

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 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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☒ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☐ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ 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)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/1989
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) CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A. 2170 MIDLAND RD SOUTHERN PINES, NC 28387
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1183309
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 910-295-2100
2d	Business code (see instructions) 621111

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.	07/30/2024	DAWN D APPLE
	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

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 374
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 a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1) 248 6a(2) 252 6b 1 6c 159 6d 412 6e 0 6f 412 6g(1) 334 6g(2) 393 6h 10
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 2R 2S 2T 2X 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
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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
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☒ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☒ **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 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 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) 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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1183309

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

YesNo
- 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 disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b)

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

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

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

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

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

NEWPORT GROUP, INC.

27-2037969

(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?
14 15	RECORDKEEPER	66713	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	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
(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.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(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.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(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.	

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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.	
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023					
A Name of plan CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN				B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.				D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1183309	
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: CAPITAL PRESERVATION FUND					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): FEDERATED INVESTORS TRUST COMPANY					
c EIN-PN 22-2712853-001		d Entity code C		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 336957	
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)	
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,	

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
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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, other than DCGs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2023</u> and ending <u>12/31/2023</u>		
A Name of plan <u>CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.</u>		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-1183309</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		
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)	<u>1805877</u>	<u>2224403</u>
(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)	<u>326113</u>	<u>296228</u>
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	<u>331232</u>	<u>336957</u>
(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)	<u>15316633</u>	<u>19354705</u>
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)	<u>4967715</u>	<u>5681368</u>

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	22747570	27893661
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	22747570	27893661

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)	525354	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1046967	
(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)		1572321
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)	15782	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		15782
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	699768	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		699768
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(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)		
(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)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		0
(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)		2569715
c Other income	2c		649881
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		5507467

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	294651	
(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)		294651
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	56312	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	10401	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	12	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		66725
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		361376

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		5146091
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) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: **BERNARD ROBINSON & COMPANY LLP**

(2) EIN: **56-0571159**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
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?		☒	
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?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
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.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
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? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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 Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

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 sections 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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	
CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN	001	
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	D Employer Identification Number (EIN)	
CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.	56-1183309	

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 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 (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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 deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	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) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702826A.

SCHEDULE MEP (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	MULTIPLE-EMPLOYER RETIREMENT PLAN 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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN	B Three-digit Plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan administrator's name as shown on line 3a of Form 5500/Form 5500-SF CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.	D Administrator's EIN 56-1183309	

Part I	Type of Multiple-Employer Pension Plan. All multiple-employer pension plans must complete.
---------------	---

1 Check the appropriate box to indicate type of multiple-employer pension plan. (Only defined contribution plans may check lines 1a, 1b, and 1c. Defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans not checking lines 1a, 1b, or 1c should check line 1d. See Instructions).

- a** ☐ association retirement plan (See 29 CFR 2510.3-55) (Complete Part II)
- b** ☐ professional employer organization plan (PEO Plan) (See 29 CFR 29 CFR 2510.3-55) (Complete Part II)
- c** ☐ pooled employer plan (PEP) (See 29 CFR 2510.3-44) (Complete Parts II and III)
- d** ☒ other multiple-employer pension plan (Describe) DEFINED CONTRIBUTION MEP (Complete Part II)

Part II	Participating Employer Information.
----------------	--

2 All multiple-employer pension plans that are subject to section 210(a) of ERISA (see instructions for filing the Form 5500) must complete Part II, in addition to Part I, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information for each employer participating in the multiple-employer pension plan. **Defined contribution plans must complete lines 2a-2d. All other multiple-employer pension plans complete lines 2a-2c only. Complete as many entries as needed to list the required information for each participating employer that is not an individual person (see instructions).**

2a Name of Participating Employer CAROLINA EYE ASSOCIATES, P.A.	2b EIN 56-1183309	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year 95.95	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer 25481491
2a Name of Participating Employer GREENSBORO OPHTHALMOLOGY ASC, LLC	2b EIN 62-1842511	2c Percentage of Total Contributions for the Plan Year 4.05	2d Aggregate Account Balances Attributable to Participating Employer 271122

CAUTION Do not individually list information for working owners (see instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-55(d)(2)) or other individuals who are participants or beneficiaries in the plan or arrangement that are no longer associated with a particular participating employer or participating employer plan (see instructions). Providing identifying information for individuals may result in rejection of this filing. If there are any such individuals in the plan, answer "Yes" to line 2e and provide the total information for all such individuals, without providing names or other identifying information.

2e Does the plan include any individuals not participating through an employer or who are individual working owners?	2e	☐ Yes ☐ No
2f If you answer "Yes" in line 2e, enter a good faith estimate of the percentage of total contributions made by all such individuals that are not listed on line 2a during the plan year.	2f	
2g If you answer "Yes" in Line 2e, enter the aggregate account balances for all such individuals that are not listed on line 2a.	2g	

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

**Schedule MEP (2023)
v. 230728**

Part III	Pooled Employer Plan Information
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Line 3. All Pooled employer plans must answer all of the questions in Part III, in addition to completing all of Parts I and II.

3a Is the pooled plan provider (identified as the plan sponsor and administrator in Part II of the Form 5500) currently in compliance with the Form PR (Pooled Plan Provider Registration Statement) requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2510.3-44) ☐ Yes ☐ No

3b If line 3a is "Yes", enter the ACK ID for the most recent Form PR that was required to be filed under the Form PR filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid ACK ID will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)
ACK ID _____

**CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
& MONEY PURCHASE PLAN**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022



CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
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Independent Auditor's Report

To Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan
and Participants
Southern Pines, North Carolina

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section—

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of delinquent participant contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023 and schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to 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 GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA (Continued)

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or are derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P.

Greensboro, North Carolina
July 24, 2024

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets:		
Investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 27,597,433</u>	<u>\$ 22,421,457</u>
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	<u>296,228</u>	<u>326,113</u>
Total receivables	<u>296,228</u>	<u>326,113</u>
Total assets	<u>27,893,661</u>	<u>22,747,570</u>
Liabilities:		
Excess contributions refundable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u><u>\$ 27,893,661</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 22,747,570</u></u>

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions:

Investment income:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 3,219,596
Interest and dividend income	613,549
Total investment income	<u>3,833,145</u>

Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>15,782</u>
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Contributions:

Participant	1,046,988
Employer	604,721
Total contributions	<u>1,651,709</u>

Total additions	<u>5,500,636</u>
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Deductions:

Benefits paid to participants	294,674
Administrative expenses	<u>59,871</u>

Total deductions	<u>354,545</u>
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Net increase	5,146,091
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Net assets available for benefits:

Beginning of year	<u>22,747,570</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 27,893,661</u></u>

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible classes of employees of Carolina Eye Associates, P.A., and a related entity (the "Company") who complete 6 months of service after employment with the Company. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The Plan administrator is responsible for oversight of the Plan. The Plan Administrative Committee and Investment Manager determine the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings, monitor investment performance and report to the Plan administrator.

Contributions

Each year participants may contribute up to 50 percent of their annual pre-tax compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants may also make qualified Roth contributions to the Plan and may contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 2 percent of eligible compensation until changed by the participant.

The Company makes fixed safe harbor contributions equal to 100% of the first 3% of the participant's eligible compensation, plus 50% of the participant's eligible compensation exceeding 3% but not exceeding 5% of the participant's eligible compensation. The Company may also make non-elective employer contributions, at the discretion of the Company's Board of Directors. These contributions are subject to certain allocation provisions, as defined in the Plan. There were no such contributions made for the Plan year ended December 31, 2023.

Contributions are subject to certain limitations as determined by the Internal Revenue Code.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, including amounts rolled over from other qualified plans, and Company contributions, as well as allocations of Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined by the Plan. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions, including amounts rolled over from other qualified plans, and Company safe harbor contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's discretionary contributions is based on years of continuous service with the Company.

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Vesting (Continued)

These contributions are subject to a six-year, tiered vesting schedule by which a participant is fully vested after six years of credited service or in the event of death and disability, as defined by the Plan.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their account balance. A participant may have two outstanding loans at a time. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at prime rate, which is commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined periodically by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest are paid ratably through regular payroll deductions.

Excess Contributions Refundable

Amounts refunded to participants for contributions in excess of amounts allowed by the Internal Revenue Service are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction to participant contributions.

Payment of Benefits

The Plan permits withdrawals when a participant terminates employment, reaches early retirement age or becomes disabled or deceased. Upon termination, participant consent is not required for distributions of an account balance less than \$5,000. In-service withdrawals are also permitted for certain financial hardships or when a participant attains age 59 1/2. Benefits are payable in lump-sum.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$1,101 and \$36,177, respectively. These accounts may be used to pay administrative expenses or to reduce future employer contributions. During 2023, \$38,877 of forfeitures were used by the Company to reduce administrative expenses or employer contributions.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are 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 ("GAAP") requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Contributions

Contributions from Plan participants and the matching contributions from the Company are recorded in the year in which the employee contributions are withheld from compensation.

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

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. Plan Management and the Plan's Investment Manager determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by investment advisors and custodians. See Note 4 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 or depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. A loan becomes immediately due and payable upon a participant's termination of employment or death. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 or 2022.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Certain investment related expenses are paid using the Plan's assets and are either included in net appreciation of fair value of investments or are allocated among participants in the Plan. Certain expenses relating to specific transactions, such as loan set up, loan maintenance and express mail services, are paid directly by the participant and are included in administrative expenses.

Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through July 24, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 - INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY FIRST CITIZENS BANK & TRUST COMPANY

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedules, including investments and notes receivable from participants held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments, and interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained or derived from information supplied to the Plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by First Citizens Bank & Trust Company ("First Citizens").

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Topic 820 - *Fair Value Measurement* are described as follows:

Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access the measurement date.

Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

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, 2023 and 2022.

Money market funds and mutual funds: Valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year end. Funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price. These funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Self-directed brokerage accounts: Accounts primarily consist of cash, money market funds, mutual funds, common stocks and unit investment trusts that are valued either at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded or on the basis of readily determinable market prices.

Common collective trust funds: Valued using the net asset value ("NAV"), provided by the administrator of the trust. The NAV is based on the value of the underlying assets owned by the trust, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of shares outstanding. The NAV, as provided by the issuer, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN**Notes to Financial Statements****NOTE 4 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)**

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. Classification within the fair value hierarchy table is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Money market funds	\$ 1,108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,108
Mutual funds	21,578,000	-	-	21,578,000
Self-directed brokerage accounts	5,681,368	-	-	5,681,368
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 27,260,476</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>27,260,476</u>
Investments measured at NAV as a practical expedient (a)				<u>336,957</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 27,597,433</u>

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Money market funds	\$ 36,177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,177
Mutual funds	15,316,632	-	-	15,316,632
Self-directed brokerage accounts	6,737,416	-	-	6,737,416
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 22,090,225</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>22,090,225</u>
Investments measured at NAV as a practical expedient (a)				<u>331,232</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 22,421,457</u>

(a) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in the table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS MEASURED USING THE NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE PRACTICAL EXPEDIENT

The following tables summarize investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. There are certain participant redemption restrictions for the collective investment fund with respect to exchanges in investment options. Participants may not make withdrawals from the fund for reinvestment in any other competing investment except upon twelve months' notice, unless the withdrawn amount is first directed into a non-competing investment option for 90 days before subsequent transfer to a competing fund can occur. The redemption notice period below is applicable to employer-initiated events causing Plan-level withdrawals.

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS MEASURED USING THE NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE PRACTICAL EXPEDIENT (Continued)

The following schedule provides liquidity information for the stable value collective trust funds.

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
December 31, 2023	\$ 336,957	N/A	Daily	12 months
December 31, 2022	\$ 331,232	N/A	Daily	12 months

NOTE 6 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Plan recordkeeping, custodial, transaction processing and loan maintenance services are provided by First Citizens Bank, subsidiaries and affiliates, therefore, fees associated with these services qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Certain custodial and transaction processing services are provided by Charles Schwab Bank for the Plan's self-directed brokerage offerings, therefore, fees associated with these services qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Plan document services are provided by Newport Retirement Services, therefore, fees associated with these services qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Certain asset based fees incurred by the Plan are included in net appreciation or depreciation in fair value of investments, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. Fees incurred by the Plan are allocated to participant accounts and expensed.

NOTE 7 - 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 would remain 100 percent vested in their employer contributions.

NOTE 8 - TAX STATUS

The Plan adopted a prototype plan sponsored by Newport Retirement Services. The prototype plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service that the prototype plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the opinion letter, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IRC and therefore believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

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 Plan 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 December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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.

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 9 - RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various 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 investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

NOTE 10 - RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

A reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022 to net assets per Form 5500, is as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 27,893,661	\$ 22,747,570
Excess contributions refundable	-	-
Net assets per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 27,893,661</u>	<u>\$ 22,747,570</u>

A reconciliation of the change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to net income per the Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2023, is as follows:

Change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 5,146,091
Change in excess contributions refundable	-
Net income per Form 5500	<u>\$ 5,146,091</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN**EIN: 56-1183309, Plan 001****Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions****Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total that Constitutes Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are included: X	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	

2022	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,288
Total	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,288

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN
EIN: 56-1183309, Plan 001
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
Year Ended December 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value
	Money market accounts, at fair value:			
*	Schwab	Schwab Government Money Fund	**	\$ 1,108
	Mutual fund accounts, at fair value:			
	American Beacon	American Beacon Small Cp Val R6	**	13,464
	Baird	Baird Aggregate BD Instl	**	722,505
	Blackrock	Blackrock High Yield BD Port CL K	**	329,803
	Cohen & Steers	Cohen & Steers Realty Shares	**	298,790
	Fidelity	Fidelity Extended Market Index Fund	**	255,503
	Fidelity	Fidelity International Index	**	18,892
	Invesco	Invesco OFI Developing Markets Fund - Y	**	61,202
	Invesco	Invesco OFI International Growth - Y	**	647,919
	Janus Henderson	Janus Henderson Enterprise Fund	**	801,272
	Pimco	Pimco Commodity Real Return Instl	**	32,046
*	Schwab	Schwab 1000 Index Fund	**	4,672,429
*	Schwab	Schwab Government Money Fund Purchased	**	2,223,294
	T Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Dividend Growth Fund Inc	**	572,822
	T Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	**	997,406
	Vanguard	Vanguard Equity Income Fund Admiral SHS	**	50,185
	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid Cap Value Index Admiral	**	538,667
	Vanguard	Vanguard Real Estate Index Admiral	**	32,090
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index Admiral	**	63,957
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small Cap Index Admiral	**	804,934
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement Income Inv	**	251,058
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund I	**	660,985
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund I	**	3,895,101
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund I	**	1,242,477
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund I	**	1,553,957
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060 Inv	**	837,242
	Collective investment trusts, at fair value:			
	Federated Hermes	Federated Hermes Capital Preservation	**	336,957
	Self-directed brokerage account, at fair value:			
*	Schwab	Cash	**	114,585
*	Schwab	Money Market	**	13,000
*	Schwab	Common Stock	**	1,141,695
*	Schwab	Exchange Traded Funds	**	793,851
*	Schwab	Fixed Income	**	97,781
*	Schwab	Mutual Funds	**	3,520,456
				27,597,433

CAROLINA EYE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN & MONEY PURCHASE PLAN**EIN: 56-1183309, Plan 001****Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) (Continued)****Year Ended December 31, 2023**

(a)	(b)	(c)		(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value		Cost	Current Value
	Participant notes		Various maturity dates		
*	receivable	3.25% - 8.75%	through 2028		\$ 296,228
					<u>\$ 27,893,661</u>

* Denotes party-in-interest.

** All investments are participant directed, therefore, historical cost information is not required.

***Note:** The above data is based upon information which has been certified as accurate and complete by First Citizens Bank & Trust Company.*



July 24, 2024

To Management of
Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan
Southern Pines, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statement of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan (the “Plan”), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated July 24, 2024. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated April 29, 2024, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by us with management’s and your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of its respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the plan’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding significant control deficiencies and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated July 24, 2024.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

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P.O. Box 19608
Greensboro, NC 27419

P: 336-294-4494 • F: 336-294-4495

brc.cpa

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Qualitative Aspects of the Plan's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan is included in Note 2 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions, and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

There were no sensitive accounting estimates affecting the financial statements.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's financial statements relate to the disclosure of fair value measurements in Note 4 to the financial statements that requires judgment by management related to the valuation level within the fair value hierarchy.

Significant Unusual Transactions

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to communicate to you significant unusual transactions identified during our audit. There were no significant unusual transactions identified during our audit.

Form 5500 Procedures

We are required to obtain and read a substantially complete draft of Form 5500 prior to dating our auditor's report. The purpose of this procedure is to identify any material inconsistencies between the draft Form 5500 and the Plan's financial statements. We identified no material inconsistencies in performing and completing our audit.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. There were no such uncorrected misstatements for the year ended December 31, 2023.

There were also no misstatements identified by us as a result of our audit procedures and corrected by management that were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, dated July 24, 2024.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, business conditions affecting the plan, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement.

None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan's auditors.

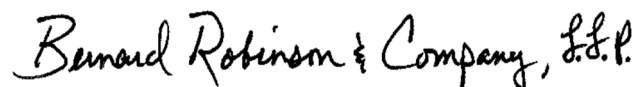
Other Matters

The ERISA-required supplemental schedules were subjected to the audit procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

Our responsibility also includes communicating to you any information which we believe is a material misstatement of fact. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, is materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, appearing in the financial statements.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of Carolina Eye Retirement Savings Plan & Money Purchase Plan and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Robinson & Company, L.L.P." in a cursive script.

BERNARD ROBINSON & COMPANY, L.L.P.

Form 5500 annual return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan
Schedule H Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

See Supplemental Schedule attached with IQPA Opinion and Financial Statements.