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

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.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

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

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

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] 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
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1994

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)
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC

425 CALIFORNIA STREET
TENTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
94-3285977

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
415-693-9060

2d Business code (see instructions)
531310

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.	10/10/2024	GABRIELA PARCELLA
	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 [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor 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

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	149
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	90
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	82
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	61
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	143
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	143
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	143
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	139
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	0
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 3D 2G 2J 2K 2R 2F 2T

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

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

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

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

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

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(4)** [ ] **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** [ ] **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(4)** [X] **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)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**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	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN		001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)	
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC	94-3285977	

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).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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

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

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

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?
64 99 37 50 15	RECORDKEEPER	6072	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [ ] No [X]

(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

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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 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 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
94-3285977

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)	1791543	1769305
(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)	122877	113605
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	21672880	25473530
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)	4489749	6596374

			(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(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	28077049	33952814
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g		
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j	Other liabilities	1j		
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	28077049	33952814

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.

			(a) Amount	(b) Total
	Income			
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	366871	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1393766	
	(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)		1760637
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	116685	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	6347	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		123032
	(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)	554270	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		554270
	(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)		0
	(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(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)		3768073
c Other income	2c		2035172
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		8241184
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2358847	
(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)		2358847
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)	6072	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(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)		
(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)	500	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		6572
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2365419
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		5875765
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) [X] 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) [X] 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: ARMANINO LLP **(2)** EIN: 94-6214841

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.)	**4a**		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**	X		
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**	X		

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] 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.

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

A Name of plan
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
94-3285977

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): 45-0404698 75-3182674

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

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 .

Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan

Financial Statements
and Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2023 and 2022
and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

armanino

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Sponsor
Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan
San Francisco, California

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) 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 Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) 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 qualified institutions 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 Audits of the Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, 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 financial statements referred to above 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) 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 these 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) audits 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 Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be 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 Audits of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audits 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audits.
- 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 audits 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 Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) 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 Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) 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 audits, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audits.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, ("supplemental schedule") is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under 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 schedule, 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 generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is 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 schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is 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 schedule 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).

Armanino LLP

Armanino[LLP]
St. Louis, Missouri

October 7, 2024

Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	$ 33,861,763	$ 27,954,172
Receivables		
Employer contributions	357,545	366,872
Participant contributions	71,497	32,400
Notes receivable from participants	113,605	122,877
Total receivables	542,647	522,149
Net assets available for benefits	$ 34,404,410	$ 28,476,321

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions to net assets	
Contributions	
Participant	$ 1,319,725
Employer	382,286
Total contributions	1,702,011
Investment income	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	5,799,140
Interest and dividends	690,626
Total investment income	6,489,766
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	5,430
Total additions to net assets	8,197,207
Deductions from net assets	
Benefits paid to participants	2,266,124
Administrative expenses	2,994
Total deductions from net assets	2,269,118
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	5,928,089
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	28,476,321
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	$ 34,404,410

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan documents for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan, a defined contribution profit sharing plan sponsored by Merlone Geier Management, LLC (the "Company", or "Employer"), was established January 1, 1994, and restated effective January 1, 2022. The Plan qualifies under Section 401(a) and the related provisions of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan is designed to provide participants with a means to defer a portion of their compensation for retirement and to provide benefits in the event of termination, disability, death or financial hardship. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and subsequent laws and the IRC.

Effective March 27, 2020, the Plan administratively adopted the provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, related to participant loans and distributions. The Employer has until December 31, 2025 to amend the Plan for changes allowed by the CARES Act. The Plan has not been formally amended to adopt these provisions as of December 31, 2023.

An expansion of Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 ("SECURE 2.0") was signed into law on December 29, 2022, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The effective dates of provisions within SECURE 2.0 vary through 2026. The Employer has until the end of the first Plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2025, to amend the Plan for the changes related to SECURE 2.0. The Plan has not been formally amended to adopt these provisions as of December 31, 2023.

Plan administration

The Company is the administrator of the Plan and, as such, carries out the duties imposed by ERISA. The Company's management team manages the operation and administration of the Plan and carries out the duties imposed by ERISA. The Company has contracted with Newport Trust Company, LLC and one of its affiliates, (collectively "Newport") to provide trustee and recordkeeping services, respectively. During 2022, Newport Trust Company, LLC merged with Ascensus Trust Company, and during 2023, the assets held by Newport Trust Company, LLC were transferred to Ascensus Trust Company. For the year ended December 31, 2023, trustee services were provided by Ascensus Trust Company and Newport Trust Company, LLC, (collectively the "Trustees").

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Eligibility

Employees become eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the month coinciding with or the next following date that the employee turns 21 years of age and achieves two consecutive months of service. All employees, except union employees, non-resident aliens, leased employees, part-time employees, temporary employees, and seasonal employees, are eligible for Plan participation. Part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees become eligible after having completed 1,000 hours of service during the year, as defined in the plan documents.

Contributions

Participants are allowed to contribute up to their eligible compensation on a pre-tax, Roth, or after-tax basis, as defined in the plan documents, up to the maximum Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") contribution limit. Plan participants who have attained the age of 50 before the end of a calendar year are allowed to elect additional amounts called "catch-up contributions" to the Plan ($7,500 for 2023). Contributions are subject to the annual contribution limit as defined in the IRC. Participants are also allowed to make rollover contributions to the Plan from other qualified retirement plans.

The Company is allowed to make discretionary matching contributions on behalf of eligible participants. For the Plan year ended December 31, 2023, the Company made discretionary matching contributions equal to 100% of employee deferral contributions up to a maximum of $5,000. Employees must be employed on the last day of the Plan year in order to be eligible to receive discretionary matching contributions.

Participant accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, allocations of the Company's discretionary matching contributions, and allocations of Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with Plan losses and an allocation of administrative expenses not paid by the Company. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined in the plan documents. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account balance. Participants direct the investment of all their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in their contributions to the Plan plus actual earnings thereon. Participants vest in the Company's discretionary matching contributions after three years of credited service, as defined in the plan documents. Participants become 100% vested in their account balance in the event of death or disability.

The vesting schedule for the Company discretionary matching contributions is as follows:

Years of Service	
Less than 1	0%
1	34%
2	67%
3	100%

Notes receivable from participants

Participants may borrow not less than $1,000 and up to a maximum of the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their account balance. Notes receivable from participants ("participant loans") must be repaid within five years, unless the participant's loan is used to acquire a primary residence, in which case the repayment period may be longer. Participant loans are secured by the remaining balance in the participant's account and bear interest at the prime rate plus 2% on the date the loan is issued. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. As of December 31, 2023, interest rates on outstanding loans ranged from 5.25% to 10.50% with maturity dates through December 2051.

Payment of benefits

Distributions and withdrawals are payable upon retirement, termination of employment, attainment of age 59 ½, financial hardship, disability, or death. If a participant's vested account balance is equal to or less than $1,000, the balance is immediately distributed as a lump-sum payment. Upon termination, if a participant's vested account balance is greater than $1,000 and less than or equal to $5,000, their balance shall be automatically rolled over into an individual retirement account designated by the plan administrator, unless otherwise elected. If the account balance is over $5,000, the participant can consent to either a distribution paid in the form of a lump-sum cash payment, a partial payment, a direct rollover into another qualified plan, or postpone payment to a later date and remain in the Plan as described in the plan documents.

Upon attaining the age of 59 ½, the participant may, while still employed by the Company, request a withdrawal from their account balance. In certain circumstances as described in the plan documents and in accordance with IRS regulations, participants may qualify for a hardship or qualified reservist withdrawal.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Forfeiture accounts

Forfeitures of nonvested terminated participants' accounts may be used to reduce future Employer contributions or to pay Plan administrative expenses. Total forfeited nonvested accounts as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, totaled $90 and $23,866, respectively. Forfeitures of $24,652 were utilized to reduce the Employer matching contribution for the year ended December 31, 2022, made during the year ended December 31, 2023. No forfeitures were used to pay Plan administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses are generally paid by the Company, but may, at the discretion of the plan administrator, be paid by the Plan. Transaction fees for certain participant-initiated activity are charged to the specific account of the participant initiating any such transaction. The Plan is not required to reimburse the Company for expenses paid on its behalf.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting and financial statement presentation

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP").

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the changes therein, and disclosure of contingent liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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 such changes could materially affect the Plan's financial statements and participants' account balances.

Investment valuation and income recognition

The Plan's investments in mutual funds and in self-directed brokerage accounts 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 ordinary transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Investment valuation and income recognition (continued)

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held, during the year. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Notes receivable from participants

Participant loans are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on participant loans is recorded on an accrual basis. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Contributions and contributions receivable

Contributions from participants are recorded based on the date the contributions have been separated from a participant's pay by the Employer, which is the pay date. The Company's discretionary matching contributions are recorded in the year they are earned and to coincide with the year which the Employer records the contributions. The Plan records receivables for contributions based upon contributions attributable to the Plan year but received by the Plan subsequent to year end. Rollover contributions from participants are recorded based on the date the rollover contribution are received by the Trustees.

Payment of benefits

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses by the Plan are recorded when incurred.

Subsequent events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 7, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Effective October 1, 2024, Ascensus Trust Company was removed as Trustee of the Plan, and Charles Schwab Trust Bank was appointed as successor trustee. Pursuant to the appointment, effective October 1, 2024, assets were transferred to Charles Schwab Trust Bank and the Plan was amended to adopt the Pre-Approved Defined Contribution Plan Basic Plan Document #13 sponsored by Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc., as well as certain provisions of SECURE 2.0.

3. INFORMATION PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY THE TRUSTEES (UNAUDITED)

The plan administrator, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of ERISA. Accordingly, the Trustees, determined to be qualified institutions by the plan administrator, have certified to the completeness and accuracy of:

- Investments and notes receivable from participants reflected on the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022;
- Net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income on notes receivable from participants as shown on the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023;
- Investments and notes receivable from participants reflected on the schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, ("supplemental schedule").

Accordingly, as requested by the plan administrator, the Plan's independent auditor performed no procedures on the certified information other than to agree the certified information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The framework for measuring fair value provides a 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 are described as follows:

- *Level 1* - inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities the Plan has the ability to access.
- *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.

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the funds. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price. The funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Self-directed brokerage accounts: Accounts primarily consisting of mutual funds, common stock, and cash valued daily using readily determinable market prices.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets, by type, at fair value as of December 31, 2023:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value
Mutual funds	$ 27,265,389	$ -	$ -	$ 27,265,389
Self-directed brokerage accounts	6,596,374	-	-	6,596,374
	$ 33,861,763	$ -	$ -	$ 33,861,763

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets, by type, at fair value as of December 31, 2022:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value
Mutual funds	$ 23,464,423	$ -	$ -	$ 23,464,423
Self-directed brokerage accounts	4,489,749	-	-	4,489,749
	$ 27,954,172	$ -	$ -	$ 27,954,172

5. TAX STATUS

The Plan has adopted a Non-standardized Pre-Approved Profit Sharing/Money Purchase/CODA plan (the "pre-approved plan"). The Internal Revenue Service informed the issuer of the pre-approved plan through an opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, that the Plan was designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC and is available for use by employers for the benefit of their employees. The plan administrator believes that the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and that it, and the related trust, are tax-exempt.

6. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

ERISA defines parties-in-interest similarly to the definition of a related party under U.S. GAAP, except that ERISA's definition is broader and includes all entities and individuals that provide services to the Plan; however, these entities may not necessarily be related parties. Management did not identify any related parties to the Plan that were not also considered to be parties-in-interest.

Party-in-interest transactions include those with fiduciaries or employees of the Plan, any person who provides services to the Plan, an employer whose employees are covered by the Plan, and an employee organization whose members are covered by the Plan, a person who owns 50% or more of such an employer or employee association or relatives of such persons.

The Trustees retain, as compensation for services provided to the Plan, any interest on amounts earned while certain transactions are pending. This applies to both contributions and distributions. Earnings are at institutional money market rates. Transactions conducted by the Trustees, and their affiliates, qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

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 will become fully vested in their accounts.

8. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 at December 31,:

	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 34,404,410	$ 28,476,321
Less: Employer contributions receivable	(357,545)	(366,872)
Less: Employee contributions receivable	(71,497)	(32,400)
Less: Trailing dividends per Ascensus	(22,554)	-
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	$ 33,952,814	$ 28,077,049

8. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500 (continued)

The following is a reconciliation of the net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2023:

Net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements:	$ 5,928,089
Add: Contributions receivable at December 31, 2022	399,272
Less: Contributions receivable at December 31, 2023	(429,042)
Less: Trailing dividends per Ascensus	(22,554)
Net increase in net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	$ 5,875,765

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

Merlone Geier Management, LLC 401(k) Plan
EIN: 94-3285977; Plan: 001
Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Templeton Global Bond Fund	Mutual Fund	**	$ 2,925
	Vanguard 500 Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	9,434,503
	Vanguard Cash Reserves Federal Money Market Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,775,705
	Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	202,116
	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	Mutual Fund	**	25,000
	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Investment-Grade Fund A	Mutual Fund	**	250,230
	Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	3,690
	Vanguard Long-Term Treasury Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	164,379
	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	670,997
	Vanguard Short-Term Treasury Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	583,353
	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	3,000,065
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	93,666
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	988,448
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,022,240
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,182,218
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,827,227
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,409,518
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	748,312
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,556,693
	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060 Fund	Mutual Fund	**	276,090
	Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	375,525
	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	79,974
	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	1,480,700
	Vanguard Value Index Fund Admiral	Mutual Fund	**	111,815
	Schwab Self-Direct Invest Fund V	Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts	**	6,417,534
	Schwab Self-Direct Cash Fund V	Interest-Bearing Cash	**	178,840
				33,861,763
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates 5.25% to 10.50%; maturities through December 2051	-	113,605
				$ 33,975,368

* Indicated party-in-interest to the Plan
** Cost information not provided as all investments are participant directed

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 and ending

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)

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)		
(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)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

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

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)**		
	(B) Participants	**2a(1)(B)**		
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	**2a(1)(C)**		
	(2) Noncash contributions	**2a(2)**		
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	**2a(3)**		
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	**2b(1)(A)**		
	(B) U.S. Government securities	**2b(1)(B)**		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	**2b(1)(C)**		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	**2b(1)(D)**		
	(E) Participant loans	**2b(1)(E)**		
	(F) Other	**2b(1)(F)**		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	**2b(1)(G)**		
	(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)**		
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	**2b(2)(D)**		
	(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)**		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	**2b(7)**		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	**2b(8)**		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	**2b(9)**		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	**2b(10)**		
c Other income	**2c**		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	**2d**		

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	**2e(1)**		
(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)**		
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)**		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	**2i(3)**		
(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)**		
(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) athrough (11)	**2i(12)**		
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	**2j**		

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	**2k**		
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: **(2)** EIN:

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. 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.)	**4a**			
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**			
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**			
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**			
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**			
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**			
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**			
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**			
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**			
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**			
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**			
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**			
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**			
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

Attachment to 2023 Form 5500
Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

Plan Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN **EIN:** 94-3285977

Plan Sponsor's Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC **PN:** 001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value.	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
	Templeton	Templeton Global Bond R6	0	2,925
	Vanguard	Vanguard 500 Index Adm	0	9,434,503
	Vanguard	Vanguard Cash Reserves Federal MM Adm	0	1,769,305
	Vanguard	Vanguard Emerging Mkts Stock Idx Adm	0	202,116
	Vanguard	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Sec Adm	0	25,000
	Vanguard	Vanguard Interm-Term Invst Grade Adm	0	249,582
	Vanguard	Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Inv	0	3,690

Attachment to 2023 Form 5500
Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

Plan Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN **EIN:** 94-3285977

Plan Sponsor's Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC **PN:** 001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value.	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
	Vanguard	Vanguard Long-Term Treasury Adm	0	164,039
	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid Cap Index Adm	0	668,755
	Vanguard	Vanguard Short-Term Treasury Adm	0	581,864
	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Adm	0	2,989,437
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund	0	93,666
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund	0	988,448
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund	0	1,022,240

Attachment to 2023 Form 5500
Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

Plan Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN **EIN:** 94-3285977

Plan Sponsor's Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC **PN:** 001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value.	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund	0	1,182,218
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund	0	1,827,227
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund	0	1,409,518
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund	0	748,312
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Fund	0	1,556,693
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement 2060 Fund	0	276,090
	Vanguard	Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund	0	375,525

Attachment to 2023 Form 5500
Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

Plan Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC 401(K) PLAN **EIN:** 94-3285977

Plan Sponsor's Name MERLONE GEIER MANAGEMENT, LLC **PN:** 001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value.	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
	Vanguard	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Adm	0	79,824
	Vanguard	Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Adm	0	1,480,700
	Vanguard	Vanguard Value Index Adm	0	111,158
	Synthetic	Synthetic Cash Account	0	73
	Schwab	Schwab Self-Direct Cash Fund V	0	178,767
	Schwab	Schwab Self-Direct Invest Fund V	0	6,417,534
	Participant's Loan Account	Various Rates and Maturities	0	113,605