

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL INC
Form DEF 14A
March 17, 2014

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[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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Table of Contents

March 17, 2014

Dear Fellow Shareholders:

You are cordially invited to join us for our 2014 annual meeting of shareholders, which will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., Central time, at the Ameriprise Financial Center, 707 Second Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota 55474. Holders of record of our common stock as of the close of business on March 4, 2014, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2014 annual meeting.

The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and the proxy statement that follow describe the business to be conducted at the meeting. We also will report on matters of current interest to our shareholders.

We hope you will be able to attend the meeting. However, even if you plan to attend in person, please submit a proxy promptly to ensure that your shares are represented at the meeting. You may submit your proxy by telephone or Internet as described in the following materials or, if you request that proxy materials be mailed to you, by completing and signing the proxy card enclosed with those materials and returning it in the envelope provided. If you decide to change or revoke your proxy, you may do so by voting in person at the meeting or by submitting a timely later-dated proxy or a written revocation to our corporate secretary.

To be admitted to this year's annual meeting as a shareholder, you must bring an admission ticket, as explained on page 92 of the proxy statement.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and discussing the business of your Company with you.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. CRACCHIOLO
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

**AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL, INC.
707 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55474**

**Notice of
Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

DATE Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. Central time

PLACE Ameriprise Financial Center
Market Garden Skyway Level
707 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55474

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- (1) To elect ten directors
- (2) A nonbinding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers
- (3) To adopt and approve the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation to eliminate supermajority voting rights and effect certain other non-material amendments
- (4) To adopt and approve the Ameriprise Financial 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, as Amended and Restated
- (5) To ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accountants for 2014
- (6) A shareholder proposal relating to the disclosure of political contributions and expenditures, if properly presented
- (7) To transact such other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

RECORD DATE You can vote if you are a shareholder of record as of the close of business on March 4, 2014.

THOMAS R. MOORE
*Vice President, Corporate Secretary and
Chief Governance Officer*

March 17, 2014

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>VOTING INFORMATION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Record Date</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Ownership of Shares</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>How to Vote</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Shares Held Under the Ameriprise Financial 401(k) Plan</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Confidential Voting</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Quorum and Required Vote</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Votes Required for Proposals</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Routine and Non-Routine Proposals</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>How We Count Votes</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Multiple Shareholders Sharing the Same Address</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Cost of Proxy Solicitation</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Requests for Copies of Materials</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Director Independence</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Independence of Committee Members</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Categorical Standards of Director Independence</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Committee Charters</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Internal Audit Function</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Audit Committee Financial Experts</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Executive Sessions of Independent Directors</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Presiding Director</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Communications from Shareholders and Other Interested Parties</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Our Board's Leadership Structure</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Our Board's Role in Risk Oversight</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Consideration of Director Candidates Recommended by Shareholders</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Annual Performance Evaluation Process for the Board and its Committees</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Codes of Conduct</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Director Attendance at Annual Meeting of Shareholders</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Majority Voting for Directors</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Director Qualifications and Board Policies</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Board Diversity</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Communicating with Directors</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Board and Committee Meetings</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Membership on Board Committees</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Compensation and Benefits Committee</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Nominating and Governance Committee</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Director Nomination Process</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Outside Directors Compensation Program for 2013</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON SHARES</u>	<u>23</u>

ITEMS TO BE VOTED ON BY SHAREHOLDERS

24

ITEM 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

24

Table of Contents

<u>ITEM 2 A NONBINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>ITEM 3 TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO ELIMINATE SUPERMAJORITY VOTING RIGHTS AND EFFECT CERTAIN OTHER NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENTS</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>ITEM 4 TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL 2005 INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>ITEM 5 RATIFICATION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE'S SELECTION OF THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2014</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>ITEM 6 A SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES, IF PROPERLY PRESENTED</u>	<u>45</u>
<u>COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>Compensation and Benefits Committee Report</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Introduction</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>The Corporate Governance Framework of Our Executive Compensation Program</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>The Role of the Compensation and Benefits Committee</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Our Executive Compensation Philosophy</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Compensation for the Named Executive Officers Based on 2013 Performance</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Summary of Total Direct Compensation for our Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>64</u>
<u>Additional Information About Our Executive Compensation Program</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>Market Compensation Data</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>Risk and Incentive Compensation</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Special Tax and Accounting Considerations</u>	<u>67</u>
<u>Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718</u>	<u>67</u>
<u>Stock Option, Restricted Stock, and Performance Share Unit Grant Practices and Procedures</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>Stock Ownership and Retention Guidelines</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>Post-Employment Compensation and Benefits</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>The Committee's Consideration of the 2013 Nonbinding Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation of our Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2013 Table</u>	<u>72</u>
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End 2013 Table</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2013 Table</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation for 2013 Table</u>	<u>77</u>
<u>Pension Benefits in 2013 Table</u>	<u>78</u>
<u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control for Named Executive Officers</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Related Person Transaction Review Policy</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Transactions With Other Companies</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Transactions Between the Company and Our Directors and Officers</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Transactions with Significant Shareholders</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING DEADLINES, FOR SUBMISSION OF PROXY PROPOSALS, NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY SHAREHOLDERS</u>	<u>90</u>
<u>APPENDIX GAAP TO NON-GAAP RECONCILIATIONS</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>EXHIBIT A PROPOSED AMENDED AND RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO EFFECT AMENDMENTS AS EXPLAINED IN ITEM 3</u>	<u>A-1</u>
<u>EXHIBIT B THE AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL 2005 INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED, AS EXPLAINED IN ITEM 4</u>	<u>B-1</u>

Table of Contents

Proxy Statement

General Information

We are providing these proxy materials to you in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. for the 2014 annual meeting of shareholders and for any adjournment or postponement of the meeting. In this proxy statement, we may also refer to Ameriprise Financial, Inc. as "Ameriprise Financial," "Ameriprise," "the Company," "we," "our" or "us."

We are holding the 2014 annual meeting at 11:00 a.m. Central time, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at the Company's Minneapolis headquarters and invite you to attend in person. An admission ticket is required for the annual meeting. Please see additional information about how to attend the meeting on page 92. If you need special assistance at the meeting because of a disability, you may contact Thomas R. Moore, our Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, by telephone at (612) 678-0106, by email at thomas.r.moore@ampf.com or by writing to him at 1098 Ameriprise Financial Center, Minneapolis, MN 55474. We have arranged for a live audio webcast of the 2014 annual meeting to be accessible to the general public on the Internet at ir.ameriprise.com.

Under rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we provide our shareholders with the choice of accessing the 2014 annual meeting proxy materials over the Internet, rather than receiving printed copies of those materials through the mail. In connection with this process, a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials is being mailed to our shareholders who have not previously requested electronic access to our proxy materials or paper proxy materials. The notice contains instructions on how you may access and review our proxy materials on the Internet and how you may submit a proxy for your shares over the Internet. The notice will also tell you how to request our proxy materials in printed form or by email, at no charge. The notice contains a 12-digit control number that you will need to vote your shares. Please keep the notice for your reference through the meeting date.

We anticipate that the Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials will be mailed to shareholders beginning on or about March 19, 2014.

Voting Information

Record Date

You may vote all shares that you owned as of March 4, 2014, which is the record date for the annual meeting. On March 4, 2014, we had 190,594,540 common shares outstanding at the close of business. Each common share is entitled to one vote on each matter properly brought before the meeting.

Ownership of Shares

You may own common shares in one of the following ways:

directly in your name as the shareholder of record, which includes restricted stock awards issued to employees under our long-term incentive plans;

indirectly through a broker, bank, trustee, or other holder of record in "street name"; or

indirectly in the Ameriprise Financial, Inc. Stock Fund of our 401(k) plan.

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are the holder of record of these shares and we are sending a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials directly to you. As the holder of record, you have the right to submit your proxy, by telephone, by the Internet or by mail (if you request to receive your proxy materials by mail), or to vote in person at the meeting. If you hold your shares in street name, your

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broker, bank, trustee, or other holder of record is sending a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials to you. As a holder in street name, you have the right to direct your broker,

Table of Contents

bank or other holder of record how to vote by submitting voting instructions in the manner directed by your bank, broker, trustee, or other holder of record.

Regardless of how you hold your shares, we invite you to attend the annual meeting. To attend the meeting, you must have been a shareholder at the close of business on the record date of March 4, 2014, and you will need to bring an admission ticket. If you are a shareholder who plans to send a proxy or qualified representative to represent you at the annual meeting, it is also important to note that under our amended and restated By-Laws, the following provisions apply: (i) no later than five business days prior to the annual meeting, a shareholder must provide the name(s) of any person(s) authorized to act as a proxy or qualified representative in order to gain admission to the annual meeting; and (ii) no more than three persons who are authorized to act as proxy or a qualified representative for a shareholder may attend the annual meeting.

How to Vote

The Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials that most of our shareholders will receive will have information about submitting your proxy online but is not permitted to include a telephonic voting number because that would enable a shareholder to vote without accessing the proxy materials online. The telephonic voting number will be on the website where the proxy materials can be found. For more information about submitting your proxy by telephone, please see the next two sections.

Your Vote is Important. We encourage you to submit your proxy promptly. Internet and telephone proxy submission is available through 10:00 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, April 27, 2014, for shares held in the Ameriprise 401(k) plan and through 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, for all other shares. You may submit your proxy or vote in one of the following ways:

Submit Your Proxy By Telephone. You have the option to submit your proxy by telephone. In order to submit your proxy by telephone, please go to www.proxyvote.com and log in using the 12-digit control number provided on your Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials. You will be provided with a telephone number for submitting your proxy at that site. Alternatively, if you request paper copies of the proxy materials, your proxy card or voting instruction form will have a toll-free telephone number that you may use to submit your proxy.

When you submit your proxy by telephone, you will be required to enter your 12-digit control number, so please have it available when you call. You may submit your proxy by telephone 24 hours a day. The telephone proxy submission system has easy-to-follow instructions and allows you to confirm that the system has properly recorded your voting instructions.

Submit Your Proxy By Internet. You may also submit your proxy by the Internet. The Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials indicates the website you may access for Internet proxy submission using the 12-digit control number included in the notice. You may submit your proxy by the Internet 24 hours a day. As with telephone proxy submission, you will be able to confirm that the system has properly recorded your voting instructions. If you hold your shares in street name, please follow the Internet proxy submission instructions in the Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials you receive from your bank, broker, trustee, or other record holder. You may incur telephone and Internet access charges if you submit your proxy by the Internet.

Submit Your Proxy By Mail. If you elect to receive your proxy materials by mail and you are a holder of record, you can submit your proxy by marking, dating, and signing your proxy card and returning it by mail in the postage-paid envelope provided to you. If you elect to receive your proxy materials by mail and you hold your shares in street name, you can submit your voting instructions by completing and mailing the voting instruction form provided by your bank, broker, trustee, or holder of record.

Table of Contents

Vote at the Meeting. Submitting a proxy now will not limit your right to change your vote at the meeting if you attend in person. If you hold your shares in street name, you must obtain a proxy, executed in your favor, from the holder of record if you wish to vote these shares at the meeting in person.

All shares for which proxies have been properly submitted and not revoked will be voted as you have directed at the meeting. **If you sign and return your proxy card without voting instructions for a proposal, your shares will be voted as the Board of Directors recommends for that proposal.**

Revocation of Proxies. You can revoke your proxy at any time before your shares are voted if you: (1) submit a written revocation to our corporate secretary at the meeting; (2) submit a timely later-dated proxy or voting instruction form if you hold shares in street name; (3) provide timely subsequent telephone or Internet voting instructions; or (4) vote in person at the meeting.

Shares Held Under the Ameriprise Financial 401(k) Plan

If you participate in the Ameriprise Financial 401(k) Plan and invest in the Ameriprise Financial, Inc. Stock Fund, your proxy card includes shares that the plan has credited to your account. To allow sufficient time for the plan trustee to vote, the trustee must receive your voting instructions by 10:00 a.m. Eastern time, on Sunday, April 27, 2014. **If the plan trustee does not receive your instructions by that date, the trustee will vote your shares in the same proportion of votes that the trustee receives from other plan participants who did vote.**

Confidential Voting

We maintain the confidentiality of the votes of individual shareholders. We do not disclose these votes to any member of management unless we must disclose them for legal reasons or in the event of a contested proxy solicitation. However, if a shareholder writes a comment on the proxy card, we will forward the comment to management. In reviewing the comment, management may learn how the shareholder voted. In addition, the Inspector of Elections and selected employees of our independent tabulating agent may have access to individual votes in the normal course of counting and verifying the vote.

Quorum and Required Vote

Quorum. We will have a quorum and will be able to conduct the business of the annual meeting if the holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting, either in person or by proxy.

Votes Required for Proposals

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" each of the nominees in Item (1) and "FOR" Items (2), (3), (4) and (5). Properly submitted proxies will be voted "FOR" each such Item unless otherwise specified. The Board of Directors recommends that you vote "AGAINST" Item (6), assuming that it is properly presented at the annual meeting in accordance with our By-Laws. Properly submitted proxies will be voted "AGAINST" Item (6) unless otherwise specified.

Item

- (1) To elect ten directors
- (2) A nonbinding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers
- (3) To adopt and approve the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of

To elect directors and adopt the other proposals, the following proportion of votes is required:

Under the majority voting standard, in an uncontested election, a nominee must receive a number of "For" votes that exceeds 50% of the votes cast (excluding abstentions)*
The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast
The affirmative vote of the holders of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the combined voting

	Incorporation to eliminate supermajority voting rights and effect certain other non-material amendments	power of the outstanding stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors
(4)	To adopt and approve the Ameriprise Financial 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, as Amended and Restated	The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast
(5)	To ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accountants for 2014	The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast
(6)	A shareholder proposal relating to the disclosure of political contributions and expenditures, if properly presented	The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast

*

If an uncontested incumbent nominee for director does not receive an affirmative majority of "For" votes, he or she will be required to promptly tender his or her resignation to the Board's independent Nominating and Governance Committee. The committee will then make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the tendered resignation should be accepted or rejected, or whether other action should be taken. The Board will publicly announce its decision regarding the tendered resignation and the rationale behind it within 90 days after the election results have been certified. The director who tendered the resignation will not be permitted to vote on the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee or the Board's decision with respect to his or her tendered resignation.

Table of Contents

Routine and Non-Routine Proposals. The rules of the New York Stock Exchange determine whether proposals presented at shareholder meetings are routine or non-routine. If a proposal is routine, a broker or other entity holding shares for an owner in street name may vote on the proposal without receiving voting instructions from the owner under certain circumstances. If a proposal is non-routine, the broker or other entity may vote on the proposal only if the owner has provided voting instructions. A broker non-vote occurs when the broker or other entity is unable to vote on a proposal because the proposal is non-routine and the owner does not provide any voting instructions.

The rules of the New York Stock Exchange make all of the proposals to be considered at the annual meeting non-routine items (other than the proposal to ratify the Audit Committee's selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accountants for 2014). This means that brokers who do not receive voting instructions from their clients as to how to vote their shares for these proposals can't exercise discretion to vote their clients' shares. Therefore, it is important that you instruct your broker as to how you wish to have your shares voted on these proposals, even if you wish to vote as recommended by the Board of Directors.

How We Count Votes. In determining whether we have a quorum for the annual meeting, we count abstentions and broker non-votes as present and entitled to vote. For your convenience, we have provided this chart to show whether each item being voted on is routine or non-routine under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange. The chart also shows how abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated in determining the outcome of voting on each item.

Item Being Voted On	Routine/ Non-Routine	Treatment of Abstentions	Treatment of Broker Non-Votes
(1) To elect ten directors	Non-routine	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.
(2) A nonbinding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers	Non-routine	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.
(3) To adopt and approve the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation to eliminate supermajority voting rights and effect certain other non-material amendments	Non-routine	Will be counted as a vote AGAINST this proposal	Will be counted as a vote AGAINST this proposal
(4) To adopt and approve the Ameriprise Financial 2005 Incentive Compensation Plan, as Amended and Restated	Non-routine	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.	No effect; not included in numerator or denominator.