

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information	
1a	Name of plan ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 004
		1c Effective date of plan 09/01/1996
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) ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 39 EAST CANAL STREET NELSONVILLE, OH 45764	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-1364046
		2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 740-753-9100
		2d Business code (see instructions) 316210

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	KELLEY KING
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2024	TOM ROBERTSON
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 727
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 578 6a(2) 471 6b 0 6c 205 6d 676 6e 2 6f 678 6g(1) 723 6g(2) 658 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

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

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

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

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

b General Schedules

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

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

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

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ROCKY BRANDS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-1364046	

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

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

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

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

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO. INC. AND AFFIL
94-1737782

(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)

SCHWAB RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES INC

34-1479833

(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?
15 26 50 64	NONE	73398	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

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

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

94-1737782

(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?
33 50 62 71	NONE	573	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

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

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

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

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

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

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

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

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

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

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

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan <u>ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>004</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ROCKY BRANDS, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-1364046</u>	

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)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2010</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-011</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>49316</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2015</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-012</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>45534</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2020</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-013</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>462839</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2025</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-014</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1813703</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2030</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-015</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1407582</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2035</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-016</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>2470716</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>Schwab Indexed Ret Tr Fund 2040</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>Charles Schwab Trust Bank</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>81-0625169-017</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1719247</u>

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCHWAB INDEXED RET TR FUND 2045

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CHARLES SCHWAB BANK

c EIN-PN 81-0625169-018	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2642984
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCHWAB INDEXED RET TR FUND 2050

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK

c EIN-PN 81-0625169-019	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 881929
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCHWAB INDEXED RET TR FUND 2055

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK

c EIN-PN 81-0625169-021	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1393394
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCHWAB INDEXED RET TR FUND 2060

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK

c EIN-PN 81-0625169-023	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 633815
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCHWAB INDEXED RET TR FUND 2065

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CHARLES SCHWAB TRUST BANK

c EIN-PN 81-0625169-025	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 193094
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**

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

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

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

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ROCKY BRANDS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-1364046	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	32257	2267
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	369	92
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	3805885	3393723
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	771920	772160
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	13041566	13714153
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	20049523	21690316
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)	323806	350870

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	38025326	39923581
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k		
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	38025326	39923581

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)	1481355	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	2390087	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	17321	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		3888763
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	69084	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	37535	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		106619
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	475161	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		475161
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		2156834
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		3442065
c Other income	2c		-37208
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		10032234

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	8060581	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		8060581
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	59281	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	14117	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		73398
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		8133979

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1898255
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

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

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

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

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

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

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

(1) Name: **GBQ PARTNERS**

(2) EIN: **20-2122306**

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

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

Part IV Compliance Questions

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

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		2000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

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

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	004
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ROCKY BRANDS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-1364046	

Part I	Distributions
--------	---------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 82-3967259		
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
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
---	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

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

10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

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

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):	
a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%	
b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.	
a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:	
☐ Yes.	
☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☒ Design-based safe harbor method	
☐ "Prior year" ADP test	
☐ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>09 / 21 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q704158A</u> .	

• **Financial Statements**
• with Supplementary Information

• **Rocky Brands, Inc.**
• **401(k) Plan and Trust**

• December 31, 2023 and 2022



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To the Administrative Committee
Rocky Brands, Inc. 401(K) Plan and Trust
Columbus, Ohio

Independent Auditor's Report

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of the Rocky Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan and Trust (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). 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 (qualified institution), provided that the investment information is prepared and certified to by the qualified institution in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

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

Opinion

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

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP); and
- the certified investment information in the accompanying financial statements agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by a qualified 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 GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

Management is responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments. Management is also responsible for 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 GAAP.

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

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

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the 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 their form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

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

GBQ Partners LLC

Columbus, Ohio
October 10, 2024

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

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



	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,393,723	\$ 3,805,885
Investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	21,690,316	20,049,523
Common collective trusts	14,065,023	13,365,372
Total investments	35,755,339	33,414,895
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	772,160	771,920
Participants contribution receivable	2,267	32,257
Employer contribution receivable	92	369
Total receivables	774,519	804,546
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 39,923,581	\$ 38,025,326

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

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Additions to Net Assets Attributed to		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 5,561,691	\$ -
Interest and dividends on investments	544,245	226,926
	<u>6,105,936</u>	<u>226,926</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	37,535	24,736
Contributions:		
Participants	2,390,087	2,688,038
Employer	1,481,355	1,664,425
Rollovers	17,321	291,872
Total additions	<u>10,032,234</u>	<u>4,895,997</u>
Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to		
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	-	7,012,395
Distributions to participants or beneficiaries	8,060,581	2,132,819
Administrative expenses	73,398	80,611
Total deductions	<u>8,133,979</u>	<u>9,225,825</u>
Net increase (decrease)	1,898,255	(4,329,828)
Net Assets Available for Benefits		
Beginning of year	38,025,326	42,355,154
End of year	<u>\$ 39,923,581</u>	<u>\$ 38,025,326</u>

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

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Plan Description

The following description of the Rocky Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan and Trust (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering employees who are not union employees, independent contractors, based in Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic, non-residents of the United States or territories of the United States and part-time employees who have completed less than a 12-month period of service. Employees are eligible for participation in the Plan after completing six months of full-time service and after having attained the age of 21 the Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 75% of earned compensation as before-tax or after-tax Roth contributions, as defined by the Plan. 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 plans (rollovers). The Plan provides for automatic enrollment of eligible participants at a deferral rate of 4% of eligible compensation, unless the participant affirmatively elects otherwise. Rollover contributions are not eligible for the employer match or discretionary match.

The Company makes ADP Safe Harbor contributions of 100% of the first 3% of compensation of all eligible participants. Additionally, the Company may make ACP Safe Harbor discretionary matching contributions of 25% of participant contributions up to 4% of the participant's eligible compensation.

The Plan allows for a safe-harbor discretionary contribution (employer contribution) and a matching contribution by the Company. The amount and percentage of the contribution is determined by the Company, subject to certain maximum contribution levels as set forth in the plan agreement. Matching contributions are made on eligible participant's salary deferrals. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company matched 25 cents for every dollar contributed up to 4% of the participant's eligible compensation.

Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is comprised of the participant's contributions and allocations of (a) the Company's contributions, (b) Plan earnings and (c) charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined in the plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Plan Description (continued)

Vesting

Participant are immediately vested in their contributions and employer contributions, plus actual earnings thereon.

Investment Options

A participant may direct Company and participant contributions in any of the various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may change their investment options at any time. The Plan currently offers several mutual funds and there is an option to open a self-directed brokerage account, Personal Choice Retirement Account (PCRA), to invest in additional common stock and mutual funds. The PCRA has no establishment or annual maintenance fee.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser 50% of the participant's vested account balance or \$50,000. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates commensurate with prime. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Loan repayment terms are not to exceed five years, unless the loan will be used by the participant to acquire the participant's principal residence.

Payment of Benefits

A participant may receive the value of his or her vested account upon retirement, disability or termination. Upon death of a participant, the beneficiary shall be entitled to the full value of the account. Distributions are made in either a lump-sum or equal installments not to exceed the life expectancy of the participant. Hardship withdrawals, as defined in the Plan, are also available to participants.

Forfeited Accounts

There were no forfeitures in the plan as of December 31, 2023 or 2022. These accounts will be used to reduce employer contributions, added to other employer contributions, or reallocated, as elected by the employer. No forfeitures were used during 2023 or 2022.

SECURE Act 2.0

On December 23, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which included SECURE Act 2.0. SECURE Act 2.0 contains over 90 new retirement provisions, with varying effective dates through 2027. Since SECURE Act 2.0 provisions include both required and optional elements, the plan administrator will determine the optional provisions to elect and amend the Plan document accordingly. Most of the significant provisions will become effective in 2024 and thereafter. Accordingly, there is no material impact to the Plan's 2023 and 2022 financial statements.

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

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

Use of Estimates

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

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

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 or 2022. Delinquent participant loans are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the plan document.

Contributions

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

Payments of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan's administrative expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Company, as provided by the plan agreement.

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Information Prepared and Certified by Trustee

The following information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule was obtained from data that has been prepared and certified to as complete and accurate by Charles Schwab Trust Bank (Schwab), the trustee of the plan.

	2023	2022
Mutual funds	\$ 21,690,316	\$ 20,049,523
Common collective trusts	14,065,023	13,365,372
Cash and cash equivalents	3,393,723	3,805,885
Notes receivable from participants	772,160	771,920
Total	\$ 39,921,222	\$ 37,992,700

The trustee also certified to the completeness and accuracy of the following related to the aforementioned assets for the years ended December 31:

	2023	2022
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 5,561,691	\$ (7,012,395)
Interest and dividend income on investments	544,245	226,926
Interest income on notes receivable	37,535	24,736

Fair Value Measurements

U.S. GAAP established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to measure the fair value of the assets or liabilities being measured. Fair value is defined as the exchange value that would be received on the measurement date to sell an asset or to value the amount paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market available to the entity in an orderly transaction between market participants. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 inputs provide the most reliable measure of fair value as of the measurement date.
- Level 2 Inputs are based on significant observable inputs, including unadjusted quoted market prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable for the asset or liability.

The level of the fair value hierarchy within which a fair value measurement in its entirety falls is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

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

Mutual Funds: Valued based on the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

*Common
Collective
Trusts:*

Valued at the NAV provided by the administrator of the fund. Issues and redemptions of units are recorded upon receipt of unit holder's instructions based on the determined NAV per unit, which is determined daily. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. For this fund, there are no unfunded commitments, redemption restrictions, and participants can transact daily.

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

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

Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 21,690,316	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,690,316
Investments measured at net asset value*	-	-	-	14,065,023
Total assets at fair value	\$ 21,690,316	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,755,339

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Fair Value Measurements (continued)

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 20,049,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,049,523
Investments measured at net asset value*	-	-	-	13,365,372
Total assets at fair value	\$ 20,049,523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,414,895

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

Plan Termination

The Company has the right to discontinue its contributions at any time. Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company also has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, the participants' accounts will become fully vested.

Tax Status

The Plan has adopted a non-standardized pre-approved profit sharing plan with cash or deferred arrangements (CODA), which obtained its latest prototype opinion letter on September 21, 2020, in which the IRS stated that the plan document, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Company is relying on the plan's IRS opinion letter. The Company believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022



Party-in-Interest Transactions

Parties-in-interest are defined under Department of Labor Regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain others. The Plan paid administrative fees to Schwab for services rendered which amounted to \$73,397, and \$80,611 during 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the accompanying 2023 statement of net assets available for benefits.

Subsequent Events – Date of Management Evaluation

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the Independent Auditor's Report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

ROCKY BRANDS, INC. 401(k) PLAN AND TRUST

EIN #31-1364046 PLAN #004

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

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value
	Cash and Cash Equivalents			
*	Charles Schwab Bank	Schwab Bank Savings	**	\$ 3,393,723
	Mutual Funds:			
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INTERNATIONAL INDEX FD	**	4,539,892
	Vanguard	GROWTH INDEX ADMIRAL	**	3,001,759
*	Charles Schwab Bank	FDM TL US LG CO IDX	**	2,404,557
*	Charles Schwab Bank	S&P 500 INDEX FUND	**	1,974,206
	Vanguard	VALUE INDEX ADM	**	1,289,665
	Metropolitan West	WEST TTL RTN BD P	**	121,132
	Vanguard	MID CAP VALUE IDX ADM	**	1,175,019
	Vanguard	ST CORP BD IDX ADM	**	1,083,572
	Mass Mutual	SLCT MID CAP GRTH I	**	1,004,690
	Vanguard	MID CAP INDEX ADMIRAL	**	637,875
*	Charles Schwab Bank	TOTAL STK MARKET INDEX	**	646,571
	Vanguard	SM CAP VAL INDEX ADM	**	473,919
	Vanguard	SMALL CAP GRTH INDEX	**	583,086
	Europacific	GROWTH R6	**	607,308
*	Charles Schwab Bank	SMALL-CAP INDEX FUND	**	448,516
*	Charles Schwab Bank	TREAS INFL PRO SECS IDX	**	325,906
	Vanguard	REAL ESTATE INDEX ADM	**	226,381
	Vanguard	FTSE ALL WORLD US	**	54,262
	Common Collective Trusts:			
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2025 I	**	1813,703
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2030 I	**	1,407,582
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2045 I	**	2,642,985
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2035 I	**	2,470,716
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2040 I	**	1,719,247
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2055 I	**	1,393,394
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2050 I	**	881,929
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2020 I	**	462,839
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2060 I	**	633,815
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2065 I	**	193,094
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2010 I	**	49,316
*	Charles Schwab Bank	INDEXED RET 2015 I	**	45,534
	Self-Directed Accounts:			
*	Charles Schwab Bank	Personal Choice Retirement Account	**	350,869
*	Notes Receivable from Participants	Notes receivable from participants bearing interest at 3.25% to 8.50% with various maturity dates through 2029.	**	772,160
	Total			\$ 39,921,222

* Party involved is a party-in-interest to the Plan.

** Cost information has been excluded in accordance with Form 5500 instructions, as all investments are participant directed.

Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

NAME OF PLAN SPONSOR:	Rocky Brands, Inc.
NAME OF PLAN:	Rocky Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan and Trust
EIN:	31-1364046
PLAN NUMBER:	004

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	PARTICIPANT LOANS	Loans (3.25% - 7.50%)		771,920
*	SCHWAB BANK SAVINGS	Money Market / Cash Equivalent		3,805,885
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2010 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		41,975
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2015 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		39,172
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2020 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		707,662
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2025 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		2,562,672
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2030 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		2,273,770
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2035 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		2,006,802
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2040 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		1,271,326
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2045 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		2,010,625
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2050 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		716,861
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2055 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		921,061
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2060 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		402,167
*	SCHWAB INDEXED RET 2065 I	Common Collective Trust Fund		87,473
	PCRA	Self-Directed Brokerage Account		323,806
	EUROPACIFIC GROWTH R6	Registered Investment Company		427,695
	MASSMUTUAL SLCT MID CAP GRTH I	Registered Investment Company		816,420
	METROPOLITAN WEST TTL RTN BD P	Registered Investment Company		1,242,917
	SCH TREAS INFL PRO SECS IDX	Registered Investment Company		370,681
*	SCHWAB FDMTL US LG CO IDX	Registered Investment Company		2,180,357
*	SCHWAB INTERNATIONAL INDEX FD	Registered Investment Company		4,121,699
*	SCHWAB S&P 500 INDEX FUND	Registered Investment Company		1,865,331
*	SCHWAB SMALL-CAP INDEX FUND	Registered Investment Company		375,801
*	SCHWAB TOTAL STK MARKET INDEX	Registered Investment Company		491,324
	VANGUARD FTSE ALL WORLD US	Registered Investment Company		17,280
	VANGUARD GROWTH INDEX ADMIRAL	Registered Investment Company		2,628,176
	VANGUARD MID CAP INDEX ADMIRAL	Registered Investment Company		622,624
	VANGUARD MID CAP VALUE IDX ADM	Registered Investment Company		1,224,591
	VANGUARD REAL ESTATE INDEX ADM	Registered Investment Company		247,895
	VANGUARD SM CAP VAL INDEX ADM	Registered Investment Company		438,814
	VANGUARD SMALL CAP GRTH INDEX	Registered Investment Company		431,443
	VANGUARD ST CORP BD IDX ADM	Registered Investment Company		1,125,411
	VANGUARD VALUE INDEX ADM	Registered Investment Company		1,421,064

* Party-in-interest