

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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
		1c Effective date of plan 12/01/1995
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) NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC. 10 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA SUITE 1700 CHICAGO, IL 60606-3801	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 312-360-0400 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.	10/11/2024	ANDREA MIRANDA
	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	5 255
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) 186 6a(2) 194 6b 0 6c 56 6d 250 6e 4 6f 254 6g(1) 243 6g(2) 244 6h 4
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 2T 3D 3H

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 0
- (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 2
- (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 A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance 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. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
42-0127290	61271	438810	254	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
0	0

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	71475
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
 (3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT ANNUITY

b Balance at the end of the previous year**7b**

77275

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year**7c(1)**

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

(4) Transferred from separate account.....

7c(4)

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

▶

(6) Total additions.....

7c(6)**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)**7d**

77275

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year

7e(1)

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

(3) Transferred to separate account.....

7e(3)

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

▶

(5) Total deductions.....

7e(5)**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)**7f**

77275

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance 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. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
42-0127290	61271	613953	254	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
0	0

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	0
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier**6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....**6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.**6d**

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ CUSTODIAL GUARANTEED INTEREST CONTRACT**b** Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 8075999

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	351623
(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	
(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	135028
(4) Transferred from separate account.....	7c(4)	1444616
(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	41190

▶ LOAN PAYMENTS/ROLLOVER

(6) Total additions..... **7c(6)** 1972457**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 10048456**e** Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	2315746
(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	11609
(3) Transferred to separate account.....	7e(3)	1343662
(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	385

▶ LOAN WITHDRAWAL

(5) Total deductions..... **7e(5)** 3671402**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**) **7f** 6377054

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231	

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
42-0127290

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

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

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

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

PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

42-0127290

(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?
13 37 50 64	CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR	32997	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT L

36-4317381

(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?
26 70	INV ADV, PARTICIPANTS	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

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

LPL FINANCIAL LLC-RPCP

04-3046611

(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?
27 50	INVESTMENT ADVISORY	69952	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	12	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
MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT L	26 70	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 42-0127290	14 BASIS POINTS ON ASSETS MANAGED BY MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
LPL FINANCIAL LLC-RPCP	27 50	12
(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.	
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 42-0127290	INVESTMENT ADVISORY	
(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 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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231	

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)	425559	352141
(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)	57314708	70227512
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	8153274	6448529
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	65893541	77028182
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	65893541	77028182

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)	2454964	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	2348914	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	173419	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		4977297
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)	24599	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	135028	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		159627
(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)	1324603	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		1324603
(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)		10243521
c Other income	2c		-5799
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		16699249

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	5461659	
(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)		5461659
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)	32997	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	69952	
(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) through (11)	2i(12)		102949
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		5564608

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		11134641
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: **PLANTE & MORAN, PLLC**

(2) EIN: **38-1357951**

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?	☒		5000000
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 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND 401(K) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 NATIONAL EQUITY FUND INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-3490231	

Part I	Distributions
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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): 42-0127290		
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.)
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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
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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
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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.
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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) 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) 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)	14a 14b 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 b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 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 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	16a 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 <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q702477A</u> .	

September 24, 2024

To the Audit Committee
National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

We have audited the financial statements of National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "Plan") as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated September 24, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility Under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated June 4, 2024, we conducted our audit in accordance with professional standards except that, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA and as instructed by you, we did not perform any auditing procedures with respect to 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 (GAAP). The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, were audited by us in accordance with auditing standards 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 GAAP. 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, were subjected to tests of your accounting records and other procedures as we considered necessary to enable us to express an opinion as to whether they are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities. As part of our audit, we considered the applicable internal controls of the Plan. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are 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 specifically to identify such matters.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our meeting about planning matters on June 4, 2024.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. No significant new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

We noted no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's 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 significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was the Plan's valuation of investments.

Management has informed us that, in determining the appropriateness of the estimate of investment values, they have recorded the fair values based on market values provided by the investment custodian, plus any applicable valuation adjustments. We performed no specific procedures related to the valuation of the investments due to the scope and nature of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit.

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in performing and completing our audit.

Disagreements with Management

For the purpose of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report.

We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management.

We did not detect any misstatements as a result of audit procedures.

Significant Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards and plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement, with management each year prior to our retention as the Plan's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship, and our responses were not a condition of our retention.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated September 24, 2024.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a second opinion on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Plan's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Form 5500 - Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

Our responsibility for Form 5500 does not extend beyond the financial statements, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance on Form 5500. However, we read the Plan's Form 5500 filing, and 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.

Reportable Findings

Effective January 1, 2022, new guidance under Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 136, *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements of Employee Benefit Plans Subject to ERISA*, requires control deficiencies to be disclosed to management and those charged with governance regardless of materiality to the financial statements.

The following deficiency in internal control was brought to our attention by management during our audit and corrected prior to our report issuance:

During 2022, upon the separation of New Markets Support Company from National Equity Fund, Inc., three participant balances were not transferred to the new plan on a timely basis. Management has subsequently transferred these balances to the new plan in 2024.

Other Information Provided for Your Consideration

Timely Deposit of Employee Deferrals

A Department of Labor regulation requires that benefit plans remit employee contributions to the plan as soon as they can be reasonably segregated from the employer's general assets. In no case can this amount of time exceed 15 business days after the end of the month in which the amounts were withheld. The 15-business-day rule, however, is not a safe harbor. The general rule has been interpreted as being as little as zero days for entities with more than 100 employees. The DOL also looks at the consistency of timing and holds employers to the least number of days for deposits when determining if contributions are timely.

This information is intended solely for the use of the audit committee and management of the Plan and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Plante & Moran, PLLC



Jennifer Culotta, CPA
Partner

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

N E F 401() R P

EIN 36 3490231
 PLAN NUMBER 002
 PLAN YEAR 01/01/2023 TO 12/31/2023

(A)	(B) Identity of issuer, 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
	The American Funds	Registered Investment Company Am Fds Am Hi-Inc Trs R6 Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 254,723.81
	The American Funds	Registered Investment Company Am Fds Bd Fd of Am R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 428,942.46
	Dimensional Fund Advisors	Registered Investment Company DFA Infl Protected Sec I Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 300,863.64
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Adv Tech Z Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 50,090.42
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Adv Total Bond Z Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,315,200.98
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Emerg Mkt Index Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 666,985.23
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Glb ex US Index Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,292,260.68
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Mid Cp Index Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,927,572.45
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity Sm Cap Index Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,103,223.10
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity US Bond Index Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 654,699.23
	Fidelity Investments	Registered Investment Company Fidelity 500 Index Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,488,120.00
	Goldman Sachs	Registered Investment Company Goldman Sachs GQG Prt Int O R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,449,296.47
	Oppenheimer	Registered Investment Company Inv Gld and Sp Minerals R6 Fnd	\$ 0.00	\$ 36,930.65
	Invesco Funds Group, Inc.	Registered Investment Company Invesco Sm Cap Growth R6 Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,084,825.30
	Lord Abbett	Registered Investment Company Lord Abbett Sht Drtn Inc R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 162,288.40

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

N E F 401() R P

EIN 36 3490231
 PLAN NUMBER 002
 PLAN YEAR 01/01/2023 TO 12/31/2023

(A)	(B) Identity of issuer, 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
	Neuberger Berman Management	Registered Investment Company NB MID CAP GRWTH R6 FUND	\$ 0.00	\$ 56.14
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Insurance Company General Prin Fixed Inc Guar Option	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,377,053.87
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Insurance Company General Principal Pension Builder(SM)Z	\$ 0.00	\$ 71,475.00
	T. Rowe Price Funds	Registered Investment Company T. Rowe Pr Fin Svcs I Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,113.21
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx Ret Inc Ins	\$ 0.00	\$ 46,290.17
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2010 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 227,137.27
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2015 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 270,666.57
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2020 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,056,028.92
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2025 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,257,500.94
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2030 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,722,660.64
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2035 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,218,038.62
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2040 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,742,362.34
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2045 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,968,584.36
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2050 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,398,661.36
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2055 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 849,109.04

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

N E F 401() R P

EIN 36 3490231
 PLAN NUMBER 002
 PLAN YEAR 01/01/2023 TO 12/31/2023

(A)	(B) Identity of issuer, 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
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2060 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 475,562.58
	TIAA Investments	Registered Investment Company TIAA-CREF Lfcy Idx 2065 Inst	\$ 0.00	\$ 28,966.52
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Balncd Index Admr'l Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,510,131.63
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Growth Index Adm Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,476,645.77
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Health Care Idx Adm	\$ 0.00	\$ 30,422.27
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard I-T Treasury Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,508,156.58
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Int-Tm Treas Idx Adm	\$ 0.00	\$ 112,509.29
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard MidCap Val Idx Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,424,378.00
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard MidCp Grth Idx Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,519,257.49
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard RE Index Adm Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,459,278.40
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Sm Cap Val Idx Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 585,700.48
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Utilities Idx Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,768.03
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Value Index Adm Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,419,796.43
	Vanguard Group	Registered Investment Company Vanguard Wellesley Inc Adm Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 681,706.43
*	Participant Loans	Range of Interest Rates Rates Range From 5.25% To 10.50%	\$ 0.00	\$ 352,141.00

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Financial Report
December 31, 2023

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator
National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "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 statement 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 the 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 (DOL) 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 DOL'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 Audits 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 (GAAP).
- 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 Audits of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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 GAAP 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or 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 that 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 audits 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 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 GAAS, 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 the 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 the 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 certifications, 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 GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of the 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 GAAP.

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.

To the Plan Administrator
National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets held at end of year as of December 31, 2023 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplemental information required by the DOL'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 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. 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 DOL'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, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL'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).

Plante & Moreau, PLLC

Chicago, Illinois
September 24, 2024

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31, 2023 and 2022	
	2023	2022
Assets		
Participant-directed investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$ 70,227,512	\$ 57,314,708
Unallocated contract	71,475	77,275
Total participant-directed investments at fair value	70,298,987	57,391,983
Participant-directed investments at contract value - Fully benefit-responsive investment contract	6,377,054	8,075,999
Participant notes receivable	352,141	425,559
Net Assets Available for Benefits	\$ 77,028,182	\$ 65,893,541

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions

Contributions:

Employee	\$ 2,348,914
Employer	2,454,964
Rollovers	<u>173,419</u>

Total contributions 4,977,297

Investment income (loss):

Interest and dividends	1,597,038
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	10,106,114
Other investment loss	<u>(5,799)</u>

Total investment income 11,697,353

Interest from participant notes receivable 24,599

Total additions - Net 16,699,249

Deductions

Benefits paid directly to participants or beneficiaries	5,461,659
Administrative expenses	<u>102,949</u>

Total deductions 5,564,608

Net Increase 11,134,641

Net Assets Available for Benefits

Beginning of year 65,893,541

End of year \$ 77,028,182

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 - Plan Description

The following description of National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of National Equity Fund, Inc. (the "Company") who have completed three months of service and are age 21 or older. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions

The Plan provides for employee salary 401(k) contributions, on pretax and Roth bases, up to a maximum of 100 percent of annual compensation subject to maximum tax-deferred limitations established by the Internal Revenue Code. Participants may also make contributions to the Plan in the form of a rollover of funds from another qualified plan.

The Company is required to make matching contributions equal to 100 percent of participant deferrals up to 3 percent of a participant's deferred compensation for participants who have completed at least 12 months of service.

The Company is also required to make qualified nonelective and additional contributions of 3 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively, of a participant's compensation for participants who have completed at least 12 months of service.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participants' compensation or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account. Participants may direct the investments of their account balances into various investment options offered by the Plan.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and the Company's qualified nonelective contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's match and additional contribution portion of their accounts plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service beginning at 20 percent after two years of service, increasing to 50 percent after three years of service, and increasing 25 percent for each year of continuous service thereafter until the participant becomes fully vested in matching and additional contributions after five years of service with the Company.

Benefit Payments

Distributions are payable upon death, disability, retirement, or termination of employment, and a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account or various installment annuities. In-service distributions from a participant's account are available to employees over age 59½.

Participants may request that all or a portion of their elective deferral contributions be distributed in the case of financial hardship, as defined in the plan document. The Company must approve any such hardship withdrawals.

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 - Plan Description (Continued)

Forfeitures

If a participant is not fully vested on his or her termination date, the nonvested amount of the account is forfeited. Forfeitures are first used to pay administrative expenses, and the excess forfeitures are used to reduce future company contributions.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participants may borrow up to a maximum of 50 percent of their account balances, not to exceed \$50,000. Participant notes receivable are collateralized by the participant's account balance and bear interest at a market rate.

Termination

While 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 set forth in the plan agreement and ERISA.

Upon termination of the Plan, participants become 100 percent vested in their account balances.

Party-in-interest Transactions

Certain plan assets are in investment funds managed by Delaware Charter Guarantee & Trust Company d/b/a Principal Trust Company (Principal Trust) or its affiliates. Principal Trust is the trustee of the Plan; therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions, as defined under ERISA guidelines.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value except as noted below. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 6 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

The fully benefit-responsive unallocated contract is valued at contract value. Contract value is the amount participants normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Contract value represents deposits made to the contract, plus earnings at guaranteed crediting rates, less withdrawals and fees.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded as earned. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participant notes receivable are recorded at unpaid principal balances plus any accrued interest. Participant notes receivable are written off when deemed uncollectible.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Various administrative costs are paid by the Company.

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions during the reporting period. 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 that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Subsequent Events

The financial statements and related disclosures include evaluation of events up through and including September 24, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3 - Certified Information

Delaware Charter Guarantee & Trust Company d/b/a Principal Trust Company (the "Trustee") holds the Plan's investments and participant notes receivable and executes all related transactions. The investment and participant notes receivable balances and related income and losses included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule of assets held at end of year are based solely on information certified by the Trustee.

Note 4 - Investment Contract

The Plan has a benefit-responsive investment contract with Principal Life Insurance Company. Principal Life Insurance Company maintains the contributions in a general account. The account is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The investment contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise.

The interest crediting rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer but may not be less than 0 percent. Such interest rates are reviewed on a semiannual basis for resetting.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the insurance company. Such events include the following: (i) amendments to the plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), (ii) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provision, (iii) bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (e.g., divestitures or spinoffs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, or (iv) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. The plan administrator believes that the occurrence of any such events, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is not probable. There are no events that allow the issuer to terminate the contract and that require the plan sponsor to settle an amount different than contract value paid either within 90 days or over time.

As described in Note 2, because the contract is fully benefit responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets attributable to the investment contract. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investments at contract value.

December 31, 2023 and 2022**Note 5 - Tax Status**

The Plan uses a preapproved plan. The preapproved plan has received a favorable opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) indicating that the Plan, as designed, is qualified for federal income tax-exempt status. The Plan has not individually sought its own determination letter.

Note 6 - Fair Value Measurements

Accounting standards require certain assets and liabilities be reported at fair value in the financial statements and provide a framework for establishing that fair value. The framework for determining fair value is based on a hierarchy that prioritizes the valuation techniques and inputs used to measure fair value.

Level 1

Fair values determined by Level 1 inputs use quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2

Fair values determined by Level 2 inputs use other inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly. These Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset.

Level 3

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, including inputs that are available in situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the related asset.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation. The Plan's assessment of the significance of particular inputs to these fair value measurements requires judgment and considers factors specific to each asset.

The following valuation methodologies have been used to value the Plan's investments:

Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are valued at quoted prices reported in active markets.

Unallocated Contract

The unallocated contract is not considered benefit responsive and is presented at fair value. The fair value of the unallocated contract is based on contract value adjusted for certain contractual provisions. Contract value represents investments at cost plus accrued interest income less amounts withdrawn to pay benefits.

The following tables present information about the Plan's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis at December 31, 2023				
	Investments (at Fair Value)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Mutual funds	\$ 70,227,512	\$ 70,227,512	\$ -	\$ -
Unallocated contract	71,475	-	71,475	-
Total investments	<u>\$ 70,298,987</u>			

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 6 - Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

Assets Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis at December 31, 2022				
	Investments (at Fair Value)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Mutual funds	\$ 57,314,708	\$ 57,314,708	\$ -	\$ -
Unallocated contract	77,275	-	77,275	-
Total investments	<u>\$ 57,391,983</u>			

National Equity Fund 401(k) Retirement Plan

Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year

Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4i
 EIN 36-3490231, Plan No. 002
 December 31, 2023

(a)(b) Identity of Issuer	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
	Mutual funds:		
The American Funds	American Funds High-Income Trust R6 Fund	*	\$ 254,724
	American Funds Intermediate Bond Fund of America	*	428,942
Dimensional Fund Advisors	DFA Inflation-Protected Securities I Fund	*	300,864
Goldman Sachs	Goldman Sachs GQG Partners Int Opportunities Fund	*	2,449,296
Invesco Funds Group, Inc.	Invesco Small Cap Growth R6 Fund	*	1,084,825
	Invesco Gold & Special Minerals Fund R6	*	36,931
Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC	Lord Abbett Short Duration Income Fund Class R6	*	162,288
T. Rowe	T. Rowe Price Financial Services Fund	*	15,113
Vanguard	Vanguard I-T Treasury Admiral Fund	*	1,508,157
	Vanguard Utilities Index Fund Admiral Shares	*	6,768
	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Treasury Index Fund Adm	*	112,509
	Vanguard Wellesley Income Admiral Fund	*	681,706
	Vanguard Health Care Index Admiral Fund	*	30,422
	Vanguard Balanced Index Admiral Fund	*	4,510,132
	Vanguard Growth Index Admiral Fund	*	8,476,646
	Vanguard Value Index Admiral Fund	*	3,419,796
	Vanguard MidCap Growth Index Admiral Fund	*	2,519,257
	Vanguard MidCap Value Index Admiral Fund	*	2,424,378
	Vanguard Real Estate Index Admiral Fund	*	1,459,278
	Vanguard Small Cap Value Index Admiral Fund	*	585,700
Fidelity	Fidelity Adv Total Bond Z Fd	*	2,315,201
	Fidelity US Bond Index Fund	*	654,699
	Fidelity Advisor Technology Fund - Class Z	*	50,090
	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	*	12,488,123
	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	*	1,927,572
	Fidelity Small Cap Index Fund	*	2,103,223
	Fidelity Emerging Market Index Fund	*	666,985
	Fidelity Global ex U.S. Index Fund	*	1,292,261
TIAA-CREF	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index Return Income Inst	*	46,290
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2010 Inst	*	227,137
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2015 Inst	*	270,667
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2020 Inst	*	1,056,029
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2025 Inst	*	3,257,501
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2030 Inst	*	3,722,661
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2035 Inst	*	1,218,039
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2040 Inst	*	2,742,362
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2045 Inst	*	1,968,584
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2050 Inst	*	2,398,661
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2055 Inst	*	849,109
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2060 Inst	*	475,563
	TIAA-CREF Lifecycle Index 2065 Inst	*	28,967
	Neuberger Berman Mid Cap Growth R6 Fund	*	56
Principal Life Insurance Company**	Unallocated investment contract - Principal Fixed Income Guaranteed Option	*	6,377,054
Principal Life Insurance Company**	Unallocated contract - Principal Pension Builder	*	71,475
Participants	Participant notes receivable bearing interest rates ranging from 5.25 to 10.50 percent	-	352,141
	Total		<u><u>\$ 77,028,182</u></u>

*Cost information not required

**Denotes party in interest