Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

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

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

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2015

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan;
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions); or
- [X] a single-employer plan;
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

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

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

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

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1990

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

726 EXCHANGE STREET, SUITE 700
BUFFALO, NY 14210

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
716-858-3390

2d Business code (see instructions)
522120

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

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

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/08/2016	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)

Preparer's telephone number

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b** Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b** EIN	
a Sponsor's name	**4c** PN	

5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	6783
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	5257
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	5162
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	2
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	1022
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	6186
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	**6e**	11
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	6197
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	4898
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	1
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

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

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

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

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

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

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2015 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2015 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2015** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A Name of plan
401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

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

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

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

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

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

CHARLES SCHWAB INVESTMENT MGMT INC.

94-3106735

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

CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST COMPANY

42-1558009

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

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

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

MILLIMAN, INC.

91-0675641

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 36 37 38 50 59 64 70	NONE	326786	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [X]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

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

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

94-1737782

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
19 59	NONE	44652	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [X]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JOHN HANCOCK 04-3483032	RANGE OF 0.00-0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JP MORGAN 13-2624428	RANGE OF 0.00 - 0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

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

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
COHEN & STEERS 14-1904657	RANGE OF 0.00 - 0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
HARDING & LOEVNER 400 CROSSING BLVD, 4TH FLOOR BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807	RANGE OF 0.00 - 0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
DODGE & COX FUNDS C/O BOSTON FINANCIAL P.O. BOX 8422 BOSTON, MA 02266	RANGE OF 0.00 - 0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
LSV FUNDS 155 NORTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 4600 CHICAGO, IL 60606	RANGE OF 0.00 - 0.02% OF AVERAGE DAILY BALANCE OF ASSETS

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
COHEN & STEERS 14-1904657	.10%

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
DODGE & COX FUNDS C/O BOSTON FINANCIAL P.O. BOX 8422 BOSTON, MA 02266	.08%

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
HARDING LOEVNER 400 CROSSING BLVD, 4TH FLOOR BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807	.40%

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

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
LP MORGAN 13-2624428	.10%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS 04-3483032	.10%

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
LSV FUNDS 155 NORTH WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 4600 CHICAGO, IL 60606	.10%

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ALLIANZ FUNDS 06-1349805	.25%

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
GARTMORE 93-9274329	.25%

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

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
SCHWAB FUNDS 94-3106735	.08%

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(complete as many entries as needed)

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

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

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

2015

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A Name of plan
401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

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

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

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

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

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
93-6274329-001	C	8359047

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

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

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

2015

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A Name of plan
401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

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

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	1376120	1219783
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)	4810112	5692477
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	6598425	5985459
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	9708976	8359047
(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)	233683817	238227389
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	24853975	27723193
(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	281031425	287207348
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	281031425	287207348

Part II Income and Expense Statement

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

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	13332177	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	23623417	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	3338123	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		40293717
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	562	
(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)	270723	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		271285
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	887979	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	8515956	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		9403935
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	5681891	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	6566836	
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		-884945
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		91843
(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)		-2678690
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		46497145
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	39994446	
(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)		39994446
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)	326776	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		326776
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		40321222
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		6175923
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Name: INSERO & CO. CPAS, LLP **(2)** EIN: 47-5324570

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

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

During the plan year:

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

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

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

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

6c Name of trustee or custodian	**6d** Trustee's or custodian's telephone number

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

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

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

2015

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2015 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2015 and ending 12/31/2015

A Name of plan
401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

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

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
42-1556195

Part I Distributions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part III Amendments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

20a Is the plan a 401(k) plan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
20b If "Yes," how does the 401(k) plan satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2)?	☐ Design-based safe harbor method	☐ ADP/ACP test
20c If the ADP/ACP test is used, did the 401(k) plan perform ADP/ACP testing for the plan year using the "current year testing method" for nonhighly compensated employees (Treas. Reg sections 1.401(k)-2(a)(2)(ii) and 1.401(m)-2(a)(2)(ii))?	☐ Yes	☐ No
21a Check the box to indicate the method used by the plan to satisfy the coverage requirements under section 410(b):	☐ Ratio percentage test	☐ Average benefit test
21b Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules?	☐ Yes	☐ No
22a Has the plan been timely amended for all required tax law changes?	☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ N/A

22b Date the last plan amendment/restatement for the required tax law changes was adopted ____/____/____. Enter the applicable code _____ (See instructions for tax law changes and codes).

22c If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved master and prototype (M&P) or volume submitter plan that is subject to a favorable IRS opinion or advisory letter, enter the date of that favorable letter _____/_____/_____ and the letter's serial number _____.

22d If the plan is an individually-designed plan and received a favorable determination letter from the IRS, enter the date of the plan's last favorable determination letter _____/_____/_____.

23 Is the Plan maintained in a U.S. territory (i.e., Puerto Rico (if no election under ERISA section 1022(i)(2) has been made), American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands)?	☐ Yes	☐ No

401(K) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2015

insero&co

Certified Public Accountants | Business Advisors

401(k) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA
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December 31, 2015 and 2014

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Employee Benefits Administration Committee of the
401(k) Savings Plan of First Niagara

Report on the Financial Statements
We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the 401(k) Savings Plan of First Niagara (the Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements
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 these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

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

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

Opinion
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Insero & Co. CPAs, LLP

Insero & Co. CPAs, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

Rochester, New York
June 22, 2016

401(k) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
INVESTMENTS, at fair value:		
Mutual funds	$ 238,227,389	$ 233,683,817
First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. common stock	27,723,193	24,853,975
Common/collective trust fund	8,359,047	9,618,745
Money market account	5,692,477	4,810,112
Total investments	280,002,106	272,966,649
NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS	5,985,459	6,598,425
CASH	1,219,783	1,376,120
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	$ 287,207,348	$ 280,941,194

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

401(k) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

	2015	2014
ADDITIONS:		
Employee contributions	$ 23,623,417	$ 24,642,667
Employer contributions	13,332,177	14,111,986
Rollover contributions	3,338,123	3,885,855
Interest and dividend income	9,404,497	9,509,815
Net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of investments	(3,381,561)	1,522,821
Interest on notes receivable from participants	270,723	257,934
Total additions	46,587,376	53,931,078
DEDUCTIONS:		
Distributions to participants	(39,994,446)	(27,651,659)
Administrative expenses	(326,776)	(370,088)
Total deductions	(40,321,222)	(28,021,747)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,266,154	25,909,331
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS - beginning of year	280,941,194	255,031,863
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS - end of year	$ 287,207,348	280,941,194

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

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

General

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

On October 30, 2015, First Niagara and KeyCorp entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement). The Merger Agreement provides that, upon terms and conditions, First Niagara will merge with and into KeyCorp (the Merger), with KeyCorp as the surviving corporation in the Merger. The Merger Agreement was approved by the shareholders and Board of Directors of both First Niagara and KeyCorp. The completion of the Merger is subject to customary conditions, including, among others, the receipt of regulatory approvals. As of the date of issuance of these financial statements there have been no changes made to this Plan as a result of the pending Merger. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, each share of First Niagara common stock held in the Plan will have the right to receive (i) 0.680 shares of KeyCorp common stock, par value $1.00 per share, and (ii) $2.30 in cash, for each share of First Niagara common stock, par value $1.00 per share.

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

Eligibility

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

Contributions

Employees who are eligible to participate in the Plan may elect to contribute up to 100% of their annual compensation, as defined in the Plan, subject to the annual limitations provided by the IRC. Employees who are age 50 or older by the end of the calendar year are allowed to make an additional “catch-up” contribution. This contribution was limited to $6,000 and $5,500 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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

The Company may also make an annual discretionary contribution to the Plan. No discretionary contributions were made to the Plan during 2015 and 2014. Participants may also rollover amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans.

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

Participant Accounts

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

Vesting

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

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

Subsequent Events

In preparing the financial statements, the Company has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through June 22, 2016, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of $1,000 per loan up to a maximum amount, which is the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Note terms range from one to five years or up to 15 years for the purchase of a principal residence. The notes are collateralized by the participant's account and bear interest at the rates available for comparable notes from commercial lending institutions. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Forfeited Accounts

Forfeitures of nonvested employer contributions may be used for Plan administrative expenses or to reduce the employer's future contributions. During 2015 and 2014, forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions amounted to $22,000 and $53,998, respectively. Unused forfeited account balances were $7,174 and $1,928 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Plan Termination

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

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

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

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

New Accounting Standards
In July 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2015-12, Plan Accounting: Defined Benefit Pension Plans, Defined Contribution Pension Plans, Health and Welfare Benefits Plans (Part I) Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts, (Part II) Plan Investment Disclosures, (Part III) Measurement Date Practical Expedient – Consensuses of the Emerging Issues Task Force. This ASU is effective for all plans with fiscal years beginning after December, 31 2015. Early adoption is permitted and the Plan has elected to adopt Part II of the ASU on a retrospective basis as of December 31, 2015. The amendments in Part II of the ASU remove the requirement to disclose investments that represent 5% or more of total net assets, eliminate certain fair value related disclosures, and remove the requirement to disclose the net appreciation or depreciation in the investments of the plan by the type of investment. Accordingly, related information reported as of December 31, 2014 has been modified to reflect these changes.

In connection with the issuance of ASU 2015-012, additional clarification was provided related to the treatment of indirectly held investment contracts. Prior to this clarification, there was diversity in practice as to the presentation of stable value funds and common/collective trust funds that held fully benefit responsive investment contracts. The new guidance clarifies that these funds should be presented at net asset value. Accordingly, the 2014 financial information has been adjusted to reflect this change in presentation and to eliminate the fair value to contract value adjustment.

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

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

Notes Receivable from Participants
Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. Delinquent notes receivable from participants are reclassified as distributions based on the terms of the plan document.

Payment of Benefits
Benefits are recorded when paid.

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

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

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

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

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

The following tables summarize our assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2015 and 2014. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, no transfers in or out of Level 1 or Level 2 occurred.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
December 31, 2015				
Mutual Funds	$ 238,227,389	$ —	$ —	$ 238,227,389
First Niagara common stock	27,723,193	—	—	27,723,193
Common/collective trust fund	—	8,359,047	—	8,359,047
Money market accounts	5,692,477	—	—	5,692,477
	$ 271,643,059	$ 8,359,047	$ —	$ 280,002,106

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
December 31, 2014				
Mutual Funds	$ 233,683,817	$ —	$ —	$ 233,683,817
First Niagara common stock	24,853,975	—	—	24,853,975
Common/collective trust fund	—	9,618,745	—	9,618,745
Money market accounts	4,810,112	—	—	4,810,112
	$ 263,347,904	$ 9,618,745	$ —	$ 272,966,649

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

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

The common/collective trust fund is valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. The fair value of the underlying investments is obtained from information provided by the investment advisor using the audited financial statements of the common/collective trust at year end.

4. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

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

	2015	2014
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 287,207,348	$ 280,941,194
Adjustment from contract value to fair value	—	90,231
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	$ 287,207,348	$ 281,031,425

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

	2015	2014
Net increase in net assets per financial statements	$ 6,266,154	$ 25,909,331
Change in adjustment from contract value to fair value	(90,231)	34,611
Net increase in net assets per Form 5500	$ 6,175,923	$ 25,943,942

5. TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by letter dated May 23, 2016, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Generally accepted accounting principles require entities to disclose in their financial statements the nature of any uncertainty in their tax positions. For benefit plans, qualified status itself is deemed to be an uncertainty, as events could potentially occur to jeopardize their qualified status. As of December 31, 2015, the Plan did not have any uncertain tax positions. The Plan files the Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan (Form 5500) in the U.S. federal jurisdiction.

6. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

In 2015 and 2014, certain Plan investments were managed by Schwab. Schwab was the trustee of the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and therefore these transactions with Schwab qualify as party-in-interest.

Notes receivable from participants of $5,985,459 and $6,598,425 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, with interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 10.00% also qualify as party-in-interest. Interest earned on the notes receivable from participants totaled $270,723 and $257,934 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Dividend income earned on First Niagara common stock totaled $887,979 and $909,794 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Net appreciation/(depreciation) on First Niagara common stock totaled $6,583,710 and $(6,129,293) at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

401(k) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

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

December 31, 2015

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Fair Value
		MUTUAL FUNDS:	
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	$ 28,783,446
	T. Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Large Cap Growth	20,060,741
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Fund	19,662,258
	J.P. Morgan Asset Management	JPMorgan US Small Company Fund	17,212,152
	LSV Fund	LSV Value Equity Fund	15,490,501
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	15,315,894
	Dodge & Cox	Dodge & Cox Income Fund	13,375,351
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid Cap index	11,940,050
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	11,812,677
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index	11,278,078
	The Oakmark Funds	Oakmark Equity & Income I	10,566,022
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	9,111,431
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020	8,726,661
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	7,655,617
	John Hancock Investments	John Hancock Disciplined Value Mid Cap I	6,959,879
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index Fund	6,905,198
	Janus Distributors LLC	Janus Enterprise T	5,702,503
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	4,333,184
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2015	2,733,598
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	2,008,344
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Bond Index I	1,723,169
	Cohen & Steers	Cohen & Steers Real Estate Securities I	1,476,707
	Harding Loevner	Harding Loevner Emerging Markets Advisor Fund	1,238,287
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	1,173,416
	Dimensional Fund Advisors	DFA Inflation-Protected Securities I	1,070,124
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	965,206
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060	646,984
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Small Cap Index Admiral	299,911
			238,227,389
*	First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	Common Stock	27,723,193
		COMMON/COLLECTIVE TRUST FUND:	
	Principal Funds Distributor, Inc.	Morley Stable Value Fund	8,359,047
		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS:	
*	Charles Schwab Trust Co.	Schwab Retirement Advantage Money Fund	5,692,477
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates range from 3.25% to 10.00%, with maturity dates ranging from 2016 to 2021	5,985,459
			$ 285,987,565

* Denotes party-in-interest

401(k) SAVINGS PLAN OF FIRST NIAGARA

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

December 31, 2015

(a)	(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Fair Value
		MUTUAL FUNDS:	
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	$ 28,783,446
	T. Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Large Cap Growth	20,060,741
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Fund	19,662,258
	J.P. Morgan Asset Management	JPMorgan US Small Company Fund	17,212,152
	LSV Fund	LSV Value Equity Fund	15,490,501
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025	15,315,894
	Dodge & Cox	Dodge & Cox Income Fund	13,375,351
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid Cap index	11,940,050
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035	11,812,677
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Short-Term Bond Index	11,278,078
	The Oakmark Funds	Oakmark Equity & Income I	10,566,022
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045	9,111,431
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020	8,726,661
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030	7,655,617
	John Hancock Investments	John Hancock Disciplined Value Mid Cap I	6,959,879
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Long-Term Bond Index Fund	6,905,198
	Janus Distributors LLC	Janus Enterprise T	5,702,503
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040	4,333,184
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2015	2,733,598
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement Income	2,008,344
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Bond Index I	1,723,169
	Cohen & Steers	Cohen & Steers Real Estate Securities I	1,476,707
	Harding Loevner	Harding Loevner Emerging Markets Advisor Fund	1,238,287
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050	1,173,416
	Dimensional Fund Advisors	DFA Inflation-Protected Securities I	1,070,124
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055	965,206
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060	646,984
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Small Cap Index Admiral	299,911
			238,227,389
*	First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.	Common Stock	27,723,193
		COMMON/COLLECTIVE TRUST FUND:	
	Principal Funds Distributor, Inc.	Morley Stable Value Fund	8,359,047
		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS:	
*	Charles Schwab Trust Co.	Schwab Retirement Advantage Money Fund	5,692,477
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates range from 3.25% to 10.00%, with maturity dates ranging from 2016 to 2021	5,985,459
			$ 285,987,565

* Denotes party-in-interest