

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) HURRICANE MILTON
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 AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 06/01/2001
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) AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY 8669 NW 36TH STREET #130 MIAMI, FL 33166
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-0434890
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 305-443-9353
2d	Business code (see instructions) 813000

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.	10/22/2024	TATIANA MILAN
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 199
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) 140 6a(2) 155 6b 9 6c 52 6d 216 6e 6f 216 6g(1) 197 6g(2) 215 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:
 2G 2L 2M 2E 2F 2S 3D

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 1
- (4) ☐ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

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

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-0434890	

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

(a) Name of insurance carrier
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
41-0823832	65005	15936678		01/01/2023	12/31/2023

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

(a) Total amount of commissions paid 3165	(b) Total amount of fees paid
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
BARRY BROSIUS
9350 S DIXIE HWY SUITE 1220
MIAMI, FL 33156-2945

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
3165			3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

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

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	1805760

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

Specify nature of costs ▶

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

(2) Dividends and credits

7c(2)

(3) Interest credited during the year

7c(3)

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

7c(4)

(5) Other (specify below)

7c(5)

▶

(6) Total additions.....

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

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

7e(1)

(2) Administration charge made by carrier

7e(2)

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

7e(3)

(4) Other (specify below)

7e(4)

▶

(5) Total deductions.....

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

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

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

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

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

9 Experience-rated contracts:

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

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

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

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

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

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

SCHEDULE 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 AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-0434890	

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)	125	
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	108715	4241
(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)	207346	254906
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	17222403	20345154
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	17538589	20604301
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	17538589	20604301

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)	795926	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	847471	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	209796	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	1211	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1854404
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	4055	
(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)	17772	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		21827
(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)	619331	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		619331
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		2438947
c Other income	2c		-4761
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		4929748

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1823488	
(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)		1823488
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)	31071	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	9447	
(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)	30	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		40548
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1864036

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		3065712
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: **BDO USA PC**

(2) EIN: **13-5381590**

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.)	☒	☐	407800
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

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

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

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

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

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

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

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-0434890	

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

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): _____ Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

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

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

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

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

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

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

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for: a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment) b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment) c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14a 14b 14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	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
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b): a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____% b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20. a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box: ☐ Yes. ☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No 21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2). ☐ Design-based safe harbor method ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☒ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>03 / 31 / 2017</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>J500786A</u> .	

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

**Financial Statements and
ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules**
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and
for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Financial Statements and ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and
for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

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Note: Other schedules required by Section 2520.103.10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator
American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan
Miami, Florida

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

We were engaged to perform audits of the financial statements of American Welding Society 403(b) 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). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of 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 qualified institutions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the Plan. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

Prior to January 1, 2009, records were maintained at a contract, not a plan level; therefore, management has not maintained, and Newport Trust Company, Fidelity Management Trust Company, and Ameriprise Trust Company did not provide, sufficient accounting records and supporting documentation relating to certain annuity contracts and custodial accounts issued to current and former employees, and supporting documentation is not adequate to assure the completeness and accuracy of the amounts included in the financial statements. Accordingly, we were unable to apply auditing procedures sufficient to determine the extent to which the financial statements have been affected by these conditions.



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 (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

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the Plan's financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and to issue an auditor's report. However, because of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on these financial statements.

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.

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules of Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023 and Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions for the year ended December 31, 2023, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are 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. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* section of our report, it is inappropriate to and we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedules referred to above.

BDO USA, P.C.

Miami, Florida
October 15, 2024

Financial Statements

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

<i>December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments:		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 20,349,395	\$ 17,331,118
Total Investments	20,349,395	17,331,118
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	-	125
Notes receivable from participants	254,906	207,346
Total Receivables	254,906	207,471
Total Assets	20,604,301	17,538,589
Net Assets Available for Benefits	\$ 20,604,301	\$ 17,538,589

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

<i>Year ended December 31,</i>		2023
Additions		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$	2,434,186
Interest and dividend income		623,386
Total Investment Income		3,057,572
Interest income on notes receivable from participants		17,772
Contributions:		
Employer		795,926
Participant		847,471
Rollover		211,007
Total Contributions		1,854,404
Total Additions		4,929,748
Deductions		
Benefits paid to participants		1,823,488
Administrative expenses		40,548
Total Deductions		1,864,036
Net Increase		3,065,712
Net Assets Available for Benefits, beginning of year		17,538,589
Net Assets Available for Benefits, end of year	\$	20,604,301

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the comprehensive Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and covers all employees of American Welding Society (the Organization or Employer) except for employees scheduled less than 20 hours per week (part-time). Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan immediately, following commencement of employment, as defined in the Plan document. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

The Plan was amended in July 2022 to include all employees of AWS Foundation Incorporated.

Custodians and Administration of the Plan

The custodians and recordkeepers of the Plan are Newport Trust Company (Newport) which was acquired by Ascensus Trust Company (Ascensus) in November 2023, Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity), and Ameriprise Trust Company (Ameriprise) (collectively, the Custodians). The administrator of the Plan is the Organization. The custodians hold all assets of the Plan in accordance with the service provider contracts with the Organization. The Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance. Effective September 2019, Newport became the only custodian to continue receiving contributions until it was acquired by Ascensus at which point Ascensus became the only custodian to receive contributions.

Eligibility

There is no age requirement to enter the Plan. Additionally, the participant (except those that are part-time) must complete one hour of service to participate in the Plan.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 100% of eligible compensation, as defined in the Plan. Salary deferral agreements shall be made, terminated, or changed according to procedures and limitations set up by the Plan Administrator and the Plan Document.

The Plan also allows for Roth and/or after-tax contributions. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions.

The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 4% of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a designated balanced fund until changed by the participant. Automatic enrollment deferral contributions are increased by 1% each year subsequent to enrollment up to 10%.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans (rollover).

The Organization may make a safe-harbor matching contribution for any elective deferral. The safe-harbor matching contribution is 100% of participant contributions up to 4% of eligible compensation.

The Organization may make a discretionary employer matching contribution as a percent of eligible compensation deferred by participants. During 2022, the Organization matched 4% of participant eligible compensation. The Organization ceased the discretionary matching contribution in September 2022 until March 2023 when the Organization reinstated the discretionary matching contribution and matched 4% of participant eligible compensation.

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

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, employer contributions, and an allocation of net Plan earnings or losses. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which participants are entitled is the vested portion of their accounts.

Vesting

Participants are 100% vested in their individual deferrals, Roth, after-tax, rollover, safe-harbor matching, and discretionary Employer contributions and the allocated earnings thereon.

Payment of Benefits

A participant's entire interest in the Plan is payable upon death, attainment of normal retirement age, becoming disabled, as defined, or termination of service. A participant may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the vested portion of the participant's account, or annual installments. Participants may elect to rollover their vested balance to another qualified retirement plan or IRA.

Immediate lump-sum distributions may be made to terminated participants if the participant's vested account balance is \$5,000 or less. Participants may elect to rollover their vested balance to another qualified retirement plan or IRA.

Withdrawals from the Plan may also be made upon circumstances of financial hardship, in accordance with provisions specified in the Plan.

Participants may also withdraw an amount at age 59½ if certain criteria are met.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants are permitted to borrow a minimum of \$1,000 of their vested benefits under the Plan. Participants may borrow up to a maximum equal to the lesser of 50% of their vested account balance

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

or \$50,000, reduced by the highest outstanding loan balance in their account during the prior 12-month period. Loans are secured by the participant's account and bear an interest rate at the prime rate plus 2% and is fixed for the term of the loan. The notes are repaid ratably through payroll deductions over a period of five years or less, unless used to purchase a principal residence up to 10 years. These loans are subject to certain restrictions as defined by the Plan Document and applicable restrictions under the IRC.

Also, each participant may not have more than one loan outstanding at any time.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

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

Annual Reporting Requirements

Prior to January 1, 2009, Newport, Fidelity, and Ameriprise maintained records at a contract level, not Plan level, and administratively decided not to provide accounting records and supporting documentation at the participant or plan level relating to certain annuity and custodial accounts issued to current and former employees. As such, neither the Plan sponsor nor Newport, Fidelity, or Ameriprise have been able to produce sufficient records and supporting documents relating to certain annuity and custodial accounts issued to current and former employees prior to January 1, 2009. As a result, the completeness and the accuracy of the annuity and custodial accounts, related investment income, and distributions related to these accounts, if any, could not be determined.

Use of Estimates

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

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated 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. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by its investment advisers and custodians. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

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 in the fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Contributions Receivable

Participant contributions and any related employer contributions are recognized in the period during which the Organization makes the respective payroll deduction from the participant's compensation.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued unpaid interest. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced, and a benefit payment is recorded.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Organization. Expenses that are paid by the Organization are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to participant-initiated transactions are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

3. Certified Investment Information

Certain information related to investments and notes receivable from participants disclosed in the accompanying financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedules, including investments and notes receivable from participants held at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends, and interest income on notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2023, was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Newport, Ascensus, Fidelity, and Ameriprise, qualified institutions.

4. Fair Value Measurements

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

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

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Inputs that are derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or other means.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

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

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

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

There have been no changes in the methodology used at December 31, 2023 or 2022. The following is a description of the valuation methodology used for assets measured at fair value:

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

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

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

December 31, 2023

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 20,349,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,349,395
Total Investments, at fair value	\$ 20,349,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,349,395

December 31, 2022

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 17,331,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,331,118
Total Investments, at fair value	\$ 17,331,118	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,331,118

5. Related Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are in funds and accounts that are managed by Newport, Ascensus, Fidelity, and Ameriprise. Participant loan and distribution processing fees are paid to Newport, Ascensus, Fidelity, and Ameriprise by participants. The Plan also issues loans to participants which are secured by the vested balance of the participants' accounts. As described in Note 2, the Plan paid certain expenses related to plan operations and investment activity to various service providers. These transactions are party-in-interest transactions, which are exempt from prohibited transaction rules.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan holds various investment securities. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and participant account balances.

7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Organization has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would remain 100% vested in their accounts.

8. Tax Status

The Plan uses a pre-approved plan document sponsored by Definiti, LLC. Definiti, LLC received an opinion letter from the IRS, dated May 22, 2020, which states that the pre-approved plan document, as then designed, satisfies the applicable provisions of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since the date of the opinion letter, Plan management believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

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 is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no IRS examinations for any tax periods in progress.

9. Delinquent Participant Contributions

During the Plan year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, participant contributions and loan repayments totaling approximately \$151,000 and \$257,000 were not remitted to the Plan within the period prescribed by DOL regulations. These transactions constitute non-exempt party-in-interest transactions or prohibited transactions as defined by ERISA. The Employer is in the process of correcting these transactions. The related lost earnings are expected to be remitted to the Plan during 2025.

10. Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 15, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

ERISA-Required Supplemental Schedules

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

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

EIN: 13-0434890

Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment, Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	Cost	Current Value	
Mutual Funds				
Vanguard	Star Fund	**	\$	5,791,215
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035 Fund	**		1,752,986
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030 Fund	**		1,478,728
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045 Fund	**		1,351,186
Vanguard	500 Index Adm	**		1,101,164
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040 Fund	**		1,070,626
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050 Fund	**		681,119
American Funds	American Balanced R 6	**		591,086
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025 Fund	**		519,388
Vanguard	Target Retirement Income Fund	**		486,815
American Funds	Vp - Us Flexible Growth Fd Cl2	**		482,824
Vitory	Victory Nasdaq -100 Index	**		470,841
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055 Fund	**		418,645
* Fidelity	Growth Discovery K	**		394,311
American Funds	VP - Moderate Portfolio Class 4	**		382,394
JP Morgan	Equity Income R6	**		360,482
Vanguard	Total International Stock Market Index Adm	**		319,307
Sythetic	Cash Account	**		287,339
Vanguard	Federal Money Market Inv	**		259,723
Vanguard	Mid Cap Index Adm	**		219,656
Vanguard	Explorer Adm Shares	**		212,007
Columbia	Large Cap Index Fund Cl 3	**		146,444
Vitory	Victory RS Global R 6	**		132,314
Alliance Bernstein	International Value Port Cl B	**		112,450
Vanguard	Total Intl Stock Index Adm	**		106,990
Clearbridge	International Growth I	**		104,700
Wagner	Acorn	**		101,476
American Funds	VP - Aggressive Portfolio Class 2	**		99,373
* Fidelity	Invst Mmkt I	**		89,760
Janus Henderson	Entpse Prt 55	**		85,483
Columbia	Dividend Opportunity Fd Cl 3	**		76,995
Columbia	Government Mny Mkt Fund Cl 3	**		73,311
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060 Fund	**		72,969
Vanguard	Mid-Cap Value Index Fund Adm	**		69,156
John Hancock	Investment Grade Bond R6	**		45,240
Goldman Sachs	Mid Cap Value Fund Instl Shares	**		44,151
Columbia	Limited Duration Credit Fd Cl 2	**		43,161
Principal	Real Estate Securities Instl	**		41,624
* Fidelity	Advisor Intl Small Cap I	**		39,120
American Funds	Century VP Value Class li	**		27,624
Columbia	VP Select Mid Cap Value Cl 3	**		24,517

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

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

EIN: 13-0434890

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December 31, 2023

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Columbia	VP Disciplined Core Fund Cl 3	**	22,200	
Janus Henderson	Research Portfolio Ss	**	22,188	
Columbia	Small Cap Index Instl	**	22,010	
Allspring	VT Opportunity Fund Class 2	**	21,710	
* Fidelity	VIP Mid Cap Port Service Cl 2	**	17,913	
PGIM	High Yield R 6	**	17,010	
Vanguard	Core Bond Adm	**	12,714	
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065 Fund	**	11,436	
Vanguard	International Growth Adm	**	9,883	
MFS	New Discovery Value R 6	**	8,003	
Vanguard	Value Index Adm	**	7,926	
Vaneck	Global Gold Fund Class S Shs	**	3,444	
Vanguard	Lifestrategy Growth Inv	**	2,442	
* Fidelity	Contrafund	**	1,816	
Total Mutual Funds				20,349,395
* Participant loans	5.25% to 10.50%	-		254,906
Total			\$	20,604,301

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA.

**The cost of participant-directed investments is not required to be disclosed.

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

Schedule H, Line 4a - Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
 EIN: 13-0434890 Plan Number: 001

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Total That Constitutes Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions			Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP* and PTE** 2002-51
	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP*	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP*	
Check here if late participant loan repayments are included: ☒				
2023	\$ 150,917	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2022	\$ 256,883	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

* Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (DOL)

** Prohibited Transaction Exemption (DOL)

American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

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

EIN: 13-0434890

Plan Number: 001

December 31, 2023

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American Welding Society 403(b) Retirement Plan

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December 31, 2023

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