Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

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

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

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

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

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

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

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

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

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION 401(K) SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1953

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)
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

2915 JORIE BLVD.
OAK BROOK, IL 60523

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 36-0700810

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 630-990-7118

2d Business code (see instructions) 423700

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	JAMES DEASY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

c Plan Name

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	10134
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	6632
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	6697
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	52
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	3734
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	10483
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	18
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	10501
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	9965
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	10365
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	917
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

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

2E 2F 2H 2J 2K 2S 2T 3F 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)** [X] Trust
- **(4)** [ ] General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

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

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

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- **(6)** [ ] **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

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

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

A Name of plan
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION 401(K) SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
36-0700810

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

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

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

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

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

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

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

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

MESIROW FINANCIAL

36-3429599

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26 27	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	122000	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

BENESCH FRIEDLANDER COPLAN & ARONO

34-6596918

(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?
29	ATTORNEY/LEGAL	32570	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

34-6565596

(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?
10	ACCOUNTANT/AUDITOR	24300	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

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

TORCH CREATIVE INC

36-4204945

(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?
49	OTHER SERVICES	11850	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

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

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(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?
37 60 64 65	RECORDKEEPER	-174731	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

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

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

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
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation		**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX RTMT IS - BNY MELLON	500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation		**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2025 IS - BNY MELLON	500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation		**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2030 IS - BNY MELLON	500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

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
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2035 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2040 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2045 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

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
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2050 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2055 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2060 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

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
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK LP IDX 2065 IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.05%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BLKRK STR INC OPP IS - BNY MELLON 500 ROSS STREET 15253-4426 PITTSBURGH, PA 53442	0.15%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BP ALL CAP VAL INST - U.S. BANCORP 615 EAST MICHIGAN STREET, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53202 MILWAUKEE, WI 53201	0.15%

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
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
CRLN R CORE PLS BD I - U.S. BANK N 31-0841368	0.15%

(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

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

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

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

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

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

OMB No. 1210-0110

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

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

A Name of plan
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION 401(K) SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
36-0700810

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MIP II CL 2

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

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
04-3022712-025	C	48741677

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION 401(K) SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
36-0700810

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 reported 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	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	28332577	25552371
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	1384323	1732009
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	13150178	15464543
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	61607475	48741677
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	763729351	934415781
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	868203904	1025906381
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	868203904	1025906381

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)	43920680	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	33642099	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	3227590	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		80790369
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	-1109040	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	464448	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		-644592
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	29839181	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		29839181
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	**2b(6)**		1031344
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	**2b(7)**		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	**2b(8)**		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	**2b(9)**		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	**2b(10)**		132392074
c Other income	**2c**		0
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	**2d**		243408376
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	**2e(1)**	85438791	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	**2e(2)**	0	
(3) Other	**2e(3)**	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	**2e(4)**		85438791
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	**2f**		1553
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	**2g**		39764
h Interest expense	**2h**		0
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	**2i(1)**	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees	**2i(2)**	3000	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	**2i(3)**	-177731	
(4) IQPA audit fees	**2i(4)**	24300	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	**2i(5)**	122000	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	**2i(6)**	0	
(7) Actuarial fees	**2i(7)**	0	
(8) Legal fees	**2i(8)**	32570	
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	**2i(9)**	0	
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	**2i(10)**	0	
(11) Other expenses	**2i(11)**	11850	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	**2i(12)**		15989
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	**2j**		85496097
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	**2k**		157912279
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	**2l(1)**		19490
(2) From this plan	**2l(2)**		229292

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

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

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

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: ERNST & YOUNG **(2)** EIN: 36-6565596

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	**4a**		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		10000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**	X		261004
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**		X	

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

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

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)
ACE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	36-0700810	002

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
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION 401(K) SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
36-0700810

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**

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): 04-6568107

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year **3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part III Amendments

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

---

a Name of contributing employer

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

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

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

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

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

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

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

☐ Yes.

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

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

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

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

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

☒ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☒ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/_____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number_____.

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023 and 2022, and Year Ended December 31, 2023
With Report of Independent Auditors

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

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

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Building a better working world

Report of Independent Auditors

The Benefits Committee

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

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

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

Opinion

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

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

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

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

Other Matter

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, (referred to as the "supplemental schedule"), is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with 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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion

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

Ernst & Young LLP

October 10, 2024

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31	
	2023	**2022**
Assets		
Common/collective trusts	**$ 48,741,677**	$ 61,607,475
Registered investment companies	**936,147,790**	765,113,674
Total investments at fair value	**984,889,467**	826,721,149
Receivables		
Company contribution	**25,552,371**	28,332,577
Notes receivable from participants	**15,464,543**	13,150,178
Total receivables	**41,016,914**	41,482,755
Net assets available for benefits	**$ 1,025,906,381**	$ 868,203,904

See accompanying notes.

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year ended December 31, 2023

Additions	
Interest and dividends	$ 29,757,433
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	474,146
Other income	279,685
	30,511,264
Contributions:	
Company	43,920,680
Participants	33,642,099
Rollovers	3,227,590
	80,790,369
Total additions	111,301,633
Deductions	
Benefits paid directly to participants	(85,485,755)
Administrative expenses	(295,674)
Total deductions	(85,781,429)
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	132,392,075
Net increase before transfers	157,912,279
Transfer to other qualified plan	(209,802)
Net increase	157,702,477
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	868,203,904
End of year	$ 1,025,906,381

See accompanying notes.

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

1. Plan Description

The following brief description of the Ace Hardware Corporation (the Company) 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering employees who are not covered under a negotiated benefit program. Leased employees are not eligible to participate in the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). In general, all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively decline to participate.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 75% of annual compensation on a pretax and/or Roth after-tax basis, as defined by the Plan. If automatically enrolled, a participant's deferral is set at 4% of compensation until changed by the participant. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Company makes a matching contribution to the Plan of 25% up to the first 4% of a participant's eligible compensation. Employees must complete 90 days of service to be eligible for employee contributions and Company matching. The Company makes contributions each quarter equal to a percentage of the participant's pay, as defined by the Plan. Employees must complete 1,000 hours of service within 12 months and complete one year of eligible service to be eligible for quarterly contributions. The Company may also make an annual discretionary contribution to the Plan. Employees must complete 1,000 hours of service and be employed on December 31 to be eligible for discretionary contributions, with an exception for death and official retirement. A discretionary contribution in the amount of $20,933,114 pertaining to the 2023 plan year, was funded on March 1, 2024. All contributions are subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution; Company-matching and quarterly contributions; and allocations of (a) the Company's discretionary contribution, if any, (b) plan earnings/losses, and (c) forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts; and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant

1. Plan Description (continued)

earnings or account balances or compensation, 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 own contributions, matching contributions, and quarterly contributions, plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's discretionary contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant vests 20% per year of service and is 100% vested after five years of credited service.

Investment Options

Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct employee and Company 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.

Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their own contributions. Loans are not taken from the matching contribution, quarterly contribution, or discretionary contribution account balances. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates equal to the prime rate as published in *The Wall Street Journal* on the first business day of the month in which the loan is requested. At December 31, 2023, the rates ranged from 3.25% to 9.50%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. If a participant terminated employment, he or she may continue to make loan payments by personal check or other methods.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's administrative expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the Plan's provisions. Administrative expenses paid by the Plan include recordkeeping and trustee fees. Expenses relating to purchases, sales, or transfers of the Plan's investments are charged to the particular investment fund to which the expenses relate. All other administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements.

1. Plan Description (continued)

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability, termination, or retirement, a participant, or his or her beneficiary, may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, a partial distribution, or systematic withdrawal payments in accordance with the Plan document. For accounts transferred related to a previous plan merger, the normal form of payment is a life annuity. In addition, in-service withdrawals and hardship distributions are permitted if certain criteria are met.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled $1,672,221 and $1,361,160, respectively. All forfeited non-vested accounts were reallocated to participants in the same manner as Company contributions.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). See Note 4 for further discussion and disclosures related to fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded as earned. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation/depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes and supplemental schedule. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

3. Investments

Certain investment information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held, and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation/depreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income from notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained or derived from information provided to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity), the trustee of the Plan.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). The fair value hierarchy 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 and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurement,* are described below:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets.
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active.
- Observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the assets or liabilities (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals).
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest-level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following is a description of the valuation techniques and inputs used for each general type of asset measured at fair value by the Plan:

Common/collective trusts: This category consists of one common/collective trust fund. The Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II is designed to deliver safety and stability by preserving principal and accumulating earnings. This fund is primarily invested in guaranteed investment contracts and synthetic investment contracts. Participant-directed redemptions have no restrictions; however, the Plan is required to provide a one-year redemption notice to liquidate its entire share in the fund. The common/collective trust is valued at the net asset value (NAV) of the units, which is based on the fair value of the underlying assets held by the fund less its liabilities. Since the NAV is the basis for current transactions, readily available to current investors and participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily, the Plan determined that this fund has a readily determined fair value and has met the criteria to be classified as a Level 1 investment.

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Registered investment companies: This category consists of mutual funds which are valued at quoted market prices in active markets, which represent the NAV of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The Plan determined that the fair value for the registered investment companies meets the criteria to be classified as Level 1 investments.

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

	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Registered investment companies	**$ 936,147,790**	**$ –**	**$ –**	**$ 936,147,790**
Common/collective trust funds	**48,741,677**	**–**	**–**	**48,741,677**
Total assets at fair value				**$ 984,889,467**

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

	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Registered investment companies	$ 765,113,674	$ –	$ –	$ 765,113,674
Common/collective trust funds	61,607,475	–	–	61,607,475
Total assets at fair value				$ 826,721,149

5. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Fidelity provides certain recordkeeping services to the Plan pursuant to a Trust Agreement between Fidelity and the Company.

In situations where the recordkeeping revenue earned in connection with plan services exceeds agreed-upon compensation, Fidelity can deposit excess revenue, regardless of source, in a suspense account in the Plan. The plan administrator can direct Fidelity to pay ERISA-qualified expenses or allocate unused credits to eligible participants. The Company has elected to use the excess revenue to pay certain administrative expenses for 2023.

Certain of the Plan's investments are units of a common/collective trust and shares of registered investment companies managed by Fidelity, the trustee of the Plan. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules under ERISA. Administrative fees paid to Fidelity during 2023 were $295,674.

5. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions (continued)

Certain employees of the Company provide administrative services for the Plan and are not reimbursed for their services from the Plan. Certain other administrative expenses are paid by the Company on behalf of the Plan.

6. Plan Termination

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

7. Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated September 29, 2016, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code, and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Subsequent to this determination by the IRS, the Plan was amended and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended and restated, is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require 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 by the IRS. Plan management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions. There are no audits in progress.

8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market volatility, 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.

9. Subsequent Events

Management evaluated subsequent events for the Plan through October 10th, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Supplemental Schedule

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 36-0700810 Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment, Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Shares/ Units	Current Value
Common/collective trusts:			
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II Class 2	48,741,677	$ 48,741,677
Registered investment companies:			
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index Retirement Fund Institutional Shares	2,374,098	31,433,056
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2025 Fund Institutional Shares	5,247,962	78,299,593
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2030 Fund Institutional Shares	6,110,284	98,253,364
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund Institutional Shares	3,814,117	66,594,478
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2040 Fund Institutional Shares	2,883,109	53,654,661
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2045 Fund Institutional Shares	2,596,604	51,542,580
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2050 Fund Institutional Shares	1,957,909	40,313,344
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2055 Fund Institutional Shares	1,931,527	40,929,059
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2060 Fund Institutional Shares	995,801	18,830,598
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2065 Fund Institutional Shares	711,702	9,458,516
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Growth Company Fund Class K	5,276,467	169,321,814
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	1,732,009	1,732,009
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	591,294	97,853,259
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	417,039	12,490,316
Invesco Ltd.	Invesco Developing Markets Fund Class R6	153,244	5,910,631
American Century Investment Management, Inc.	American Century Mid Cap Value Fund R6 Class	2,339,804	36,407,353
MFS Investment Management	MFS International Diversification Fund Class R6	897,161	19,934,927
Boston Partners Global Investors, Inc.	BP All Cap Value Fund Institutional Class	1,129,807	34,210,549
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.	T. Rowe Price Institutional Small-Cap Stock Fund	540,497	14,393,433
Vanguard Group, Inc.	Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund Admiral Shares	23,623	2,956,425
Vanguard Group, Inc.	Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Admiral Shares	139,229	6,206,819
Carillon Tower Advisers, Inc.	Carillon Reams Core Plus Bond Fund Class I	501,412	15,077,465
J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc.	JPMorgan High Yield R6	1,267,915	8,152,694
MML Investment Advisers, LLC	MassMutual Mid Cap Growth Fund Class I	251,916	4,987,938
BlackRock Investments, LLC	BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfolio Institutional Shares	1,824,275	17,202,909
			936,147,790
Participants*	Participant notes receivable (interest rates range from 3.25% to 9.50% with varying maturities)		15,464,543
			$ 1,000,354,010

*Indicates a party-in-interest.

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan
December 31, 2023 and 2022, and Year Ended December 31, 2023
With Report of Independent Auditors

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

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

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Building a better working world

Report of Independent Auditors

The Benefits Committee

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

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

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

Opinion

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

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

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

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

Other Matter

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, (referred to as the "supplemental schedule"), is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with 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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion

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

Ernst & Young LLP

October 10, 2024

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31	
	2023	**2022**
Assets		
Common/collective trusts	**$ 48,741,677**	$ 61,607,475
Registered investment companies	**936,147,790**	765,113,674
Total investments at fair value	**984,889,467**	826,721,149
Receivables		
Company contribution	**25,552,371**	28,332,577
Notes receivable from participants	**15,464,543**	13,150,178
Total receivables	**41,016,914**	41,482,755
Net assets available for benefits	**$ 1,025,906,381**	$ 868,203,904

See accompanying notes.

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year ended December 31, 2023

Additions	
Interest and dividends	$ 29,757,433
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	474,146
Other income	279,685
	30,511,264
Contributions:	
Company	43,920,680
Participants	33,642,099
Rollovers	3,227,590
	80,790,369
Total additions	111,301,633
Deductions	
Benefits paid directly to participants	(85,485,755)
Administrative expenses	(295,674)
Total deductions	(85,781,429)
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	132,392,075
Net increase before transfers	157,912,279
Transfer to other qualified plan	(209,802)
Net increase	157,702,477
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	868,203,904
End of year	$ 1,025,906,381

See accompanying notes.

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

1. Plan Description

The following brief description of the Ace Hardware Corporation (the Company) 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering employees who are not covered under a negotiated benefit program. Leased employees are not eligible to participate in the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). In general, all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively decline to participate.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 75% of annual compensation on a pretax and/or Roth after-tax basis, as defined by the Plan. If automatically enrolled, a participant's deferral is set at 4% of compensation until changed by the participant. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Company makes a matching contribution to the Plan of 25% up to the first 4% of a participant's eligible compensation. Employees must complete 90 days of service to be eligible for employee contributions and Company matching. The Company makes contributions each quarter equal to a percentage of the participant's pay, as defined by the Plan. Employees must complete 1,000 hours of service within 12 months and complete one year of eligible service to be eligible for quarterly contributions. The Company may also make an annual discretionary contribution to the Plan. Employees must complete 1,000 hours of service and be employed on December 31 to be eligible for discretionary contributions, with an exception for death and official retirement. A discretionary contribution in the amount of $20,933,114 pertaining to the 2023 plan year, was funded on March 1, 2024. All contributions are subject to limitations of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution; Company-matching and quarterly contributions; and allocations of (a) the Company's discretionary contribution, if any, (b) plan earnings/losses, and (c) forfeitures of terminated participants' non-vested accounts; and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant

1. Plan Description (continued)

earnings or account balances or compensation, 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 own contributions, matching contributions, and quarterly contributions, plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's discretionary contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant vests 20% per year of service and is 100% vested after five years of credited service.

Investment Options

Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct employee and Company 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.

Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of their own contributions. Loans are not taken from the matching contribution, quarterly contribution, or discretionary contribution account balances. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates equal to the prime rate as published in *The Wall Street Journal* on the first business day of the month in which the loan is requested. At December 31, 2023, the rates ranged from 3.25% to 9.50%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. If a participant terminated employment, he or she may continue to make loan payments by personal check or other methods.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's administrative expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the Plan's provisions. Administrative expenses paid by the Plan include recordkeeping and trustee fees. Expenses relating to purchases, sales, or transfers of the Plan's investments are charged to the particular investment fund to which the expenses relate. All other administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements.

1. Plan Description (continued)

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability, termination, or retirement, a participant, or his or her beneficiary, may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, a partial distribution, or systematic withdrawal payments in accordance with the Plan document. For accounts transferred related to a previous plan merger, the normal form of payment is a life annuity. In addition, in-service withdrawals and hardship distributions are permitted if certain criteria are met.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled $1,672,221 and $1,361,160, respectively. All forfeited non-vested accounts were reallocated to participants in the same manner as Company contributions.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments held by the Plan are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). See Note 4 for further discussion and disclosures related to fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded as earned. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation/depreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes and supplemental schedule. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

3. Investments

Certain investment information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule, including investments held, and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation/depreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income from notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained or derived from information provided to the plan administrator and certified as complete and accurate by Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity), the trustee of the Plan.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). The fair value hierarchy 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 and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Accounting Standards Codification 820, *Fair Value Measurement,* are described below:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible to the reporting entity at the measurement date for identical assets and liabilities.

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full term of the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include the following:

- Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets.
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active.
- Observable inputs other than quoted prices that are used in the valuation of the assets or liabilities (e.g., interest rate and yield curve quotes at commonly quoted intervals).
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability (i.e., supported by little or no market activity). Level 3 inputs include management's own assumption about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (including assumptions about risk).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is classified is determined based on the lowest-level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following is a description of the valuation techniques and inputs used for each general type of asset measured at fair value by the Plan:

Common/collective trusts: This category consists of one common/collective trust fund. The Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II is designed to deliver safety and stability by preserving principal and accumulating earnings. This fund is primarily invested in guaranteed investment contracts and synthetic investment contracts. Participant-directed redemptions have no restrictions; however, the Plan is required to provide a one-year redemption notice to liquidate its entire share in the fund. The common/collective trust is valued at the net asset value (NAV) of the units, which is based on the fair value of the underlying assets held by the fund less its liabilities. Since the NAV is the basis for current transactions, readily available to current investors and participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily, the Plan determined that this fund has a readily determined fair value and has met the criteria to be classified as a Level 1 investment.

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Registered investment companies: This category consists of mutual funds which are valued at quoted market prices in active markets, which represent the NAV of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The Plan determined that the fair value for the registered investment companies meets the criteria to be classified as Level 1 investments.

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

	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Registered investment companies	**$ 936,147,790**	**$ –**	**$ –**	**$ 936,147,790**
Common/collective trust funds	**48,741,677**	**–**	**–**	**48,741,677**
Total assets at fair value				**$ 984,889,467**

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

	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Registered investment companies	$ 765,113,674	$ –	$ –	$ 765,113,674
Common/collective trust funds	61,607,475	–	–	61,607,475
Total assets at fair value				$ 826,721,149

5. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Fidelity provides certain recordkeeping services to the Plan pursuant to a Trust Agreement between Fidelity and the Company.

In situations where the recordkeeping revenue earned in connection with plan services exceeds agreed-upon compensation, Fidelity can deposit excess revenue, regardless of source, in a suspense account in the Plan. The plan administrator can direct Fidelity to pay ERISA-qualified expenses or allocate unused credits to eligible participants. The Company has elected to use the excess revenue to pay certain administrative expenses for 2023.

Certain of the Plan's investments are units of a common/collective trust and shares of registered investment companies managed by Fidelity, the trustee of the Plan. These transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules under ERISA. Administrative fees paid to Fidelity during 2023 were $295,674.

5. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions (continued)

Certain employees of the Company provide administrative services for the Plan and are not reimbursed for their services from the Plan. Certain other administrative expenses are paid by the Company on behalf of the Plan.

6. Plan Termination

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

7. Tax Status

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated September 29, 2016, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code, and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Subsequent to this determination by the IRS, the Plan was amended and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualified status. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended and restated, is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require 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 by the IRS. Plan management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions. There are no audits in progress.

8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market volatility, 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.

9. Subsequent Events

Management evaluated subsequent events for the Plan through October 10th, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Supplemental Schedule

Ace Hardware Corporation 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan

Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 36-0700810 Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment, Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Shares/ Units	Current Value
Common/collective trusts:			
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio II Class 2	48,741,677	$ 48,741,677
Registered investment companies:			
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index Retirement Fund Institutional Shares	2,374,098	31,433,056
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2025 Fund Institutional Shares	5,247,962	78,299,593
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2030 Fund Institutional Shares	6,110,284	98,253,364
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund Institutional Shares	3,814,117	66,594,478
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2040 Fund Institutional Shares	2,883,109	53,654,661
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2045 Fund Institutional Shares	2,596,604	51,542,580
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2050 Fund Institutional Shares	1,957,909	40,313,344
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2055 Fund Institutional Shares	1,931,527	40,929,059
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2060 Fund Institutional Shares	995,801	18,830,598
BlackRock Institutional Trust Company	BlackRock LifePath Index 2065 Fund Institutional Shares	711,702	9,458,516
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Growth Company Fund Class K	5,276,467	169,321,814
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Government Money Market Fund	1,732,009	1,732,009
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	591,294	97,853,259
Fidelity Management Trust Company*	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	417,039	12,490,316
Invesco Ltd.	Invesco Developing Markets Fund Class R6	153,244	5,910,631
American Century Investment Management, Inc.	American Century Mid Cap Value Fund R6 Class	2,339,804	36,407,353
MFS Investment Management	MFS International Diversification Fund Class R6	897,161	19,934,927
Boston Partners Global Investors, Inc.	BP All Cap Value Fund Institutional Class	1,129,807	34,210,549
T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc.	T. Rowe Price Institutional Small-Cap Stock Fund	540,497	14,393,433
Vanguard Group, Inc.	Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund Admiral Shares	23,623	2,956,425
Vanguard Group, Inc.	Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Admiral Shares	139,229	6,206,819
Carillon Tower Advisers, Inc.	Carillon Reams Core Plus Bond Fund Class I	501,412	15,077,465
J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc.	JPMorgan High Yield R6	1,267,915	8,152,694
MML Investment Advisers, LLC	MassMutual Mid Cap Growth Fund Class I	251,916	4,987,938
BlackRock Investments, LLC	BlackRock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfolio Institutional Shares	1,824,275	17,202,909
			936,147,790
Participants*	Participant notes receivable (interest rates range from 3.25% to 9.50% with varying maturities)		15,464,543
			$ 1,000,354,010

*Indicates a party-in-interest.