

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

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.

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan... [X] a single-employer plan [] a DFE... B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report... C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan... D Check box if filing under: [] Form 5558 [] automatic extension... E If this is a retroactively adopted plan...

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: AARETE WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 502
1c Effective date of plan: 10/01/2017
2a Plan sponsor's name: AARETE, INC
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 82-4403675
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 312-585-0800
2d Business code: 541600

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:		4b EIN 26-2000001	
a Sponsor's name AARETE, LLC		4d PN 502	
c Plan Name AARETE WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN			
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	270	
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c, and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	6a(1)	270	
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2)	319	
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	6b	7	
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	6c	0	
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2), 6b, and 6c	6d	326	
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	6e		
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f		
g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(1)		
g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(2)		
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6h		
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:

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

4A 4B 4D 4E 4F 4H 4L

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	

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

- a Pension Schedules**
- (1) R (Retirement Plan Information)
 - (2) MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
 - (3) SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
 - (4) DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached 0
 - (5) MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

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

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 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

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan AARETE WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 502
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675

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

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF ILLINOIS

(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
36-1236610	70670	529346	436	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

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 101307	(b) Total amount of fees paid 2676
--	---

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
MARSH & MCLENNAN AGENCY LLC **20 N. MARTINGALE RD., STE. 100**
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
101307	2676	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	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

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	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

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

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

(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	

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. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

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)	
	7c(2)	
	7c(3)	
	7c(4)	
	7c(5)	
	(6) Total additions	7c(6)
d Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d	0
e Deductions: (1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year (2) Administration charge made by carrier..... (3) Transferred to separate account	7e(1)	
	7e(2)	
	7e(3)	
	7e(4)	
	(5) Total deductions	7e(5)
f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d).....	7f	0

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

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

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

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)		
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)	0
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)	0
	(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)	0
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> 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	2582148
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. Specify nature of costs.		10b	0

NA

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. ▶

<p>SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p>2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<p>A Name of plan AARETE WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>502</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AARETE, INC</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-4403675</p>	

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.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
DEARBORN 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
36-2598882	71129	VF028660	320	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

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.

<p>(a) Total amount of commissions paid 17837</p>	<p>(b) Total amount of fees paid 0</p>
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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
MARSH & MCLENNAN AGENCY LLC PA **2300 RENAISSANCE BLVD**
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
17837	0	NA	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	

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)			
	7c(2)			
	7c(3)			
	7c(4)			
	7c(5)			
	(6) Total additions			
d Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))			7d	0
e Deductions:				
	7e(1)			
	7e(2)			
	7e(3)			
	7e(4)			
(5) Total deductions		7e(5)		
f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d).....			7f	0

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

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

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

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)	0
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)	0
	(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)	0
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> 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		227762
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		0

Specify nature of costs.

NA

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. ▶

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 <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">2024</div> This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

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) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

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

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

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

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan AArete Welfare Benefits Plan	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>502</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) AArete, Inc 200 E Randolph, Suite 3010, Chicago, IL, 60601, USA	1c Effective date of plan <u>10/01/2017</u> 2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>824403675</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>312-585-0800</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>541600</u>

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	<i>Blaine A. Dashiell</i>	<u>06/12/25</u>	<i>Blaine A. Dashiell</i>
	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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:		4b EIN 262000001	
a Sponsor's name AARETE, LLC		4d PN 502	
c Plan Name AARETE WELFARE BENEFITS PLAN			
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	270	
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	6a(1)	270	
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2)	319	
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....	6b	7	
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	6c	0	
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c	6d	326	
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	6e		
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f		
g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(1)		
g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(2)		
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6h		
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:

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 4A 4B 4D 4E 4F 4H 4L

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	

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

a Pension Schedules		b General Schedules	
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>2</u>
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary			
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>			
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)			

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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 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 _____

Authorization to Electronically Sign and File Health and Welfare Form 5500

I hereby authorize Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC Company ("MMA") to electronically sign and submit to the Department of Labor (DOL) the Form 5500 annual report for the plan year(s) listed below.

I understand that in granting this authority that:

- as the Plan Administrator/Plan Sponsor, I have the final responsibility for the Form 5500 and
- in order for MMA to electronically submit the filing, I must **sign and date Page 1** of the Form 5500 and provide to MMA the signed 5500 (first 3 pages only). This signed copy is required per the Department of Labor (DOL) rules and will be attached to the Form 5500 submission when transmitted;
- an image of my **inked signature**, as it appears on Page 1 of the scanned Form 5500, will be included with the completed Form 5500 and posted by the DOL on the Internet for public disclosure:
- I understand that I do have the option to obtain signing credentials and to directly submit the Form 5500 annual report to the DOL electronically.
- I must keep a signed paper copy of the completed Form 5500 in my files.
- MMA will retain a copy of this written authorization in its records;
- MMA will notify the individual signing below as plan administrator about any inquires and information it receives from the EFAST2, DOL, or IRS regarding this annual return/report; and
- MMA shall not be deemed an administrator, plan sponsor or other fiduciary with respect to any plan solely on account of the services performed under this authorization.

By the signature below, I am acknowledging that I understand the above and that I may revoke or change authorization at any time by written notification to MMA.

Company Name: AArete Inc.

Plan Year (select one): 2024 Amended Returns
 Delinquent Filing (DFVC) Returns

Plan Administrator Name (please print): Blaine Dashiell

Plan Administrator Signature: Blaine A. Dashiell

Date: 06/12/2025

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