



SECURITIES

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**ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT  
FORM X-17A-5  
PART III**

SEC File Number  
8-22543

**FACING PAGE**

**Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder**

Report for the period beginning 10/01/15 and ending 09/30/16

**A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION**

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:  
R.M. Stark & Co., Inc.

Official Use Only

Firm ID No.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS (Do not use P.O. Box No.):  
701 Southeast Sixth Avenue, Suite 203

(No. and Street)

Delray Beach

FL

33483

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS  
REPORT: Gary Stark (561)243-3815

(Area Code - Telephone No.)

**B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*  
DeMarco Sciacotta Wilkens & Dunleavy, LLP

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

9645 W. Lincolnway Lane, Suite 214A

(No. and Street)

Frankfort

Illinois

60423

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
RECEIVED  
NOV 23 2016  
DIVISION OF TRADING & MARKETS

CHECK ONE:

- Certified Public Accountant
- Public Accountant
- Accountant, not resident in United States or any of its possessions

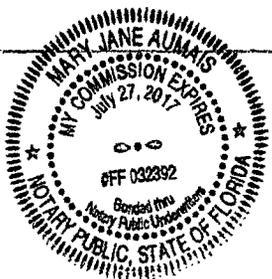
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

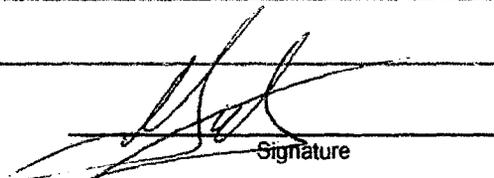
\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2)

**OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

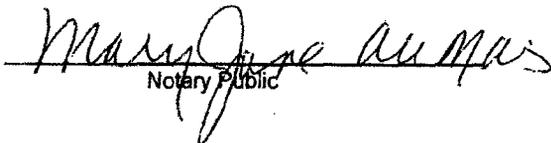
I, **Gary L. Stark**, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of R.M. Stark & Co., Inc. as of September 30, 2016, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the Company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except, as follows:

None.



  
Signature

President  
Title

  
Notary Public

This report\*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- (a) Facing Page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Cash Flows.
- (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital.
- (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c-3-3.
- (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c-3-3.
- (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- (k) A Reconciliation between audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- (n) Exemption Report

\*\* For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).



REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors of  
R.M. Stark & Co., Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of R.M. Stark & Co., Inc. (the Company) as of September 30, 2016, that is filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the related notes to the statement of financial condition. The Company's management is responsible for this financial statement. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of financial condition is free of material misstatement. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of financial condition, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the statement of financial condition. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the statement of financial condition referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of R.M. Stark & Co., Inc. as of September 30, 2016, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*DeMarco Sciacotta Wilkens & Dunleavy LLP*

Chicago, Illinois  
November 14, 2016

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

**ASSETS**

Cash	\$ 1,180
Receivable from broker/dealers	311,298
Securities owned, at fair market value	686,633
Prepaid expense and other	<u>43,861</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$ 1,042,972

**LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY**

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	\$ 37,752
Commissions payable	<u>165,165</u>

**Total Liabilities** \$ 202,917

**SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY**

Common stock, no par value, authorized 2,000,000 shares, issued and outstanding 875 shares	\$ 5,000
Additional paid-in capital	76,145
Retained earnings	<u>758,910</u>

**Total Shareholder's Equity** \$ 840,055

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY** \$ 1,042,972

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization – R.M. Stark & Co., Inc. (the “Company”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RMST Holding Company, Inc. (the “Parent”), was incorporated in the state of Florida on September 29, 1998. The Company is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The Company's principal business activity is the sale of securities.

Securities Transactions - Securities transactions of the Company, including commission revenue and related expense, are recorded on a trade date basis, which is the same business day as the transaction date.

Concentrations of Credit Risk - The Company is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities in which the counterparties primarily include broker/dealers, banks, other financial institutions and the Company's own customers. In the event the counterparties do not fulfill their obligations, the Company may be exposed to risk. The risk of default depends on the creditworthiness of the counterparty or issuer of the instrument. It is the Company's policy to review, as necessary, the credit standing of each counterparty.

In addition, most of the Company's cash is on deposit at one financial institution and the balance at times may exceed the federally insured limit. The Company believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk to cash.

Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 2 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

FASB ASC 820 defines fair value, creates a framework for measuring fair value, and establishes a fair value hierarchy which prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques. 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. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market. Valuation techniques that are consistent with the market, income or cost approach, as specified by FASB ASC 820, are used to measure fair value.

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities the Company has the ability to access.
- Level 2 inputs are inputs (other than quoted prices included within level 1) that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability and rely on management's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 2 - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT - *(Continued)*

Securities owned consist of the following:

Description	Fair Values as of September 30, 2016	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Equities	\$ 630	\$ 630	\$ 0	\$ 0
Options	36	36		
Exchange traded products	685,967	685,967		
Total Securities Owned	<u>\$ 686,633</u>	<u>\$ 686,633</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

All broker/dealer receivables, accounts payable and accrued expenses have been valued at net realizable value. No valuation techniques have been applied to all other assets and liabilities included in the statement of financial condition. Due to the nature of these items, all have been recorded at their historical values.

NOTE 3 - INCOME TAXES

Both the Company and its Parent have elected S Corporation status for federal income tax purposes. Income taxes are therefore the responsibility of the individual shareholders of the Parent.

The Company accounts for any potential interest or penalties related to possible future liabilities for unrecognized income tax benefits as other expense. The Company is no longer subject to examination by tax authorities for federal, state or local income taxes for periods before 2012.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 4 - OFF-BALANCE-SHEET RISK AND CLEARING AGREEMENT

The Company enters into various transactions involving derivatives and other off-balance sheet financial instruments. These financial instruments include listed options. These derivative financial instruments are used to meet the needs of customers, conduct investment activities and manage risks and are, therefore, subject to varying degrees of market and credit risk. Derivative transactions are entered into for trading purposes or to economically hedge other positions or transactions.

As a writer (seller) of options, the Company and its customers receive a premium in exchange for giving the counterparty the right to buy or sell the security at a future date at a contracted price. The contractual or notional amount related to these financial instruments reflects the volume and activity and does not reflect the amount of risk. The credit risk for options is limited to the unrealized market valuation gains recorded in the statement of financial condition. Market risk is substantially dependent upon the value of the underlying financial instruments and is affected by market forces such as volatility and changes in interest and foreign exchange rates.

In addition, the Company and its customers sell securities that they do not currently own and will therefore be obligated to purchase such securities at a future date. The Company records these obligations in the financial statements at market values of the related securities and will incur a loss if the market value of the securities increases subsequent to the financial statement date.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 4 - OFF-BALANCE-SHEET RISK AND CLEARING AGREEMENT - *(Continued)*

In order to facilitate the aforementioned transactions, as well as other transactions, the Company maintains an agreement with another broker/dealer (Clearing Broker/dealer) whereby the Company forwards (introduces) customer securities transactions to the Clearing Broker/dealer, fully disclosing the customer name and other information. The processing and, if applicable, any financing pertaining to the introduced securities transactions are performed by the Clearing Broker/dealer. The customer account is therefore maintained and recorded in the books and records of the Clearing Broker/dealer on the Company's behalf. In consideration for introducing customers to the Clearing Broker/dealer, the Company receives commissions and other consideration, less the processing and other charges of the Clearing Broker/dealer. As part of the terms of the agreement between the Company and the Clearing Broker/dealer, the Company is held responsible for any losses arising when the customers introduced by the Company to the Clearing Broker/dealer fail to meet their contractual commitments pertaining to the purchase, sale and possible financing of securities transactions. The Company may therefore be exposed to off-balance-sheet risk in the event the customer is unable to fulfill its contracted obligations and it is necessary for the Clearing Broker/dealer to purchase or sell the securities at a loss. The Company's exposure to risk would consist of the amount of the loss realized and any additional expenses incurred pertaining to the transaction or other customer activity.

The initial term of the aforementioned agreement was three years, which began in September 2003. Under terms of the agreement the Company is required to maintain \$100,000 deposit with Clearing Broker/dealer and is prohibited from using other Clearing Broker/dealers for securities transactions unless written consent is given by the Clearing Broker/dealer. Also included in the agreement are monthly minimum and termination charges.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 5 - NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

As a registered broker/dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the Company is subject to the Uniform Net Capital Rule, which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 1500%. At September 30, 2016, the Company's net capital and required net capital were \$691,341 and \$100,000 respectively. The ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 29%.

NOTE 6 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases - Minimum annual rentals under a lease for office space, expiring September 30, 2017, exclusive of additional payments which may be required for certain increases in operating and maintenance costs will be \$89,376 for the years ending September 30, 2017.

Rent expense under this operating lease was \$98,287 for the year ended September 30, 2016.

NOTE 7 - 401 (k) PLAN

The Company adopted a deferred compensation plan commonly referred to as a profit sharing plan with provisions under IRS code section 401(k) whereby employees may contribute up to 75% of their compensation within specified legal limits. In addition, the Company will match 50% of employee contributions up to 6% of their compensation. The plan covers substantially all employees age 19 years or older. Company contributions to the plan for the year ended September 30, 2016 were \$26,658.

R.M. STARK & CO., INC.

NOTES TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NOTE 8 - RELATED PARTIES

As previously mentioned, the Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RMST Holding Company, Inc. (the Parent). Through common ownership and management, the Company is also affiliated with Stark Financial Advisors (SFA) and Rodecker Stark & Co., Inc. (RSC).

The Company paid \$38,888 in compensation on SFA's behalf without reimbursement. No amounts are owed to the Company by SFA at September 30, 2016.

The Company also paid \$26,268 on behalf of the Parent as payment for consulting services received.

NOTE 9 - CONTINGENCIES

The Company, from time to time, is involved in certain claims and arbitrations incidental to its business. Based on the consultation with legal counsel, management is of the opinion that any claims, either individually or in the aggregate, to which the Company is a party will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or operations, except for the following:

The Company is in arbitration for a matter. The Company incurred \$35,000 of legal fees and expenses in satisfaction of its insurance deductible, which is included in other operating expenses on the Statement of Income. Therefore, any damages that may be awarded against the Company would be paid by the Company's insurance carrier. The Company has denied any wrongdoing and has denied having any liability to the claimant. At this time, the Company and its legal counsel are unable to evaluate the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome.