retirement Plan of Hudson River Bank and Trust Company, and attained the later of age 65 or five years of participation, as defined, are entitled to receive annual pension benefits. For each year of credited service, the participant will receive a monthly pension equal to 2% of average annual earnings (five year average). The monthly retirement benefit is the result of average annual earnings times credited benefit service. A participant may elect early retirement at age 60 with completion of five or more years of benefit service.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company except to the extent the Company has elected to pay such expenses directly from the Plan.

Death and Disability Benefits

The beneficiary of an active employee who was a participant of The Retirement Plan of First Niagara Financial Group in RSI Retirement Trust, whose employment is terminated as a result of death is entitled to receive joint and survivor annuity payments equal to 50% of the amount the employee would have received under the Plan had employment been terminated other than by death. Disability benefits are provided under the Plan for a participant whose employment is terminated as a result of total disability and who has completed fifteen years of service.

The beneficiary of an active employee who was a participant of The Retirement Plan of Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes, FSB in RSI Retirement Trust, who dies while in active service and has either attained age 60 or met the Rule of 75 (attained age plus vested service with this employer and any prior participating employer), whose employment is terminated as a result of death is entitled to death benefits. The normal, early or vested retirement benefit, assuming the participant terminated employment at date of death and elected a 100% joint and survivor benefit is payable to the surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, their children, until the youngest child attains age 21. A participant who did not meet the requirements above, and died while in active service having an eligible surviving spouse or child and was eligible for a vested retirement benefit, will be entitled to a benefit. The vested retirement benefit, assuming the participant terminated employment at date of death and elected a 50% joint and survivor benefit is payable to the surviving spouse.

The beneficiary of an active employee who was a participant of The Retirement Plan of The Troy Savings Bank in RSI Retirement Trust, whose employment is terminated as a result of death, is entitled to receive benefits if the participant had attained age 60 or if eligible for a vested retirement benefit. If an eligible participant dies before retirement, a benefit is computed and distributed in accordance with the Plan's provisions to the participant's designated beneficiary.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 1* Description of Plan - Continued**

Death and Disability Benefits - Continued

The beneficiary of an active employee who was a participant of The Retirement Plan of Hudson River Bank and Trust Company, whose employment is terminated as a result of death, is entitled to receive benefits. Active employees who become totally and permanently disabled receive a monthly annuity equal to the amount determined by the early retirement benefit formula without reduction for retirement prior to age 65. If not eligible for early retirement the benefit is equal to the actuarial equivalent of the normal retirement benefit.

***Note 2* Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein; disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities; and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits at the date of the financial statements, and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with maturity dates of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's assets are invested in various investments and 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.

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

Benefit Payments

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 2* Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Continued**

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, 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.

Plan contributions and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits are prepared based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates, and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to the uncertainties inherent in this process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near term would be material to the accompanying financial statements.

***Note 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 prioritizes 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 estimates 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.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

Note 3 Fair Value of Measurements - Continued

The valuation methodologies may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. While the Plan administrator believes the 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.

The following table summarizes the assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at September 30, 2014 and 2013. Financial assets are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. For the year ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, there were no transfers in or out of Level 1.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of September 30:

	<u>Investments at Fair Value</u>	
	<u>Level 1</u>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Mutual Funds	\$ 82,810,694	\$ 79,806,379
Unit Investment Trusts	30,644,044	26,072,039
Money Market Fund	5,013,624	9,724,154
First Niagara Common Stock	<u>479,255</u>	<u>576,136</u>
	<u>\$ 118,947,617</u>	<u>\$ 116,178,708</u>

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 September 30, 2014 and 2013.

Mutual funds, common stock, unit investment trusts and money market funds are valued using unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in active markets.

Note 4 Accumulated Plan Benefits

Accumulated plan benefits are the future periodic payments to be made from the Plan's assets that are attributable under the Plan's provisions to services already rendered by employees. Accumulated plan benefits consist of expected benefit payments to retired or terminated employees or their beneficiaries, beneficiaries of deceased employees, and present employees or their beneficiaries. All benefits payable as stipulated under the provisions of the Plan which are attributable to employee service rendered prior to the valuation date are included in ascertaining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

Note 4 Accumulated Plan Benefits - Continued

The actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits is determined by the enrolled actuary, and results from applying actuarial assumptions to adjust the accumulated plan benefits to reflect the time value of money and probability of payment. The probability of payment is affected by death, disability, withdrawal, or retirement. For the plan years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, the actuarial assumptions were based on the Plan being frozen and all participants being fully vested.

The following is a summary of the more significant methods and assumptions used in the actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2014 and 2013:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assumed Rate of Return on Investments	5.0%	5.0%
Normal Retirement Age	65	65
Mortality Table	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant/ Employee With Projection Scale MP-2014	Separate Generational RP-2000 Annuitants/ Non-Annuitants
Actuarial Cost Method	Unit Credit	Unit Credit

The actuarial assumptions are based on the presumption that the Plan will continue; however, if the Plan is terminated, different actuarial assumptions might be used to determine the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits.

The actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits as of October 1, 2014 and 2013, the date of the latest actuarial valuation, is as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits		
Vested Benefits		
Participants Currently Receiving Payments	\$ 50,083,787	\$ 47,120,244
Participants Not Receiving Benefits	<u>37,684,906</u>	<u>34,910,059</u>
Total Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan Benefits	<u>\$ 87,768,693</u>	<u>\$ 82,030,303</u>

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

Note 4 Accumulated Plan Benefits - Continued

Changes in the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits as of October 1, 2014 and 2013, were as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan		
Benefits - Beginning of Year	\$ 82,030,303	\$ 83,143,312
Increase (Decrease) During the Year Attributable to:		
Change in Actuarial Assumption	5,319,385	-
Benefit Payments	(4,503,781)	(4,564,407)
Change in Average Discount Period	3,990,294	4,044,448
Accumulation of Benefits, Including Experience		
Gains and Losses	<u>932,492</u>	<u>(593,050)</u>
Actuarial Present Value of Accumulated Plan		
Benefits - End of Year	<u>\$ 87,768,693</u>	<u>\$ 82,030,303</u>

Note 5 Funding

The Company makes contributions to the Plan in amounts at least sufficient to meet minimum funding requirements of ERISA as determined annually by the enrolled Plan actuary. Since the Plan is frozen, the frozen actuarial liability cost method is used to provide sufficient assets to meet benefit payment obligations to participants. Current service costs are being funded on a current basis. There are no unfunded past service costs at September 30, 2014 or 2013. The Plan is currently fully funded in accordance with the minimum funding requirements of ERISA. No contributions were made during the Plan years ended September 30, 2014 or 2013 as there was no minimum contribution required.

Note 6 Plan Termination

The Plan has not been terminated however, the Company may do so at any time. In the event the Plan terminates, the net assets of the Plan shall be allocated, as prescribed by ERISA and its related regulations, generally to provide the following benefits in the order indicated:

- (a) Annuity benefits that former employees or their beneficiaries have been receiving for at least three years or that employees eligible to retire for that three-year period would have been receiving if they had retired with benefits in the normal form of annuity under the Plan. The priority amount is limited to the lowest benefit that was payable (or would have been payable) during those three years. The amount is further limited to the lowest benefit that would be payable under Plan provisions in effect at any time during the five years preceding Plan termination.
- (b) Other vested benefits insured by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC, a U.S. governmental agency) subject to the applicable limitations.
- (c) All other vested benefits (that is, vested benefits not insured by the PBGC).
- (d) All nonvested benefits.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

Note 6 Plan Termination - Continued

Certain benefits under the Plan are insured by the PBGC if the Plan terminates. Generally, the PBGC guarantees most vested normal age retirement benefits, early retirement benefits, and certain disability and survivor pensions. However, the PBGC does not guarantee all types of benefits under the Plan, and the amount of benefit protection is subject to certain limitations. Vested benefits under the Plan are guaranteed at the level in effect on the date of the Plan's termination.

There is a statutory ceiling on the amount of an individual's monthly benefit that the PBGC guarantees. The ceiling, which is adjusted periodically, was \$4,943 per month as of September 30, 2014. The ceiling applies to those participants who elect to receive their benefits in the form of a single-life annuity and are at least 65 years old at the time of retirement or Plan termination, whichever comes later. For younger annuitants or for those who elect to receive their benefits in some form more valuable than a single-life annuity, the corresponding ceilings are actuarially adjusted downward. Whether all participants receive their benefits should the Plan terminate at some future time will depend on the sufficiency, at that time, of the Plan's net assets to provide for accumulated benefit obligations and may also depend on the level of benefits guaranteed by the PBGC.

Note 7 Investments

The following schedule presents the fair value of investments representing 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at September 30, 2014 and 2013:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
PIMCO Total Return Fund Institutional	\$ 42,842,848	\$ 41,476,775
Vanguard Interm Term Bond Index Adm	\$ 33,492,573	\$ 32,082,613
iShares S&P 500 Growth Index Fund	\$ 16,761,845	\$ 13,813,640
iShares S&P 500 Barra Value Index Fund	\$ 9,073,349	\$ 7,717,953
Schwab Money Market Fund	N/A	\$ 9,724,154

Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments, including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013 was as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Common Stock	\$ (114,880)	\$ 126,355
Unit Investment Trusts	4,040,369	3,874,015
Mutual Funds	<u>1,023,560</u>	<u>(3,846,028)</u>
	<u>\$ 4,949,049</u>	<u>\$ 154,342</u>

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 AND 2013

***Note 8* Financial Certification**

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the United States Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, Charles Schwab Bank, the custodian of the Plan, has certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments reflected on the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits as of September 30, 2014 and 2013, the schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of September 30, 2014, the investment income reflected on the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, and the schedule of reportable transactions for the year ended September 30, 2014.

***Note 9* Income Taxes**

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan sponsor by a letter dated June 22, 2012 that the Plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Plan administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the organization has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the plan and has concluded that as of September 30, 2014, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan administrator believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2011.

***Note 10* Party in Interest Transactions**

Certain Plan investments are managed by Charles Schwab Bank, the custodian of the Plan. Milliman, Inc. serves as the Plan's actuary and recordkeeper. As such, transactions with these parties are considered to be party-in-interest transactions. The Plan has assets invested in and receives dividends from First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. common stock which also qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan to Milliman, Inc. amounted to \$150,588 for the year ended September 30, 2014.

***Note 11* Subsequent Events**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 11, 2015, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 14-0458765 / PN 001

Schedule SB Attachment, line 22 - Weighted Average Retirement Age

Age	BOY Actives	Ret. Rate	Retirements	EOY Actives	Wtd. Avg. Retirees
55	401	2.00%	8	393	1.1
56	393	2.50%	10	383	1.37
57	383	3.00%	11	372	1.63
58	372	3.50%	13	359	1.88
59	359	4.25%	15	343	2.24
60	343	5.00%	17	326	2.57
61	326	7.50%	24	302	3.72
62	302	10.00%	30	272	4.67
63	272	12.50%	34	238	5.33
64	238	17.50%	42	196	6.64
65	196	100.00%	196	0	31.78
Weighted Average age of retirees					62.93

Weighted average age of retirees is the sum of the product of the age times the number of retirees at that age divided by the total number of retirees leaving the group at age 65.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, line 26 – Schedule of Active Participant Data

Number of Participants by Age and Service Groups

Age	Years of Credited Service										Total
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40&Up	
0-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30-34	16	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
35-39	41	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
40-44	68	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
45-49	67	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
50-54	78	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
55-59	63	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	66
60-64	33	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	37
65-69	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
70&Up	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	376	8	7	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	401

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, line 32 – Schedule of Amortization Bases

The amount needed to amortize the Funding Shortfall to the Applicable Funding Target, in combination with prior Shortfall amortizations, for the plan year beginning October 1, 2013 is determined below. The net Funding Shortfall is amortized in seven level payments using the interest rates assumed in determining the Applicable Funding Target for the current plan year.

1. Present Value of Remaining Prior Shortfall Amortizations

<u>Date Established</u>	<u>Amortization Amount</u>	<u>Years Remaining</u>	<u>Present Value Factor</u>	<u>Present Value</u>
a. Total	0		N/A	0
2. Shortfall Amortization for current plan year				
a. Applicable Funding Target				68,897,396
b. Actuarial Value of Assets less Carryover and Prefunding Balances				110,595,450
c. Funding Shortfall [(a) - (b), but not less than \$0]				Exempt
d. Net Funding Shortfall [if (c) > \$0, (c) - (1), otherwise N/A]				N/A
e. Amortization factor				N/A
f. Shortfall Amortization for current plan year [(d) ÷ (e)]				Exempt
Total Shortfall Amortizations [(1) + (2f), but not less than \$0]				\$0

**SCHEDULE SB
(Form 5500)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

**Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan
Actuarial Information**

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

► **File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2013

**This Form is Open to Public
Inspection**

For calendar plan year 2013 or fiscal plan year beginning 10/01/2013 and ending 09/30/2014

► **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**

► **Caution:** A penalty of \$1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

A Name of plan

B Three-digit
plan number (PN) ►

001

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)

First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

42-1556195

E Type of plan: ☒ Single ☐ Multiple-A ☐ Multiple-B

F Prior year plan size: ☐ 100 or fewer ☐ 101-500 ☒ More than 500

Part I Basic Information

1 Enter the valuation date: Month 10 Day 1 Year 2013

2 Assets:

a Market value **2a** 116,285,580

b Actuarial value **2b** 116,285,580

3 Funding target/participant count breakdown:

(1) Number of participants

(2) Funding Target

a For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment **3a** 552 43,117,313

b For terminated vested participants **3b** 631 18,380,521

c For active participants:

(1) Non-vested benefits **3c(1)** 0

(2) Vested benefits **3c(2)** 8,399,512

(3) Total active **3c(3)** 401 8,399,512

d Total **3d** 1,584 69,897,346

4 If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b) ☐

a Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions **4a**

b Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor **4b**

5 Effective interest rate **5** 6.31 %

6 Target normal cost **6** 227,970

Statement by Enrolled Actuary

To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

**SIGN
HERE**

John B. Wukitsch
Signature of actuary

05/12/2015

Date

John B. Wukitsch, ASA

Type or print name of actuary

14-05731

Most recent enrollment number

Milliman, Inc.

Firm name

(518) 514-7100

Telephone number (including area code)

250 Washington Avenue Extension

Albany

NY 12203-5401

Address of the firm

If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions ☐

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice and OMB Control Numbers, see the instructions for Form 5500 or 5500-SF.

Schedule SB (Form 5500) 2013
v. 130118

Part II Beginning of Year Carryover and Prefunding Balances

	(a) Carryover balance	(b) Prefunding balance
7 Balance at beginning of prior year after applicable adjustments (line 13 from prior year)	5,528,155	0
8 Portion elected for use to offset prior year's funding requirement (line 35 from prior year)	0	0
9 Amount remaining (line 7 minus line 8)	5,528,155	0
10 Interest on line 9 using prior year's actual return of <u>2.93</u> %	161,975	
11 Prior year's excess contributions to be added to prefunding balance:		
a Present value of excess contributions (line 38a from prior year)		0
b Interest on (a) using prior year's effective interest rate of <u>7.04</u> % except as otherwise provided (see instructions)		0
c Total available at beginning of current plan year to add to prefunding balance		0
d Portion of (c) to be added to prefunding balance		0
12 Other reductions in balances due to elections or deemed elections	0	0
13 Balance at beginning of current year (line 9 + line 10 + line 11d - line 12)	5,690,130	0

Part III Funding Percentages

14 Funding target attainment percentage	14	158.22 %
15 Adjusted funding target attainment percentage	15	166.36 %
16 Prior year's funding percentage for purposes of determining whether carryover/prefunding balances may be used to reduce current year's funding requirement	16	181.25 %
17 If the current value of the assets of the plan is less than 70 percent of the funding target, enter such percentage	17	%

Part IV Contributions and Liquidity Shortfalls

18 Contributions made to the plan for the plan year by employer(s) and employees:					
(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees	(a) Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	(b) Amount paid by employer(s)	(c) Amount paid by employees
Totals ►			18(b)	0	18(c) 0

19 Discounted employer contributions – see instructions for small plan with a valuation date after the beginning of the year:	
a Contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years	19a 0
b Contributions made to avoid restrictions adjusted to valuation date	19b 0
c Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date	19c 0

20 Quarterly contributions and liquidity shortfalls:	
a Did the plan have a "funding shortfall" for the prior year?	☐ Yes ☒ No
b If line 20a is "Yes," were required quarterly installments for the current year made in a timely manner?	☐ Yes ☐ No
c If line 20a is "Yes," see instructions and complete the following table as applicable:	

Liquidity shortfall as of end of quarter of this plan year

(1) 1st	(2) 2nd	(3) 3rd	(4) 4th

Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost

21 Discount rate:				
a Segment rates:	1st segment: 4.94 %	2nd segment: 6.15 %	3rd segment: 6.76 %	☐ N/A, full yield curve used
b Applicable month (enter code).....				21b 2
22 Weighted average retirement age				22 63
23 Mortality table(s) (see instructions) ☐ Prescribed - combined ☒ Prescribed - separate ☐ Substitute				

Part VI Miscellaneous Items

24 Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☐ Yes ☒ No
25 Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☐ Yes ☒ No
26 Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment.	☒ Yes ☐ No
27 If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment.	27

Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years

28 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years	28	0
29 Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a).....	29	0
30 Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29)	30	0

Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year

31 Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):			
a Target normal cost (line 6).....	31a	227,970	
b Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a	31b	227,970	
32 Amortization installments:	Outstanding Balance	Installment	
a Net shortfall amortization installment.....	0	0	
b Waiver amortization installment	0	0	
33 If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount	33		
34 Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33) ..	34	0	
	Carryover balance	Prefunding balance	Total balance
35 Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement.....	0	0	0
36 Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35).....	36	0	
37 Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c).....	37	0	
38 Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)			
a Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)	38a	0	
b Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances	38b	0	
39 Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37)	39	0	
40 Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years	40	0	

Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under Pension Relief Act of 2010 (See Instructions)

41 If an election was made to use PRA 2010 funding relief for this plan:			
a Schedule elected	☐ 2 plus 7 years ☐ 15 years		
b Eligible plan year(s) for which the election in line 41a was made	☐ 2008 ☐ 2009 ☐ 2010 ☐ 2011		
42 Amount of acceleration adjustment	42		
43 Excess installment acceleration amount to be carried over to future plan years	43		

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4(i) – SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

<u>Identity of Issuer</u>	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
Mutual Funds			
Allianz Global Investors Distributors LLC	PIMCO Total Return Fund Institutional	\$ 42,001,064	\$ 42,842,848
The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Interim Term Bond Index Adm	31,459,591	33,492,573
Allianz Global Investors Distributors LLC	PIMCO GNMA Fund Institutional	3,256,077	3,222,626
The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mortgage-Backed Securities Index	<u>3,153,402</u>	<u>3,252,647</u>
		<u>79,870,134</u>	<u>82,810,694</u>
Unit Investment Trusts			
iShares	S&P 500 Growth Index Fund	10,522,195	16,761,845
iShares	S&P 500 Barra Value Index Fund	6,708,779	9,073,349
iShares	MSCI EAFE ETF Fund	2,637,432	2,623,183
iShares	S&P ETF Midcap Fund	725,226	1,099,210
iShares	S&P Smallcap 600 Index Fund	<u>703,189</u>	<u>1,086,457</u>
		<u>21,296,821</u>	<u>30,644,044</u>
Money Market Fund			
* Charles Schwab Trust Co.	Money Market Fund	<u>5,013,624</u>	<u>5,013,624</u>
Common Stock			
* First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	Common Stock	<u>675,451</u>	<u>479,255</u>
		<u>\$ 106,856,030</u>	<u>\$ 118,947,617</u>

*Denotes party-in-interest.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V – Summary of Plan Provisions

Basic Information

Plan Name: The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

Effective Date of Plan: January 1, 1952

EIN/PN 42-1556195 / 001

Effective Date of Latest Amendment: October 1, 2008

Plan Year: October 1st – September 30th

Participation: The Plan is frozen to new participants. The Freeze Dates for the different groups are:

First Niagara Financial Group	February 1, 2002
Savings Bank of Finger Lakes	December 31, 2002
Troy Savings Bank	December 31, 2003
Hudson River Bank	December 31, 2004

Service:

Benefit Service Elapsed Time Method from the first of the month of the Date of Participation. Benefit Service was frozen as of the Freeze Dates shown under Participation.

Vesting Service Elapsed Time from the first of the month of the Date of Hire.

Employee Contribution: None. Plan is funded entirely by employer contributions.

Benefit Formulas and Eligibilities:

Normal Retirement:

Eligibility Age 65.

Benefit All benefits are frozen.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V – Summary of Plan Provisions

Deferred Retirement:

Benefit	Calculated in the same manner as described in Normal Retirement above, based on service at actual retirement date, however, not less than the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's Normal Retirement Benefit.
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Early Retirement:

Eligibility	<p>For all participants:</p> <p>Age 60 or if age plus vesting service is greater than 75.</p> <p>For former Hudson River participants, the rule of 75 only applies to those who became participants prior to October 1, 2003.</p> <p>For former First Niagara participants, minimum age is 55 and minimum service is 20 years for the rule of 75.</p> <p>For former Troy participants, the rule of 75 only applies if requirements were met prior to October 1, 1994. For former Troy participants who did not meet the rule of 75 requirements prior to October 1, 1994, early retirement may be satisfied with age 55 with 10 years of service.</p> <p>For former First Niagara, Troy, and Catskill participants:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Completion of 30 years of vesting service.</p>
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Benefit	For former First Niagara and Finger Lakes participants, the benefit is reduced by 0.4166% for each month the benefit starts prior to NRD. For former Hudson River participants, the benefit is reduced by 0.4166% for each month the benefit starts prior to age 62. For former Troy participants, the benefit is reduced by 0.1666% for each month after age 60 and 0.4166% for each month between age 55 and age 60 that the benefit starts before NRD.
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The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V – Summary of Plan Provisions

The following scenarios result in unreduced benefits:

For former First Niagara and Finger Lakes participants, if termination occurs after reaching age 62 with 20 years of service. For First Niagara only, if termination occurs before age 62 but the participant has 20 years of service, the benefit is reduced by 0.4166% for each month prior to age 62.

For former Troy participants, if age 60 with 30 years of service or age 62 with 25 years of service.

For former Mohawk Community Bank participants, if they terminate after reaching age 60 and 10 years of credited service (under Mohawk's plan).

Vested Termination:

Eligibility

Vested Percentage is determined In accordance with the following table:

<u>Years of Vesting Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
Less than 5	0%
5 or more	100%

Participants are 100% vested at age 55.

Benefit

Accrued benefit payable at Normal Retirement.

Pre-Retirement Surviving Spouse Coverage Benefit

Surviving spouse will receive a monthly pension benefit commencing at the earliest retirement date equal to 50% of the monthly pension benefit that would have been payable had the participant retired on the day before death and elected a Joint & 50% Contingent Survivor pension. If certain additional requirements are met, all but former Troy participants may be eligible for a Joint & 100% Survivor Pension.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V – Summary of Plan Provisions

Cost of Living Adjustment:

For former Schenectady Federal participants, each participant's benefit will be increased after retirement by multiplying it on the first day of May of each year by the ratio that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January of the current year bears to the CPI for January of the preceding year. In no event shall the benefit payable to a Participant or other payee under the Plan after a Cost-of-Living Adjustment be less than the participant's original benefit.

In addition, the benefit payable to a participant or other payee under the Plan after a Cost-of-Living Adjustment has been made shall not be increased by more than 3.00% of their benefit prior to the COLA being applied, and the benefit amount shall be capped at 150% of their original benefit.

Normal Form of Benefit

Single Life Annuity. A participant that is married must take the benefit in the form of a Joint and 50% Survivor benefit unless the spouse provides written consent to waive the Joint & 50% Survivor benefit.

Qualified Joint and Survivor Annuity

Unless elected otherwise in writing at retirement, a married participant will receive his/her benefits as an actuarially equivalent Joint and 50% Survivor Annuity with the spouse as contingent beneficiary.

Optional Forms of Benefits:

Life Annuity
Joint & Contingent (50%, 75%, 100% - also 33 1/3% and 66 2/3% for former Hudson River participants)
5 yr, 10yr, and 15yr Certain and life annuity
Lump Sum (if under \$5,000 or for former First Niagara participants, if they are eligible to receive an annuity at the time of termination)

Optional forms of benefits are equal to the Actuarial Equivalent of the Normal Benefit Form and Actuarial Equivalence is based on the following interest and mortality assumptions:

Interest: 7.5% per annum, compounded annually
Mortality: 1979 George B. Buck Mortality Table

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

**Schedule SB, Part V –
Summary of Plan Provisions**

Maximum Benefit:

The maximum Plan benefit is limited as required by
IRC Section 415(b).

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V –

Statement of Actuarial Assumptions/Methods

1. Actuarial Cost Method – Unit Credit:

The valuation of retirement benefits is determined under the “Unit Credit Actuarial Cost Method”, as prescribed by the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA). In this method, the regular Plan cost arises from two sources: a Target Normal Cost and an Amortization Payment for the Funding Target Shortfall.

The Funding Target is determined as the actuarial present value of benefits as of the valuation date. The Shortfall is equal to the Funding Target less the Actuarial Value of Assets.

The Normal Cost is the Actuarial Present Value of benefits expected to accrue during the valuation year plus anticipated administration expense, if any.

2. Actuarial Assumptions:

Interest Rates:

PPA Funding:	MAP-21 segment rates with 2 month lookback (4.94%, 6.15%, 6.76%)
FASB ASC Topic 960:	5.00% per year

Mortality:

PPA Funding:	RP-2000 Mortality Table projected with Scale AA on a generational basis with separate rates for Annuitants and Non-Annuitants.
FASB ASC Topic 960:	RP-2000 Mortality Table projected with Scale AA on a generational basis with separate rates for Annuitants and Non-Annuitants.

Provisions for Expenses: \$227,970

Cost of Living Adjustment: 3.0% (for former Schenectady Federal participants who retired prior to September 3, 1999 only).

Incidence of Disability: None assumed.

Form of Payment: Lump sum distribution for active First Niagara employees. All other employees are assumed to elect the Single Life Annuity option.

The Retirement Plan of the First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.

EIN 42-1556195 / PN 001

Schedule SB, Part V –

Statement of Actuarial Assumptions/Methods

Rates of Retirement:

<u>Age</u>	
55	2.00%
56	2.50%
57	3.00%
58	3.50%
59	4.25%
60	5.00%
61	7.50%
62	10.00%
63	12.50%
64	17.50%
65	100.00%

For those active participants eligible for unreduced benefits, 10% at age 62 above is replaced with 50%.

Multiplying each age by the overall probability of retiring at that age, and summing the products, results in a weighted average retirement age of 63.

Terminated Vested Participants are assumed to retire at age 65.

Withdrawal (Vested and
and non-vested):

Rates of withdrawal, depending on age and
sex, as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
20	6.58%	6.58%
25	5.27%	5.27%
30	4.84%	4.84%
35	4.48%	4.48%
40	3.85%	3.85%
45	3.23%	3.23%
50	1.53%	1.53%
55	0.34%	0.34%
60 and over	0.00%	0.00%

Spouses:

80% of employees are assumed to have spouses. Wives are assumed to be 3 years younger than their husbands.

3. Asset Valuation Method

Market Value of Assets.

RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

SCHEDULE OF REPORTABLE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

<u>Identity of Party Involved</u>	<u>Description of Assets</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Selling Price</u>	<u>Expense Incurred with Transaction</u>	<u>Cost of Asset</u>	<u>Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date</u>	<u>Net Gain or (Loss)</u>
Category (i) - Single transactions in excess of 5% of plan assets: *							
None							
Category (ii) - Series of transactions, involving property other than securities, with the same person in excess of 5% of the plan assets: *							
None							
Category (iii) - Series of security transactions in excess of 5% of plan assets: *							
None							
Category (iv) - Security transaction with or in conjunction with the same person with whom any prior single 5% security transactions took place: *							
None							

* As of the beginning of the Plan year.

The above information has been certified by Charles Schwab Bank as complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge.