

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 AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
		1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2009
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) AARETE, INC. 200 E RANDOLPH SUITE 3010 CHICAGO, IL 60601-6541	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 773-793-1595 2d Business code (see instructions) 812990

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	ASHLEY SHERWOOD
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/11/2024	ASHLEY SHERWOOD
	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 AARETE, LLC c Plan Name AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	4b EIN 82-4403675 4d PN 001																				
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 404																				
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	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">6a(1)</td><td style="text-align: right;">297</td></tr> <tr><td>6a(2)</td><td style="text-align: right;">260</td></tr> <tr><td>6b</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>6c</td><td style="text-align: right;">109</td></tr> <tr><td>6d</td><td style="text-align: right;">369</td></tr> <tr><td>6e</td><td style="text-align: right;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>6f</td><td style="text-align: right;">369</td></tr> <tr><td>6g(1)</td><td style="text-align: right;">387</td></tr> <tr><td>6g(2)</td><td style="text-align: right;">364</td></tr> <tr><td>6h</td><td style="text-align: right;">28</td></tr> </table>	6a(1)	297	6a(2)	260	6b	0	6c	109	6d	369	6e	0	6f	369	6g(1)	387	6g(2)	364	6h	28
6a(1)	297																				
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6b	0																				
6c	109																				
6d	369																				
6e	0																				
6f	369																				
6g(1)	387																				
6g(2)	364																				
6h	28																				
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:

2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 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 AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675	

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	819521	369	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	

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
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	(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	45716

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 ▶**b** Balance at the end of the previous year**7b****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****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****0**

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 AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675	

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	467968	369	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	

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(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 OPTION GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**b** Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 222221

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	24426
(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	
(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	3509
(4) Transferred from separate account.....	7c(4)	
(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	

(6) Total additions..... **7c(6)** 27935**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**). **7d** 250156**e** Deductions:

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

7e(1)

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

608

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

7e(3)

95900

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)(5) Total deductions..... **7e(5)** 96508**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**) **7f** 153648

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 AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675	

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	45537	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

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

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**

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

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

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675	

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)	41210	
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	105982	
(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)	41216	31349
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts.....	1c(10)	25566	45716
(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)	18076564	23972336
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	222221	153648
(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	18512759	24203049
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	18512759	24203049

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)	1153497	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	3037482	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	417126	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		4608105
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)	2297	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	3509	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		5806
(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)	457274	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		457274
(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)		5934
(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)		3455668
c Other income	2c		36
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		8532823

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2764909	
(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)		2764909
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)	45537	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	32087	
(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)		77624
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2842533

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		5690290
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: **RSM US LLP**

(2) EIN: **42-0714325**

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?	☒		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
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.
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan AARETE, LLC 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675
Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....		1 0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 42-0127290		
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.)	
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.		
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)		6a
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year		6b
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)		6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
Part III	Amendments	
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No		
Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ☐ Yes ☐ No		
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230707		

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
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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> .	

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Financial Report
December 31, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

Plan Administrator
AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (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 statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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 Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. 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 Audit 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 U.S. 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 which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of 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 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 U.S. GAAP.

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 U.S. GAAP.

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

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, line 4i, schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary 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).

RSM VS LLP

Schaumburg, Illinois
October 10, 2024

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments:		
Shares of registered investment companies at fair value	\$ 23,972,306	\$ 18,076,542
Guaranteed income fund at contract value	153,648	222,221
Interest in pooled separate accounts at fair value	45,716	25,566
	<u>24,171,670</u>	<u>18,324,329</u>
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	31,349	41,216
Participant contributions	-	106,763
Company contributions	-	39,582
	<u>31,349</u>	<u>187,561</u>
Total assets	<u>24,203,019</u>	<u>18,511,890</u>
Liabilities		
Refunds of excess contributions payable	<u>71,596</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities	<u>71,596</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 24,131,423</u>	<u>\$ 18,511,890</u>

See notes to financial statements.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits Year Ended December 31, 2023

Additions to net assets attributed to:	
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 3,465,101
Interest and dividends	457,310
	<u>3,922,411</u>
Other income	<u>-</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>2,304</u>
Contributions:	
Company	1,155,126
Participant	2,965,104
Rollovers	434,485
	<u>4,554,715</u>
Net additions	<u>8,479,430</u>
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid	2,764,909
Administrative expenses	94,988
Total deductions	<u>2,859,897</u>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	5,619,533
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	<u>18,511,890</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 24,131,423</u></u>

See notes to financial statements.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of Plan

The following description of AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General: The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of AArete, LLC (the Company and Plan Sponsor) who have completed six months of service and are age 21 or older. Eligible employees begin to participate on the first day of the next month following completion of the service requirement. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions: Participants may contribute up to the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) on a pre-tax or post-tax basis. If an employee does not make a deferral election when they become eligible, they will be automatically enrolled into the Plan and 3% of their compensation will be withheld and contributed as a salary deferral on a post-tax basis. Participants may elect to opt out of the plan or change this percentage at any time. In subsequent years, the contribution automatically increases annually by 1% up to a maximum of 6%. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute a rollover contribution representing all or part of an entire amount received from other qualified plans.

The Company matches 100% of the participants' deferrals on the 1% of the participants' compensation and 50% of the next 5%.

The Company may also make a discretionary, non-elective contribution which is determined by management during the year. No discretionary, non-elective contribution was made to the Plan during 2023.

Participant accounts: Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company matching and non-elective contributions, if any, as well as allocations of plan earnings or losses and expenses. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting: Participants are immediately vested in their pre-tax or post-tax contributions plus actual earnings thereon as well as the Company matching contribution. Vesting in the Company's non-elective contribution plus earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant vests 20% for each year of service after two years and is 100% vested after six years of continuous service. Full vesting also occurs at age 65 or upon death or disability.

Investment options: Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct contributions in a variety of investment choices as more fully described in the Plan's literature. Participants may change their investment options at any time.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of Plan (Continued)

Payment of benefits: Payment of benefits under the Plan may be made at normal retirement age of 65, upon death, disability or termination of employment, in the form of a lump-sum payment or partial distribution. Participants who have attained age 59½ and who have not terminated employment may request early payment of benefits. The Plan permits hardship withdrawals, which are subject to the Plan Administrator's approval and the requirements of IRC Sections 401(a) (11) and 417. Terminated participants with a plan balance of less than \$5,000 are subject to mandatory distribution prior to age 62 or normal retirement age, as defined by the Plan.

Notes receivable from participants: Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum amount equal to the lesser of \$50,000, reduced by the excess of the participant's highest outstanding loan balance on their account during the prior 12-month period, or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1-5 years or up to 10 years if used for the purchase of a primary residence. Participants may only have one note outstanding at a time. The notes are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest based on prevailing market at the time of loan origination as determined by the Plan Sponsor. Interest rates on loans outstanding as of December 31, 2023, were between 5.25% and 10.50%. Principal and interest payments are paid through payroll deductions.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting: The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment valuation and income recognition: The Plan's investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the custodian. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements. Contract value is the relevant measure for the portion of net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts as contract value is the amount participants normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payments of benefits: Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative expenses: Fees for investment management and plan administrative fees are paid by the Plan. Other expenses are paid by the Company and are excluded from the accompanying financial statements.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Subsequent events: The Plan Administrator has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and/or disclosure through October 10, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

During 2024, the name of the Plan was changed from AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan to AArete Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan. Additionally, the Plan was amended to allow employees from acquired companies of the Plan Sponsor to join the plan using the employees' start date at the acquired Company.

Note 3. Information Certified or Provided by Principal Trust Company, the Custodian

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset and income information as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, included throughout the Plan's financial statements and supplemental schedule that was prepared by or derived from information provided by the custodian, and furnished to the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator has obtained certifications from the custodian that information provided to the Plan Administrator by the custodian related to the following assets and income is complete and accurate. Accordingly, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the United States Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the Plan Administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to information which appears throughout the financial statements and supplemental schedule related to the following assets and income (loss):

	2023	2022
Shares of registered investment companies	\$ 23,972,306	\$ 18,076,542
Guaranteed income fund at contract value	153,648	222,221
Interest in pooled separate accounts	45,716	25,566
Notes receivable from participants	31,349	41,216
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	3,465,101	
Interest and dividends	457,310	
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,304	

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under ASC 820 are described below:

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

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

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

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

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

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

Shares of registered investment companies: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Shares of registered investment companies held by the Plan are open ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The shares of registered investment companies held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Units of pooled separate account: Valued at the NAV of the units of pooled separate account. The NAV, as provided by the trustee and custodians, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based upon the fair value of the underlying investments comprising the pooled separate account. This practical expedient is not used when it is probable that the fund will sell for an amount different than the reported NAV.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets measured at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Shares of registered investment companies	\$ 23,972,306	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,972,306
Total assets in fair value hierarchy	\$ 23,972,306	\$ -	\$ -	23,972,306
Investments measured at NAV (a)				45,716
Investments at fair value				\$ 24,018,022

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Shares of registered investment companies	\$ 18,076,542	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,076,542
Total assets in fair value hierarchy	\$ 18,076,542	\$ -	\$ -	18,076,542
Investments measured at NAV (a)				25,566
Investments at fair value				\$ 18,102,108

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

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value on NAV per unit as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Investment	Fair Value		Unfunded Commitment		Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
	2023	2022	2023	2022		
Pooled separate accounts	\$ 45,716	\$ 25,566	\$ -	\$ -	Daily	None
	\$ 45,716	\$ 25,566	\$ -	\$ -		

Changes in fair value levels: To assess the appropriate classification of investments within the fair value hierarchy, the availability of market data is monitored. Changes in economic conditions or valuation techniques may require the transfer of investments from one fair value level to another. In such instances, the transfer is reported at the beginning of the reporting period. Plan management evaluates the significance of transfers between levels based upon the nature of the investment and size of the transfer relative to total net assets available for benefits. For the year ended December 31, 2023, there were no transfers in or out of Level 3.

Note 5. Investment Contract With Principal Life Insurance Company

The Plan entered into a benefit-responsive investment contract with Principal Life Insurance Company (Principal). Principal maintain 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 traditional guaranteed investment contract is included in the financial statements at contract value as reported to the Plan by Principal. Contract value represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. The guaranteed investment contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. Because the guaranteed investment contract is fully benefit-responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits attributable to the guaranteed investment contract. The contract value was \$153,648 and \$222,221 at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due in accordance with fully benefit-responsive investment contracts is dependent on the third-party issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. The crediting interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer, but it may not be less than zero. Such interest rates are reviewed on an annual basis for resetting. The crediting interest rate as of December 31, 2023, was 2%.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include the following: (1) amendments to the plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan, (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA, or (5) premature termination of the contract. The Plan Administrator does not believe that any events which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants are probable of occurring.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 5. Investment Contract With Principal Life Insurance Company (Continued)

The guaranteed investment contract does not permit the insurance company to terminate the agreement.

Note 6. Tax Status

The Plan adopted a volume submitter plan sponsored by Datair Employee Benefit Systems Inc. The volume submitter plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as to the volume submitter plan's qualified status. The volume submitter plan opinion letter has been relied upon by the Plan. The Plan has been amended since its adoption. The Plan Administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently operating in compliance with applicable requirements of the IRC.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 7. Plan Termination

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

Note 8. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain plan investments are shares of registered investment companies managed by the custodian. An affiliate of the custodian provides services for the Plan under a contract with the custodian, and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest. Administrator fees paid by the Plan amounted to \$94,990 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

The Company pays certain expenses on behalf of the Plan. In addition, certain employees of the Company are responsible for the administration of the Plan. The employees are compensated by the Company and do not receive any compensation from the Plan.

Note 9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 10. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, to Form 5500:

	2023	2022
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 24,131,423	\$ 18,511,890
Notes receivable from participants	(31,349)	(41,216)
Participant loans	31,349	41,216
Shares of registered investment companies	30	22
Participant contributions receivable	-	(781)
Company contributions receivable	-	1,628
Refunds payable to participants	71,596	-
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 24,203,049</u>	<u>\$ 18,512,759</u>

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

Net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 5,619,533
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	(3,499)
Interest and dividends	3,473
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	(7)
Company contributions	(1,629)
Participant contributions	72,378
Rollover contributions	(17,359)
Administrative expenses	17,364
Other income	36
Net increase in net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ 5,690,290</u>

Supplementary Information

AArete, LLC 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust

Schedule H, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) December 31, 2023

Employer Identification Number: 26–2000001

Plan Number: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	Cost**	Current Value
		Shares of registered investment companies:		
	Alliance Bernstein	Discovery Growth Z Fund	**	\$ 208,679
	The American Funds	New World - R6	**	235,990
	BlackRock	Lepth IDX 2060 K	**	3,774,304
	BlackRock	Lepth IDX 2065 K	**	703,892
	BlackRock	Lepth IND RTRMT K FD	**	172,872
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2025 K	**	1,557,357
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2030 K	**	1,123,385
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2035 K	**	1,688,477
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2040 K	**	218,132
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2045 K	**	1,911,352
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2050 K	**	1,645,198
	BlackRock	Lepth INDX 2055 K	**	4,299,468
	Delaware Investments	Small Cap Value R6 FD	**	137,976
	BlackRock	ISHARE S&P 500 Index K Fund	**	1,944,601
	BlackRock	ISHS MSCI TOT INTL IDX K Fund	**	325,355
	BlackRock	ISHS RUSS MD-CP Index K Fund	**	530,700
	BlackRock	ISHS RUSS 2000 SC Index K Fund	**	436,287
	Victory Funds	EST VAL R6 FD	**	198,255
	Invesco	NASDAQ 100 Index Fund	**	1,419,673
	JP Morgan Funds	Equity Income R6	**	686,829
	Lord Abbett	High Yield R6	**	28,940
	MFS Investment Management	INTL Diversification R6	**	196,521
	PIMCO Funds	Income Institutional	**	139,750
	PIMCO Funds	INTL Bond (USD-HDG) I	**	34,760
	PIMCO Funds	Real Return INSTL Fund	**	90,066
	Guggenheim Investments	Total Return Bond Fund	**	109,865
	Columbia	Columbia Small Cap Growth I3	**	153,652
				<u>23,972,336</u>
		Guaranteed investment contract:		
	* Principal Life Insurance Company	Guaranteed Option	**	153,648
		Pooled separate accounts:		
	* Principal Life Insurance Company	Diversified INTL SA-Z	**	45,716
	* Participant loans	Participant loans (interest rates range from 5.25% to 10.50%, with the latest maturity October 2028)	**	<u>31,349</u>
				<u>\$ 24,203,049</u>

* Designates a party-in-interest.

** Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

The above information has been certified as complete and accurate by Principal Trust Company, the Plan's custodian.

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

AA, LLC 401() P S P T

EIN 26-2000001

PLAN NUMBER 001

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
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company iShares S&P 500 Index K Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,944,616.26
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company iShs MSCI Tot Intl Idx K Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 325,355.33
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company iShs Russ Md-Cp Index K Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 530,700.76
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company iShs Russ 2000 SC Index K Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 436,288.00
	The American Funds	Registered Investment Company American Funds NewWorld R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 235,992.45
	Alliance Bernstein	Registered Investment Company AB Discovery Growth Z Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 208,679.83
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2060 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,774,304.32
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2065 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 703,892.16
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Ind Rtrmt K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 172,872.46
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2025 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,557,357.43
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2030 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,123,385.48
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2035 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,688,477.30
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2040 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 218,132.49
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2045 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,911,352.49
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Idx 2050 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,645,198.19

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

AA, LLC 401(c) P S P T

EIN 26-2000001
 PLAN NUMBER 001
 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
	BlackRock	Registered Investment Company BlackRock Lfpth Indx 2055 K Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,299,437.64
	Columbia Funds	Registered Investment Company Columbia Small Cap Growth I3	\$ 0.00	\$ 153,652.69
	Delaware Investments	Registered Investment Company Delaware Small Cap Value R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 137,978.46
	Guggenheim Investments	Registered Investment Company GUGGENHEIM TOTAL RET BOND R6	\$ 0.00	\$ 109,865.01
	Invesco	Registered Investment Company INVECO NASDAQ 100 IDX R6 FD	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,419,672.56
	JP Morgan Funds	Registered Investment Company JP Morgan Equity Income R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 686,829.70
	Lord Abbett	Registered Investment Company Lord Abbett High Yield R6 Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 28,940.49
	MFS Investment Management	Registered Investment Company MFS Intl Diversification R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 196,521.15
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Pooled Separate Accounts Prin Diversified Intl SA-Z	\$ 0.00	\$ 45,715.50
*	Principal Life Insurance Company	Insurance Company General Principal Guaranteed Option	\$ 0.00	\$ 153,647.82
	PIMCO Funds	Registered Investment Company PIMCO Income Institutional Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 139,750.78
	PIMCO Funds	Registered Investment Company PIMCO Intl Bond (USD-Hdg) I Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 34,760.35
	PIMCO Funds	Registered Investment Company PIMCO Real Return Instl Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 90,066.15
	Victory Funds	Registered Investment Company Victory Sycamore Est Val R6 Fd	\$ 0.00	\$ 198,256.07
*	Participant Loans	Range of Interest Rates Rates Range From 5.25% To 10.50%	\$ 0.00	\$ 31,349.00