

NORTHSTAR VARIABLE ANNUITY

AN INDIVIDUAL DEFERRED VARIABLE/FIXED ANNUITY CONTRACT

issued by

ReliaStar Life Insurance Company

and its

Northstar Variable Account

Supplement Dated May 17, 2013

This supplement updates and amends certain information contained in your prospectus dated August 8, 1997, and subsequent supplements thereto. Please read it carefully and keep it with your prospectus for future reference.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY

ReliaStar Life Insurance Company (the “Company,” “we,” “us,” “our”) is a stock life insurance company organized in 1885 and incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota. We are admitted to do business in the District of Columbia and all states except New York. Our headquarters is at 20 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Until May 7, 2013, we were a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of ING Groep N.V. (“ING”), a global financial institution active in the fields of insurance, banking and asset management. ING is headquartered in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The obligations under the Contract are solely the responsibility of ReliaStar Life Insurance Company.

Pursuant to an agreement with the European Commission (“EC”), ING has agreed to divest itself of ING U.S., Inc. and its subsidiaries, including the Company (collectively “ING U.S.”), which constitutes ING’s U.S.-based retirement, investment management and insurance operations. To effect this divestment, on May 7, 2013, ING completed an initial public offering (“IPO”) of the common stock of ING U.S. While ING is currently the majority shareholder of the common stock of ING U.S., pursuant to the agreement with the EC mentioned above ING is required to divest itself of at least 25 percent of ING U.S. by the end of 2013, more than 50 percent by the end of 2014 and 100 percent by the end of 2016.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVESTMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE VARIABLE ACCOUNT

The following chart lists the Investment Funds (“Funds”) that are, effective May 1, 2013, available through the Northstar Variable Account, along with each Fund’s investment adviser/subadviser and investment objective. More detailed information about these Funds can be found in the current prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for each Fund. If you received a summary prospectus for any of the Funds available through your Contract, you may obtain a full prospectus and other Fund information free of charge by either accessing the internet address, calling the telephone number or sending an email request to the email address shown on the front of the Fund’s summary prospectus.

There is no assurance that the stated investment objectives of any of the Funds will be achieved. Shares of the Funds will rise and fall in value and you could lose money by allocating Contract Value to the Sub-Accounts that invest in the Funds. Shares of the Funds are not bank deposits and are not guaranteed, endorsed or insured by any financial institution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Except as noted, all Funds are diversified, as defined under the 1940 Act.

| Fund Name | Investment Adviser/ Subadviser | Investment Objective |
|---|--|---|
| ING Pioneer High Yield Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> Directed Services LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> Pioneer Investment Management, Inc. | Seeks to maximize total return through income and capital appreciation. |
| ING Balanced Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks total return consisting of capital appreciation (both realized and unrealized) and current income; the secondary investment objective is long-term capital appreciation. |
| ING Growth and Income Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks to maximize total return through investments in a diversified portfolio of common stocks and securities convertible into common stocks. It is anticipated that capital appreciation and investment income will both be major factors in achieving total return. |
| ING International Index Portfolio (Class S) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks investment results (before fees and expenses) that correspond to the total return (which includes capital appreciation and income) of a widely accepted international index. |
| ING SmallCap Opportunities Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks long-term capital appreciation. |

INFORMATION ABOUT CLOSED SUB-ACCOUNTS

The Sub-Accounts that invest in the following Funds are closed to new investment:

| Fund Name | Investment Adviser/ Subadviser | Investment Objective |
|---|---|---|
| Fidelity® VIP Index 500 Portfolio (Initial Class) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> Fidelity Management & Research Company (“FMR”) <u>Subadviser:</u> Geode Capital Management, LLC and FMR Co., Inc. | Seeks investment results that correspond to the total return of common stocks publicly traded in the United States, as represented by the S&P 500® Index. |
| Fidelity® VIP Money Market Portfolio (Initial Class) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> FMR <u>Subadviser:</u> Fidelity Investments Money Management, Inc. and other investment advisers | Seeks as high a level of current income as is consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. |
| ING International Value Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks long-term capital appreciation. |
| ING MidCap Opportunities Portfolio (Class I) | <u>Investment Adviser:</u> ING Investments, LLC <u>Subadviser:</u> ING Investment Management Co. LLC | Seeks long-term capital appreciation. |

Contract Owners who have Contract Value allocated to one or more of the Sub-Accounts that correspond to these Funds may leave their Contract Value in those Sub-Accounts, but future allocations and transfers into them are prohibited. If your most recent premium allocation instructions includes a Sub-Account that corresponds to one of these Funds, premium received that would have been allocated to a Sub-Account corresponding to one of these Funds may be automatically allocated among the other available Sub-Accounts according to your most recent premium allocation instructions. If your most recent allocation instructions do not include any available Funds, you must provide us with alternative allocation instructions or the premium payment will be returned to you. You may give us alternative allocation instructions by contacting our ING Customer Service Center at P.O. Box 5050, Minot, ND 58702-5050, 1-877-884-5050 or www.ingservicecenter.com. **See the “Transfers” section beginning on page 21 of your Contract prospectus for information about making Fund allocation changes.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY’S INTEREST BEARING RETAINED ASSET ACCOUNT

Subject to the conditions and requirements of state law, full payment of the Death Benefit or proceeds (“Proceeds”) to a Beneficiary may be made either into an interest bearing retained asset account that is backed by our General Account or by check. For additional information about the payment options available to you, please refer to your claim forms or contact our ING Customer Service Center at P.O. Box 5050, Minot, ND 58702-5050, 1-877-884-5050 or www.ingservicecenter.com. Beneficiaries should carefully review all settlement and payment options available under the Contract and are encouraged to consult with a financial professional or tax adviser before choosing a settlement or payment option.

The retained asset account, known as the ING Personal Transition Account, is an interest bearing account backed by our General Account. **The retained asset account is not guaranteed by the FDIC.** Beneficiaries that receive their payment through the retained asset account may access the entire Proceeds in the account at any time without penalty through a draftbook feature. The Company seeks to earn a profit on the account, and interest credited on the account may vary from time to time but will not be less than the minimum rate stated in the supplemental contract delivered to the beneficiary together with the paperwork to make a claim to the Proceeds. Interest earned on the Proceeds in the account may be less than could be earned if the Proceeds were invested outside of the account. Likewise, interest credited on the Proceeds in the account may be less than under other settlement or payment options available through the Contract.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

More information about the Funds available through your Contract, including information about the risks associated with investing in them, can be found in the current prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for each Fund. You may obtain these documents by contacting us at our:

ING Customer Service Center
P.O. Box 5050
Minot, ND 58702-5050
1-877-884-5050

If you received a summary prospectus for any of the Funds available through your Contract, you may obtain a full prospectus and other Fund information free of charge by either accessing the internet address, calling the telephone number or sending an email request to the email address shown on the front of the Fund's summary prospectus.