EXAMINATION REPORT of MERCHANTS OF VIRGINIA GROUP SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION Richmond, Virginia as of December 31, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

SCOTT A. WHITE
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
BUREAU OF INSURANCE

P.O. BOX 1157 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

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I, Scott A. White, Commissioner of Insurance of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby certify that the annexed copy of the Examination Report of Merchants of Virginia Group Self-Insurance Association as of December 31, 2021, is a true copy of the original report on file with this Bureau.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed to the original the seal of the Bureau at the City of Richmond, Virginia this 28th day of February 2023

Scott A. White Commissioner of Insurance



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Honorable Scott A. White Commissioner of Insurance Richmond, Virginia

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your instructions and by authority of Section 38.2-1317 of the Code of Virginia, an examination of the records and affairs of

MERCHANTS OF VIRGINIA GROUP SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Richmond, Virginia

hereinafter referred to as the Association, has been completed. The report is hereby submitted for your consideration.

SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION

This is a full scope financial condition examination initiated and conducted under the provisions of Article 4, Chapter 13 of Title 38.2 of the Code of Virginia. The last examination of the Association was made by representatives of the State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance (the "Bureau") as of December 31, 2016. This examination covers the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021.

The Bureau planned and performed the examination to evaluate the Association's financial condition and operational activities. All accounts and activities of the Association were considered generally in accordance with the risk-focused examination process contained in the NAIC Financial Condition Examiners Handbook.

The examination report includes findings of fact and general information about the Association and its financial condition.

DESCRIPTION

The Association is a group self-insurance association licensed to provide workers' compensation coverage and employers' liability coverage to its members pursuant to Section 65.2-802 of the Code of Virginia and 14 VAC 5-370-10 et seq. (Rules Governing Group Self-Insurers of Liability under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act) promulgated by the State Corporation Commission (the "Commission").

HISTORY

The Association was licensed by the Bureau effective May 1, 1982. On July 1, 1990, the Bureau revised the Association's license to authorize employers' liability coverage.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Control of the Association is vested in a Members' Supervisory Board (the "Board") elected by the members of the Association. The by-laws provide for no less than three nor more than nine Board members, three-fourths of whom shall be officers of members in good standing with the Association. Board members serve until their successors are elected.

The Board and officers were as follows at December 31, 2021:

Representative	<u>Member</u>
William R. Brewer, Jr.	Dink, Inc. Virginia Beach, Virginia
James L. Harrell, III	Harrell & Harrell, Inc. Norfolk, Virginia
Ronald K. Harrell	Ravensworth Sunoco Springfield, Virginia
Michael W. Hughes	Holiday Barn, Ltd. Richmond, Virginia
David M. Traub	DMT, Inc. Midlothian, Virginia

Officers

James L. Harrell, III Chairman
David M. Traub Vice-Chairman
Ronald K. Harrell Secretary
William R. Brewer, Jr. Treasurer
Michael W. Hughes Director

TERRITORY AND PLAN OF OPERATION

The operation of the Association is confined to Virginia where it is licensed to transact the business of workers' compensation and employers' liability group self-insurance. Membership in the Association is available to employers engaged in a similar type of business, upon the approval of the Board and the Commission.

All members are required to enter into an indemnity agreement in which each member jointly and severally agrees to assume and discharge members' employers' liabilities and any and all members' liabilities covered under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. No formal insurance policy is issued to the members.

The Association has a contractual agreement with an administrator who shall administer and manage the affairs of the Association in accordance with the policies established and adopted by the Board. Claims are processed and paid by a service agent pursuant to a contractual agreement with the Association. The Association's operations are conducted on a fiscal year ending April 30.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT

Effective May 1, 1996, the Association entered into an administrative agreement with Self-Insurance Services, LLC, ("SIS"). The original term of this agreement was for a period of 12 months and the agreement remains in effect thereafter, subject to termination by either party by written notice at least 90 days in advance of the effective date of termination.

According to this agreement, SIS shall administer the financial affairs of the Association as established and adopted by the Board, maintain necessary records of accounts, advise the Board on policy matters, contract for claims handling and with advisors and consultants, pay all items of expense to the extent funds are available, direct the solicitation and enrollment of new members, file necessary reports, and conduct other managerial duties.

As compensation for its services, SIS shall receive 7% of all members' contributions calculated under the provisions of 14 VAC 5-370-110, without reduction as a result of premium discounts, experience ratings, deviations, or other adjustments. The Association incurred \$390,060 in fees relating to this agreement in calendar year 2021. In addition, SIS retains 100% of the commission received for the placement of excess insurance coverage.

CLAIMS CONSULTING SERVICE AGREEMENT

Effective May 1, 1994, the Association entered into a claims consulting service agreement with SIS. The original term of the agreement was for a period of 12 months and the agreement remains in effect thereafter, subject to termination by either party upon 90 days advance written notice. According to the agreement, SIS shall provide claims consulting services including the review of monthly loss reports, approval of all medical and compensation payments over \$2,000, monthly review of all open claim files, evaluation of members' claim experience and assistance to the service agent in settlement of claims.

As compensation, the Association shall pay SIS ½ of 1% of all members' contributions calculated under the provisions of 14 VAC 5-370-110, without reduction as a result of premium discounts, experience ratings, deviations, or other adjustments. The Association incurred \$27,862 in fees relating to this agreement in calendar year 2021.

CLAIMS SERVICE AGREEMENT

Effective May 1, 1998, the Association entered into a claims service agreement with Trigon Administrators, Inc. ("Trigon") currently known as Sedgwick CMS ("Sedgwick"). Sedgwick serves as the Association's claims service agent pursuant to the same claims service agreement originally entered into with Trigon. The original term of the agreement was for a one-year period and the agreement remains in effect thereafter, subject to termination by either party by written notice 60 days in advance of the effective date of termination.

Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, Sedgwick shall provide full claims handling and adjusting for all claims incurred during the period of the agreement until their conclusion, unless otherwise transferred, claims counseling, loss control consulting, monthly reports, preparation for all scheduled hearings before regulatory bodies and other claims related duties. As compensation for its services, Sedgwick shall receive 5.6% of the Association's manual premiums. Additionally, Sedgwick will be compensated 25% of the savings generated by inpatient bills, the inpatient utilization review process and any reductions from the application of any fee schedules and negotiations generated from the cost containment program. The Association incurred \$312,048 in fees relating to this agreement in calendar year 2021.

DIVIDENDS TO MEMBERS

Any surplus assets accumulated within a plan year may be declared refundable by the Board. Payments of this surplus in the form of dividends, however, may not be made until the Association has received approval from the Bureau. During the examination period, the Bureau approved the following dividends:

Approval Dates

Fiscal Year	24-Mar-17	10-Apr-18	16-Apr-19	26-Mar-20	15-Mar-21
2005/2006	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
2006/2007	27,592	0	0	0	0
2007/2008	50,000	50,000	42,800	0	0
2008/2009	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	26,215
2009/2010	0	0	0	25,000	41,378
2010/2011	200,000	250,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
2011/2012	200,000	100,000	150,000	75,000	75,000
2012/2013	100,000	10,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
2013/2014	300,000	50,000	200,000	200,000	75,000
2014/2015	0	0	0	0	50,000
2015/2016	18,628	0	0	100,000	100,000
2016/2017	0	100,000	100,000	200,000	200,000
2017/2018	0	0	200,000	200,000	200,000
2018/2019	0	0	0	200,000	200,000
2019/2020	0	0	0	0	200,000
Total	\$956,220	\$620,000	\$902,800	\$1,275,000	\$1,392,593

SPECIAL RESERVES AND DEPOSITS

At December 31, 2021, the Association had a United States Treasury Note with a par value of \$260,000 on deposit with the Treasurer of Virginia as required by 14 VAC 5-370-60 A.

EXCESS INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Association had both specific excess and aggregate excess insurance agreements in force at December 31, 2021, with the following limits:

	Association's <u>Retention</u>	Excess Insurer's <u>Limits</u>
Specific Excess	\$1,000,000 for each accident and each employee for disease	Workers' Compensation Statutory
		Employers' Liability \$1,000,000
Aggregate Excess	100% of normal premium, subject to a minimum retention of \$6,072,342	\$5,000,000

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There follows a statement reflecting the financial condition of the Association at December 31, 2021, a statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2021, a reconciliation of members' equity for the period under review, a statement of members' account by fiscal year inception to date and a statement of Examiners' changes in members' equity.

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 2021

ASSETS

Bonds, long term Other invested assets Cash on deposit Premiums receivable Interest due and accrued Prepaid administrative fees Prepaid service agent's fees Other prepaid expenses	\$15,857,703 106,548 573,271 419,056 47,728 27,262 20,355 27,887
Total assets	\$17,079,810
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	
Losses unpaid	\$6,781,763
Loss adjustment expenses unpaid	380,224
Contingency reserve	1,396,790
Unearned premiums	654,534
Premium refunds payable	91,624
Taxes, licenses and fees payable	182,532
Dividends payable	2,748,462
Payroll audit fees payable	24,750
Professional fees payable	23,000
Investment fees payable	6,895
Total liabilities	\$12,290,574
Restricted members' equity	\$257,670
Unrestricted members' equity	4,531,566
Total liabilities and members' equity	\$17,079,810

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

UNDERWRITING INCOME

Premiums earned	\$5,426,450
Deductions:	
Losses incurred Loss expenses incurred Other underwriting expenses incurred Contingency reserve Total underwriting deductions Net underwriting gain	\$309,926 293,987 1,246,017 11,237 \$1,861,167 \$3,565,283
INVESTMENT INCOME	
<u> </u>	
Net investment income earned	\$206,783
Net realized capital gains	125,345
Net investment gain	\$332,128
OTHER INCOME	
Other income	\$0
Net income before federal income taxes	\$3,897,411
Federal income taxes incurred	226,708
Net income	\$3,670,703

RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Members' equity, previous year before undistributed dividends	* \$1,891,439	\$856,400	\$3,384,588	\$3,693,293	\$5,472,060
Adjustment for previous examination changes	(174,254)				
Net income	140,297	3,237,954	1,141,100	2,694,451	3,670,703
Net unrealized capital gains or (losses)	2,112	(119,475)	163,838	197,313	(308,071)
Dividends paid to members	(1,003,189)	(590,291)	(996,233)	(1,112,997)	(1,296,994)
Restricted and unrestricted members' equity, end of year	\$856,400	\$3,384,588	\$3,693,293	\$5,472,060	\$7,537,698
Less: Restricted members' equity, end of year	251,540	254,927	257,001	261,891	257,670
Unrestricted members' equity, end of year before undistributed dividends	\$604,860	\$3,129,661	\$3,436,292	\$5,210,169	\$7,280,028
Less: Dividends declared but unpaid	2,554,584	2,584,293	2,490,860	2,652,860	2,748,462
Unrestricted members' equity, end of year	(\$1,949,724)	\$545,368	\$945,432	\$2,557,309	\$4,531,566

^{*} Adjusted member's equity from previous examination

Members' Account By Fiscal Year Inception to Date December 31, 2021

	All Other Fiscal Years Preceding 1982-2017	Fourth Fiscal Year Preceding 2017/2018	Third Fiscal Year Preceding 2018/2019	Second Fiscal Year Preceding 2019/2020	First Fiscal Year Preceding 2020/2021	Partial Current Fiscal Year 5/1/21-12/31/21	Total Inception to Date (1982-2021)
Income Received							
Premiums written Less: Excess insurance Net premiums written	\$125,792,061 9,742,831 \$116,049,230	\$6,317,666 315,883 \$6,001,783	\$6,632,263 393,853 \$6,238,410	\$6,559,250 316,520 \$6,242,730	\$5,238,436 276,730 \$4,961,706	\$4,110,084 143,110 \$3,966,974	\$154,649,760 11,188,927 \$143,460,833
Investment income Allocation between years Other	11,483,159 80,587 337,492	248,099 43,289 0	246,712 55,637 0	173,501 66,395 0	58,645 91,486 0	378,774 (337,394) (67,551)	12,588,890 0 269,941
Total income collected Less: Expenses Paid	\$127,950,468	\$6,293,171	\$6,540,759	\$6,482,626	\$5,111,837	\$3,940,803	\$156,319,664
Losses paid Allocated loss adjustment	\$57,806,142	\$2,286,089	\$2,027,710	\$2,002,468	\$1,018,957	\$273,584	\$65,414,950
expenses paid Administrative fees	5,732,690 10,361,843	589,752 571,514	564,026 596,787 445,971	601,934 593,740	258,973 476,220 355,579	71,938 338,806 252,974	7,819,313 12,938,910
Service agent's fees Taxes, licenses, and fees Federal income tax	8,044,693 3,073,845 1,856,279	421,738 258,233 0	286,088 224,156	443,325 174,772 151,724	(74,506) 224,120	0 226,708	9,964,280 3,718,432 2,682,987
Other expenses Total expenses	2,192,972 \$89,068,464	103,260 \$4,230,586	130,062 \$4,274,800	\$0,086 \$4,048,049	111,659 \$2,371,002	4,738 \$1,168,748	2,622,777 \$105,161,649
Net cash income	\$38,882,004	\$2,062,585	\$2,265,959	\$2,434,577	\$2,740,835	\$2,772,055	\$51,158,015
Add: Receivables							
Premiums receivable Interest due and accrued Amounts recoverable on	\$419,056 10,102	\$0 5,455	\$0 7,011	\$0 8,366	\$0 11,528	\$0 5,266	\$419,056 47,728
paid losses Other Total	0 0 \$429,158	0 0 \$5,455	0 0 \$7,011	0 0 \$8,366	0 0 \$11,528	75,504 \$80,770	75,504 \$542,288
Deduct: Liabilities							
Losses unpaid Loss adjustment expenses Contingency reserve Unearned premiums Premium refunds payable	\$593,381 100,322 497,324 0	\$254,649 12,051 189,530 0	\$655,540 62,524 198,968 0	\$1,127,311 36,570 196,777 0	\$1,413,070 56,567 157,153 0	\$2,737,812 112,190 157,038 654,534 91,624	\$6,781,763 380,224 1,396,790 654,534 91,624
Taxes, licenses & fees payable Other expenses payable Total	0 0 \$1,191,027	0 0 \$456,230	0 0 \$917,032	0 0 \$1,360,658	0 0 \$1,626,790	182,532 54,645 \$3,990,375	182,532 54,645 \$9,542,112

Members' Account By Fiscal Year Inception to Date December 31, 2021

	All Other Fiscal Years	Fourth Fiscal Year	Third Fiscal Year	Second Fiscal Year	First Fiscal Year	Partial Current Fiscal	Total Inception
	Preceding	Preceding	Preceding	Preceding	Preceding	Year	to Date
-	1982-2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	5/1/21-12/31/21	(1982-2021)
Restricted and Unrestricted Members' Equity to date by fiscal year before							
dividends	\$38,120,135	\$1,611,810	\$1,355,938	\$1,082,285	\$1,125,573	(\$1,137,550)	\$42,158,191
Less: Dividends paid inception to date by fiscal year	33,522,424	565,089	361,739	171,241	0	0	34,620,493
liscal year	33,322,727	303,007	301,737	171,271	U	O	34,020,473
Less: Restricted Members' Equity by fiscal year		51,534	51,534	51,534	51,534	51,534	257,670
Unrestricted Members' Equity undistributed by fiscal year	\$4,597,711	\$995,187	\$942,665	\$859,510	\$1,074,039	(\$1,189,084)	\$7,280,028
Less: Dividends declared but unpaid	2,646,531	34,911	38,261	28,759	0	0	2,748,462
Unrestricted Members' Equity	\$1,951,180 *	\$960,276	\$904,404	\$830,751	\$1,074,039	(\$1,189,084)	\$4,531,566

^{*}Although the cummulative unrestricted members' equity for the fiscal years 1982-2017 at December 31, 2021 was \$1,951,181, the 1994 and prior fiscal years had a members' equity deficit of \$33,974.

STATEMENT OF EXAMINERS' CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Amount Per Association	Amount Per Examiner	Increase (Decrease) Members' Equity
Assets:			
Premiums receivable	\$0	\$419,056	\$419,056
Prepaid administrative fees	141,169	27,262	(113,907)
Prepaid service agent's fees	105,406	20,355	(85,051)
Other prepaids	94,049	27,887	(66,162)
<u>Liabilities:</u>			
Loss adjustment expenses unpaid	361,001	380,224	(19,223)
Contingency reserve	1,378,781	1,396,790	(18,009)
Unearned premiums	1,046,257	654,534	391,723
Premium refunds payable	0	91,624	(91,624)
Taxes, licenses and fees payable	150,000	182,532	(32,532)
Payroll audit fees payable	20,000	24,750	(4,750)
Investment fees payable	6,000	6,895	(895)
Examiners' changes in members' equity			\$378,626
Restricted and unrestricted members' equ	\$4,410,610		
Restricted and unrestricted members' equ	4,789,236		
Increase in unrestricted members' equity			\$378,626

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION

Management and Control

1. The results of this examination reflected members' equity deficits for the 1994 and prior fiscal years and the 2020/2021 partial current fiscal year of \$33,974 and \$1,189,084, respectively. The Board is reminded of its responsibility to assure that the Association is financially sound and able to fulfill its obligations under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.

Accounts and Records

2. Other prepaids \$27,887

The above asset is \$66,162 less than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' decrease reflects prepaid Directors and Officers insurance prorated for the earned policy months in 2021, plus prepaid Excess insurance adjusted based on subsequent 2021/2022 fiscal year member payroll audits.

3. Loss adjustment expenses unpaid

\$380,224

The above liability is \$19,223 more than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The increase in loss adjustment expenses unpaid by fiscal year is as follows:

Fiscal Year	<u>Association</u>	<u>Examiners</u>	<u>Increase</u>
1994 & Prior	\$31,009	\$50,232	\$19,223
Total Change			\$19,223

The Examiners' increase results from a development of loss adjustment expenses paid and reserve changes occurring during the period January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 on claims incurred December 31, 2021 and prior. The Association should review its methodologies to ensure sufficient loss adjustment expense reserves are established in future filings with the Bureau.

4. Taxes, licenses and fees payable

\$182,532

The above liability is \$32,532 more than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount was based on a review of invoices paid in 2022 for taxes pertaining to 2021.

Payroll Audit Changes

The adjustments in the following recommendations were determined by utilizing each member's final 2020/2021 fiscal year payrolls which were not fully completed until after the Association's 2021 Annual Statement filing to the Bureau.

5. <u>Premiums receivable</u> Premium refunds payable

<u>\$419,056</u>

\$91,624

The above amounts have been increased \$419,056 and \$91,624, respectively. The Examiners' amounts are based on subsequent 2021/2022 fiscal year member payroll audits and reflect differences between audited contributions and contributions paid prorated for the period May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

6. Prepaid administrative fees

\$27,262

The above asset is \$113,907 less than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount reflects administrative fees paid at December 31, 2021, less the amount owed at December 31, 2021 based on the Examiners' analysis of subsequent 2021/2022 member payroll audits

7. Prepaid service agent's fees

<u>\$20,355</u>

The above asset is \$85,051 less than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount reflects service agent's fees paid at December 31, 2021, less the amount owed at December 31, 2021 based on the Examiners' analysis of subsequent 2021/2022 member payroll audits

8. Contingency reserve

\$1,396,790

The above liability is \$18,009 more than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' change is a result of an increase in earned premium based on a review of subsequent 2021/2022 member payroll audits, which is the basis for the calculation of the contingency reserve.

9. <u>Unearned Premium</u>

\$654,534

The above liability is \$391,723 less than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount reflects the estimated premiums received to date at December 31, 2021, which relate to year 2022 based on the final audited payroll report for fiscal year 2021/2022.

10. Payroll audit fees payable

\$24,750

The above liability is \$4,750 more than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount is based on a review of invoices paid in 2022 for conducting member payroll audits pertaining to the 2021/2022 plan year.

11. Investment fees payable

\$6,895

The above liability is \$895 more than the amount reported by the Association in its 2021 Annual Statement. The Examiners' amount is based on a review of invoices paid in 2022 for investment services incurred in 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgment is hereby made of the courteous cooperation extended by the Association's administrator and service agent during the course of the examination.

In addition to the undersigned, Ben MacKercher, CFE and Alyssa Marinoble participated in the work of the examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris J. Collins, CFE

Chris Collins

Senior Insurance Examiner

MERCHANTS OF VIRGINIA GROUP SELF INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Administered By SELF INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC COST CONTROL THROUGH SERVICE

February 21, 2023

Mr. David H. Smith, CFE, CPCU State Corporation Commission Bureau of Insurance P. O. Box 1157 Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed are the responses to your recommendations for corrective action for Merchants of Virginia Group Self Insurance Association during the examination period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning our responses.

Sincerely.

James B. Harrell

Chairman

Members' Supervisory Board

Merchants of Virginia

Group Self Insurance Association

Travis Miller Administrator

Merchants of Virginia

Group Self Insurance Association

Enclosures

Merchants of Virginia Group Self Insurance Association

Responses to Recommendations for Corrective Action

Management and Control

1. The Association is aware of and will make every effort to assure that the Association is financially sound and able to fulfill its obligations under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.

Accounts and Records

- 2. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 3. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed. The IBNR number is unpredictable based on claims that change. The Association makes every effort to set reserves sufficiently.
- 4. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 5. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 6. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 7. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent payroll audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 8. The Association establishes a 3% contingency reserve fund each year. We agree with the adjustment since it was prepared with the benefit of subsequent audit information.

- 9. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent payroll audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 10. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent payroll audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.
- 11. The Association agrees with this adjustment. The adjustment was made with the benefit of subsequent payroll audit information not available at the time the financial statement was filed.