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EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15, 2018

# Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

Form **990**

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

**2017**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

**A** For the 2017 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

<b>B</b> Check if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<b>C</b> Name of organization <b>MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP</b>		<b>D</b> Employer identification number <b>37-1558379</b>	
	Doing business as		<b>E</b> Telephone number <b>952-928-4648</b>	
	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	<b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ <b>2,168,443.</b>	
	<b>4248 PARK GLEN ROAD</b>		<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? ... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code <b>MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416</b>		<b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer <b>MARK HORWEDEL</b> <b>4248 PARK GLEN RD, MPLS, MN 55416</b>		<b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number		
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)( 6 ) (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 527				
<b>J</b> Website: <b>WWW.MERCHANTADVISORYGROUP.ORG</b>				
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other			<b>L</b> Year of formation: <b>2007</b>	
<b>M</b> State of legal domicile: <b>TX</b>				

## Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities	<b>DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE PAYMENTS INDUSTRY THROUGH COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY OF MERCHANTS'</b>	
	2	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets		
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)		<b>13</b>
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)		<b>13</b>
	5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2017 (Part V, line 2a)		<b>2</b>
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)		<b>75</b>
	7 a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12		<b>0.</b>
	b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34		<b>0.</b>
Revenue	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	<b>1,088,215.</b>	<b>1,270,533.</b>
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	<b>646,502.</b>	<b>896,100.</b>
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	<b>3,601.</b>	<b>1,810.</b>
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	12	Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1,738,318.</b>	<b>2,168,443.</b>
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	<b>0.</b>	<b>0.</b>
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	<b>0.</b>	
17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	<b>1,772,014.</b>	<b>2,056,393.</b>	
18	Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>1,772,014.</b>	<b>2,056,393.</b>	
19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	<b>-33,696.</b>	<b>112,050.</b>	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	<b>1,591,926.</b>	<b>1,913,766.</b>
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	<b>757,706.</b>	<b>967,496.</b>
	22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	<b>834,220.</b>	<b>946,270.</b>

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JUN - 4 2018  
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## Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer	Date			
	<b>MARK HORWEDEL, CEO</b>	<b>5/31/18</b>			
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check if self-employed	PTIN
	<b>NANCY WALDACK</b>	<b>NANCY WALDACK</b>	<b>05/16/18</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>P00793722</b>
	Firm's name	Firm's EIN		Phone no.	
	<b>SMITH, SCHAFFER &amp; ASSOCIATES, LTD.</b>	<b>41-1489071</b>		<b>952-920-1455</b>	
	Firm's address	<b>7500 HIGHWAY 55, SUITE 350 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55427</b>			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions)  Yes  No

732001 11-28-17

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Form **990** (2017)

SEE SCHEDULE O FOR ORGANIZATION MISSION STATEMENT CONTINUATION

SCANNED AUG 15 2018

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

Input box for Schedule O check

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission

DRIVING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE PAYMENTS INDUSTRY THROUGH COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY OF MERCHANTS' INTERESTS.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

Yes No checkboxes

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

Yes No checkboxes

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a (Code ) (Expenses \$ 367,977. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 182,185.)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PURPOSE FOR THE CONFERENCE IS TO EDUCATE MEMBERS AND PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES.

4b (Code ) (Expenses \$ 288,788. including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ 110,665.)

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE - PURPOSE FOR THE CONFERENCE IS TO EDUCATE MEMBERS AND PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES.

4c (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

4e Total program service expenses 656,765.

COBJT

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>		X
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?	X	
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4 <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>	X	
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		X
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		X
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>		X
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>		X
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>		X
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>		X
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	X	
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>		X
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	X	
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>		X
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		X
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>		X
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>		X
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>		X
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i>		X
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		X
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		X
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>		X
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		X
<b>23</b> Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	X	
<b>24a</b> Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>		X
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
<b>25a</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		
<b>b</b> Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		X
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		X
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
<b>b</b> A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		X
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		X
<b>33</b> Did the organization own 100% of an entry disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		X
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>		X
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		X
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
<b>36</b> <b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
<b>37</b> Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		X
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with columns for question numbers (1a-14b), Yes/No checkboxes, and numerical responses. Includes questions about Form 1096, Form W-2G, Form W-3, and various tax compliance requirements.

**Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure** For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

**Section A. Governing Body and Management**

	1a	1b	2	3	4	5	6	7a	7b	8a	8b	9	Yes	No
1a	13													
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.														
b		13												
2														X
3					X									
4														X
5														X
6						X								
7a								X						
b									X					
8										X				
a										X				
b										X				
9														X

**Section B. Policies** (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code)

	10a	10b	11a	11b	12a	12b	12c	13	14	15a	15b	16a	16b	Yes	No
10a															X
b															
11a			X												
b															
12a					X										
b						X									
c							X								
13															X
14									X						
15															
a										X					
b										X					
16a															X
b															
16b															

**Section C. Disclosure**

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **NONE**
- 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.  
 Own website     Another's website     Upon request     Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year
- 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records **▶**  
**JOHN FRANCIS - 952-928-7477**  
**4248 PARK GLEN ROAD, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416**

**Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** directors or trustees that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) MARK HORWEDEL PRESIDENT/CEO	40.00	X		X				367,900.	0.	0.
(2) JOHN DRECHNY CHAIR	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(3) TROY CARROTHERS VICE CHAIR	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(4) ALOK MATHUR SECRETARY	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(5) CHRIS PRIEBE TREASURER	1.00	X		X				0.	0.	0.
(6) DEE O'MALLEY DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(7) DEAN SHEAFFER DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(8) GAVIN WAUGH DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(9) KELLY ANDRUS DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(10) KRISTY COOK DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(11) KATE JASPON DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(12) KATHY HANNA DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(13) JOHN MANNA DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(14) BRYAN PENNY DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(15) LIZ GARNER RESIGNED IN APRIL 20 VICE PRESIDENT	40.00			X				66,667.	0.	0.
(16) LAURA TOWNSEND SVP OF OPERATIONS	40.00			X				196,667.	0.	0.
(17) HARRINGTON COMPANY MANAGEMENT COMPANY	40.00							409,022.	0.	0.



**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514	
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	1 a Federated campaigns	1a				
	b Membership dues	1b				
	c Fundraising events	1c				
	d Related organizations	1d				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1,270,533.			
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	<b>h Total. Add lines 1a-1f</b>		<b>1,270,533.</b>			
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>	2 a MEMBERSHIP DUES	Business Code 900099	603,250.	603,250.		
	b ANNUAL CONFERENCE	611600	182,185.	182,185.		
	c MID YEAR CONFERENCE	611600	110,665.	110,665.		
	d					
	e					
	f All other program service revenue					
	<b>g Total. Add lines 2a-2f</b>		<b>896,100.</b>			
<b>Other Revenue</b>	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		1,810.		1,810.	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5 Royalties					
	6 a Gross rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		b Less rental expenses				
		c Rental income or (loss)				
	d Net rental income or (loss)					
	7 a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities				
		(ii) Other				
		b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		c Gain or (loss)				
	d Net gain or (loss)					
	8 a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a				
		b Less direct expenses	b			
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events						
9 a Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a					
	b Less direct expenses	b				
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities					
10 a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a					
	b Less cost of goods sold	b				
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory					
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>		<b>Business Code</b>				
11 a						
b						
c						
d All other revenue						
e <b>Total. Add lines 11a-11d</b>						
<b>12 Total revenue. See instructions.</b>		<b>2,168,443.</b>	<b>896,100.</b>	<b>0.</b>	<b>1,810.</b>	

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees				
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages				
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits				
10 Payroll taxes				
11 Fees for services (non-employees)				
a Management	101,164.			
b Legal	62,464.			
c Accounting	48,455.			
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)				
12 Advertising and promotion	8,675.			
13 Office expenses	12,129.			
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy				
17 Travel	38,766.			
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	656,765.			
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
23 Insurance	1,594.			
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a <b>CONSULTING</b>	911,341.			
b <b>ONLINE MEDIA PORTAL</b>	83,280.			
c <b>MEMBER EDUCATION</b>	25,209.			
d <b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPE</b>	24,070.			
e All other expenses	82,481.			
25 <b>Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	2,056,393.			
26 <b>Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation.				

Check here  if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year	
<b>Assets</b>	1	Cash - non-interest-bearing	1,126,929.	1	1,490,365.
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments	252,238.	2	252,617.
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net	115,000.	4	20,000.
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instr) Complete Part II of Sch L		6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	97,759.	9	135,347.
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment cost or other basis Complete Part VI of Schedule D		10a	
	b	Less accumulated depreciation		10b	10c
	11	Investments - publicly traded securities		11	
	12	Investments - other securities See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13	Investments - program-related See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14	Intangible assets		14	
	15	Other assets See Part IV, line 11	0.	15	15,437.
16	<b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	1,591,926.	16	1,913,766.	
<b>Liabilities</b>	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	14,565.	17	77,609.
	18	Grants payable		18	
	19	Deferred revenue		19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	743,141.	25	889,887.
	26	<b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25	757,706.	26	967,496.
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.				
	27	Unrestricted net assets		27	
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.				
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	0.	30	0.
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund	0.	31	0.
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	834,220.	32	946,270.
	33	<b>Total net assets or fund balances</b>	834,220.	33	946,270.
	34	<b>Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances</b>	1,591,926.	34	1,913,766.

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	2,168,443.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	2,056,393.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	112,050.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	834,220.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	946,270.

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990. <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	X	
c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	X	
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		X
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

Form 990 (2017)

**SCHEDULE C**  
**(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**

**Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2017**

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527  
 ▶ Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.  
 ▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)). Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations: Complete Part III

Name of organization <b>MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP</b>	Employer identification number <b>37-1558379</b>
--	---

**Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.**

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities \_\_\_\_\_

**Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?  Yes  No
- 4a Was a correction made?  Yes  No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV

**Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).**

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?  Yes  No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-

**Part II-A** Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check  if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures)
- B** Check  if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)	(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
<b>1a</b> Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)														
<b>b</b> Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)														
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)														
<b>d</b> Other exempt purpose expenditures														
<b>e</b> Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)														
<b>f</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns														
<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:35%;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th style="width:65%;">The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not over \$500,000</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over \$17,000,000</td> <td>\$1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.	Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000	Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:													
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e.													
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000													
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.													
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.													
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000													
<b>g</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)														
<b>h</b> Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-														
<b>i</b> Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-														
<b>j</b> If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												

**4-Year Averaging Period Under section 501(h)**  
 (Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below.  
 See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2014	(b) 2015	(c) 2016	(d) 2017	(e) Total
<b>2a</b> Lobbying nontaxable amount					
<b>b</b> Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
<b>c</b> Total lobbying expenditures					
<b>d</b> Grassroots nontaxable amount					
<b>e</b> Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
<b>f</b> Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

**Part II-B** Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes," response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
<b>1</b> During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of			
<b>a</b> Volunteers?			
<b>b</b> Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
<b>c</b> Media advertisements?			
<b>d</b> Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
<b>e</b> Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
<b>f</b> Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
<b>g</b> Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
<b>h</b> Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
<b>i</b> Other activities?			
<b>j</b> Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			
<b>2a</b> Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?			
<b>b</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
<b>c</b> If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
<b>d</b> If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

**Part III-A** Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?		X
<b>2</b> Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?		X
<b>3</b> Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year?		X

**Part III-B** Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No," OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

<b>1</b> Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	<b>1</b>	603,250.
<b>2</b> Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).		
<b>a</b> Current year	<b>2a</b>	30,000.
<b>b</b> Carryover from last year	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b> Total	<b>2c</b>	30,000.
<b>3</b> Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (see instructions)	<b>5</b>	30,000.

**Part IV** Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, Part II-A (affiliated group list), Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions), and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

**SCHEDULE D**  
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Financial Statements**

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.  
▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

**2017**  
Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

**MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP**

Employer identification number  
**37-1558379**

**Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Part II Conservation Easements.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a historically important land area
<input type="checkbox"/> Protection of natural habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a certified historic structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of open space	
2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year	
a Total number of conservation easements	<b>Held at the End of the Tax Year</b>
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2a
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2b
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 7/25/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2c
3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ _____	2d
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____	
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ _____	
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ _____	
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements	

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items	
b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items.	
(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	▶ \$ _____
(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X	▶ \$ _____
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items	
a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	▶ \$ _____
b Assets included in Form 990, Part X	▶ \$ _____

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets** *(continued)*

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):

- a  Public exhibition
- b  Scholarly research
- c  Preservation for future generations
- d  Loan or exchange programs
- e  Other \_\_\_\_\_

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?  Yes  No

**Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

- c Beginning balance
- d Additions during the year
- e Distributions during the year
- f Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?  Yes  No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII

**Part V Endowment Funds.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

- a Board designated or quasi-endowment  %
- b Permanent endowment  %
- c Temporarily restricted endowment  %

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

- (i) unrelated organizations
- (ii) related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				

**Total.** Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)  0.

**Part VII Investments - Other Securities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
<b>Total (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.)</b>		

**Part VIII Investments - Program Related.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c See Form 990, Part X, line 13

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
<b>Total (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.)</b>		

**Part IX Other Assets.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.)</b>	

**Part X Other Liabilities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f See Form 990, Part X, line 25

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2) DEFERRED REVENUES	889,887.
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.)</b>	

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740) Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII



**SCHEDULE J  
(Form 990)**

**Compensation Information**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2017**

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees  
 ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.  
 ▶ Attach to Form 990.  
 ▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

Name of the organization

**MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP**

Employer identification number

**37-1558379**

**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

**1a** Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel             | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account            | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (such as, maid, chauffeur, chef) |

**b** If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

**2** Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a?

**3** Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee              | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

**4** During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization

- a** Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?  
**b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?  
**c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?  
 If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III

**Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.**

**5** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of

- a** The organization?  
**b** Any related organization?  
 If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III

**6** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of

- a** The organization?  
**b** Any related organization?  
 If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

**7** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

**8** Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

**9** If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
1b		
2		
4a		X
4b		X
4c		X
5a		
5b		
6a		
6b		
7		
8		
9		

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) 2017

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that aren't listed on Form 990, Part VII

**Note:** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column (B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
	(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
(1) MARK HORWEDEL PRESIDENT/CEO	(i)	367,900.	0.	0.	0.	367,900.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(2) LAURA TOWNSEND SVP OF OPERATIONS	(i)	196,667.	0.	0.	0.	196,667.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
(3) HARRINGTON COMPANY MANAGEMENT COMPANY	(i)	409,022.	0.	0.	0.	409,022.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						
	(i)						
	(ii)						



SCHEDULE O  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

**2017**

Open to Public  
Inspection

Name of the organization

MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP

Employer identification number

37-1558379

FORM 990, PART I, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

INTERESTS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 3:

MANAGEMENT DUTIES OF THE ORGANIZATION WERE DELEGATED TO THE HARRINGTON  
COMPANY. THE HARRINGTON COMPANY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY TO DAY  
MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION INCLUDING, MEMBER SERVICING, ACCOUNTING,  
REPORTING ETC.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6:

THE ORGANIZATION HAS MEMBERS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7A:

THE MEMBERS ELECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7B:

SOME DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE MEMBERS  
E.G. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:

THE CEO AND TREASURER ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW THE RETURN TO ENSURE  
THAT IS IS ACCURATE BEFORE IT IS SIGNED. SUCH REVIEWS INCLUDES COMPARISION  
WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS FINANCIALS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C:

EACH BOARD MEMBER MUST SIGN THIS DOCUMENT ANNUALLY.

Name of the organization

MERCHANT ADVISORY GROUP

Employer identification number

37-1558379

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15:

THE BOARD DETERMINED COMPENSATION BASED UPON COMPARABLE POSITIONS IN ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT. THEY ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT THE CEO AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AND THEREFORE RECEIVES NO BENEFITS.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19:

UPON REQUEST.