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

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): February 7, 2011

SYMETRA FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)**

**001-33808
(Commission
File Number)**

**20-0978027
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

**777 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1200
Bellevue, Washington 98004
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)**

**(425) 256-8000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
-
-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.](#)

[Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.](#)

[SIGNATURE](#)

[Exhibit Index](#)

[EX-99.1](#)

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

Symetra Financial Corporation (the “Company”) is announcing its guidance for 2011 adjusted operating income per diluted common share and the long-term target for operating return on average equity at its Investor Day meeting in New York City today, being held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Eastern Time. At the Investor Day meeting, Tom Marra, president and chief executive officer, and Margaret Meister, executive vice-president and chief financial officer, along with other members of the Company’s executive leadership team, are presenting information concerning the Company’s business, capital and financial outlook in a slide presentation to investors and analysts.

A live audio webcast of the Investor Day meeting and the related slide presentation can be accessed through a link on the investor relations page of the Company’s web site at <http://investors.symetra.com>. An audio replay of the webcast will be available on the Company’s website beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on February 7, 2011.

A copy of this slide presentation is being furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K. The information in the slide presentation shall not be deemed to be “filed” for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liability of that Section. Furthermore, the slide presentation shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into the Company’s filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except as set forth with respect thereto in any such filing.

Certain of the statements included in this Form 8-K and its exhibit constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include operating earnings guidance and other statements regarding our expectations, assumptions and beliefs. Without limiting or superseding the foregoing, the text of the slide 2, entitled “Forward-Looking Statements,” is incorporated by reference into this item 7.01.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

99.1 Symetra Financial Corporation 2011 Investor Day presentation, dated February 7, 2011

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: February 7, 2011

By: /s/ George C. Pagos
Name: George C. Pagos
Title: Senior Vice President, General Counsel and
Secretary

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Symetra Financial Corporation 2011 Investor Day presentation, dated February 7, 2011

Grow and Diversify

**Symetra Financial
2011 Investor Day**

February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements made in the following presentations that relate to anticipated financial performance or business operations, business services and product prospects and plans, regulatory developments and similar matters may be considered "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of current or historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may cause the operations, performance, development and results of our business to differ materially from those suggested by such statements. Consequently, all of the forward-looking statements made in this presentation are qualified by these cautionary statements. The information contained in this presentation speaks as of December 31, 2010. Symetra undertakes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of future results. Future results, including our financial performance, business operations and trends in our business and industry, are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, including without limitation the following:

- general economic, market or business conditions, including further economic downturns or other adverse conditions in the global and domestic capital and credit markets;
- the availability of capital and financing;
- potential investment losses;
- the effects of fluctuations in interest rates and a prolonged low interest rate environment;
- recorded reserves for future policy benefits and claims subsequently proving to be inadequate or inaccurate;
- deviations from assumptions used in setting prices for insurance and annuity products;
- market pricing and competitive trends related to insurance products and services;
- changes in amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs;
- financial strength or credit ratings downgrades;
- the continued availability and cost of reinsurance coverage;
- changes in laws or regulations, or their interpretation, including those which could increase Symetra's business costs and required capital levels;
- the ability of subsidiaries to pay dividends to Symetra;
- the ability of the new executive leadership team to successfully implement business strategies;
- the effects of implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;
- the effects of implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; and
- the risks that are described from time to time in Symetra's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including those in Symetra's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K and 2010 quarterly reports on Form 10-Q.

Agenda

	<u>Slide</u>
• Strategic Overview	4
• Retirement Division	8
• Life Division	20
• Life and Retirement Sales	27
• Q&A – Part 1	
• Break	
• Group Division	32
• Financial Review	43
• Q&A – Part 2	

Grow and Diversify

Strategic Overview

Tom Marra

February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

Grow and Diversify

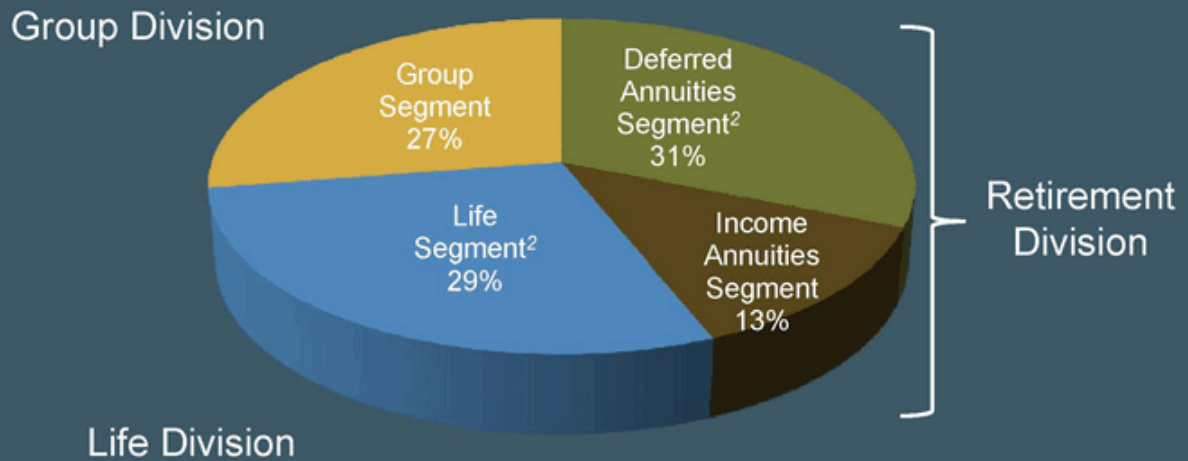
- Driving profitable growth and expanding ROE over time
- Starting from solid position of strength in:
 - Group medical stop-loss
 - Banking channel distribution of fixed annuities
 - Bank-Owned Life Insurance (BOLI) sales
 - Excellent balance sheet
 - Risk management discipline
- Driving growth and diversification
 - Revamping product offering and expanding distribution
 - Diversification goals for each division
 - Investing into the momentum - building infrastructure to support growth initiatives
- Deploying capital to maximize long-term shareholder value

Leadership Team Is in Place

- Tom Marra - CEO
- Margaret Meister - CFO
- Jon Curley - Life Division
- Michael Fry - Group Division
- Dan Guilbert - Retirement Division
- Rich LaVoice - Life & Retirement Sales
- Tommie Brooks - Chief Actuary & CRO
- Chris Katzmar-Holmes - Human Resources
- George Pagos - General Counsel

Our Businesses Are Aligned in Three Divisions

2010 Pretax Adjusted Operating Income¹



¹ Excluding Other segment loss of \$(11.4)M.

² Prior to 4Q10, the Deferred Annuities segment was called Retirement Services, the Life segment was called Individual.

Grow and Diversify

Retirement Division
Dan Guilbert

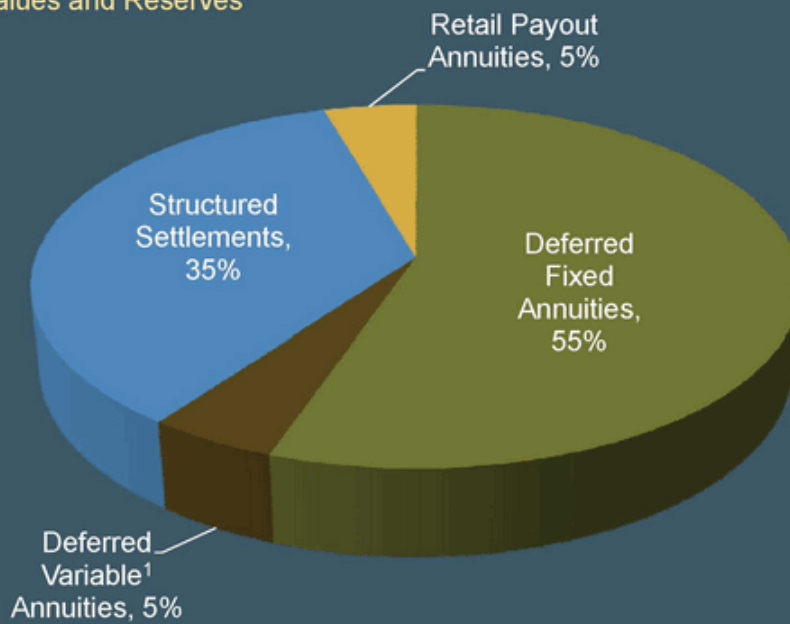
February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

Retirement Division: Product Breakout

GAAP Account Values and Reserves
As of 12/31/10



Affluent Baby Boomers Provide a Growing Market



- Total retirement assets are projected to reach \$20 trillion by 2015. Our target market – the mass affluent – control 50%
- The projected five-year CAGR for U.S. retirement assets is 5.9% through 2015
- 8% of both current workers and retirees say annuity payments will make up a significant part of their retirement strategy.

We're diversifying our Retirement Division product offering to capitalize on this market expansion

Market Leading Position in the Bank Channel

Top-5¹ Seller of Fixed Deferred and Payout Annuities

JPMorganChase

WELLS
FARGO

SUNTRUST

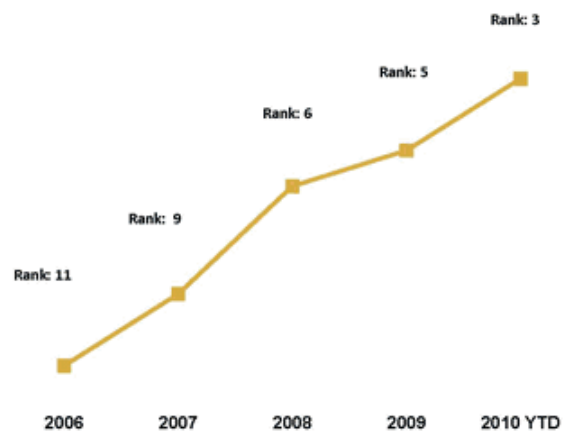
usbank
The Sun Service Company

REGIONS

KeyBank

Huntington

Symetra Fixed Annuity Ranking¹ in the Bank Channel



¹ Market share ranking data according to Kehler-LIMRA (through 3Q10)

Why We Succeed in the Bank Channel

- We have built solid relationships with major bank distribution partners
 - Dedicated service teams assigned to key distribution partners
 - Visitations to back offices to ensure operational procedures are in sync
 - Support for distribution partners with electronic platform installations
- Our focus on fixed annuities, sold in banks, has been consistent over the years
 - 15 product launches or enhancements with key partners during 2010
 - Turnkey solution – average 3 weeks from inception to execution
 - We respond nimbly to shifts in the market with changes in our product design and commission structure

Fixed Annuity Block Is Growing Profitably

Account Values and Spread have increased
(\$ millions)



- Pricing discipline will remain
- Optimizing pricing and rates in challenging rate environment
 - Optional guaranteed return of purchase payment
 - Commission restructure
 - Increased surrender charges
 - Rigorous reset of guaranteed minimum rates
- Spread will be a function of the levers we pull

We've maintained strong spreads through prudent pricing and renewal rate management

Introducing Our Fixed Indexed Annuity

- Total Fixed Indexed Annuity (FIA) sales opportunity
 - \$29.9 billion¹ among all distribution channels
 - \$2.3 billion² in the bank channel
- The Symetra Edge and Edge Pro Fixed Indexed Annuity
 - Developed in conjunction with our distribution partners
 - Targeting traditional fixed annuity bank customers seeking potential for improved crediting rates
 - Emphasis on diversification using two well known indexes: S&P 500 and S&P GSCI (Goldman Sachs Commodity Index)
 - Anticipated launch early 2Q11

Evaluating Entry into Registered Products

- Opportunity to bring innovation to product design and support products with diversifying risk characteristics: e.g., Market Value Adjustment (MVA) products bear lower interest rate risk and lower credit risk than our fixed or fixed indexed annuities
- Registered insurance product marketplace is dominated by VAs, but there are also opportunities for registered fixed and fixed indexed annuities
- Offering registered products would support our plans for expanding distribution footprint in the broker-dealer channel
- We are assessing whether there is an attractive space for Symetra: we expect to have a decision by the end of 2Q11

Deferred Annuity Priorities

Banks

- Maintain leadership position in bank channel
- Launch fixed indexed annuity
- Evaluate whether to enter the registered product marketplace

Broker-Dealers

- Selectively expand distribution
- Launch fixed indexed annuity
- Evaluate whether to enter the registered product marketplace

Add Product and Distribution

We Have Expertise in Payout Products

- Over 30 years of experience = strong foundation in designing, selling, servicing, and investing for payout products
- Clear understanding of asset-liability management (ALM) and mortality risks associated with this business, managed successfully to balance risks with competitive pricing
- Advantages in the income annuities market
 - Strong structured settlement sales team with long-term relationships
 - Responsive to broker needs with creative solutions

Income Annuity Priorities

Structured Settlement

- Continue to drive improvement in profitability of existing block
- Opportunistically extend asset portfolio duration as rates rise
- Continue to provide liquidity options to clients in inforce block through funding services

Retail Payout

- Leverage distribution relationships to increase sales through banks
- Expand sales of single-premium immediate annuities through broker-dealer channel

Maintain Pricing Discipline, Target Shorter Durations

Recap of Retirement Division Strategies

Support Symetra's objectives of business diversification and ROE expansion by:

- Maintaining focus where we've had success and have strengths → fixed annuity through banks
- Using strengths and natural extension opportunities to further diversify business and deploy capital profitably → product and broker-dealer expansion
- Continuing investment and ALM programs to enhance profits and reduce risk for inforce payout blocks, while adding new business opportunistically

Grow and Diversify

Life Division
Jon Curley

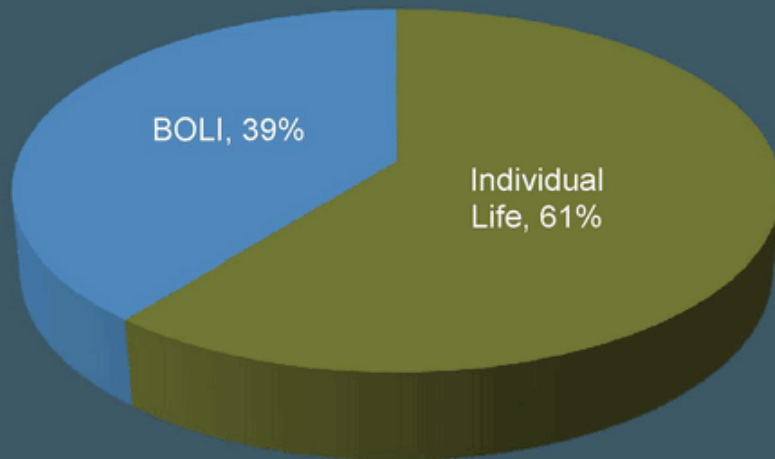
February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

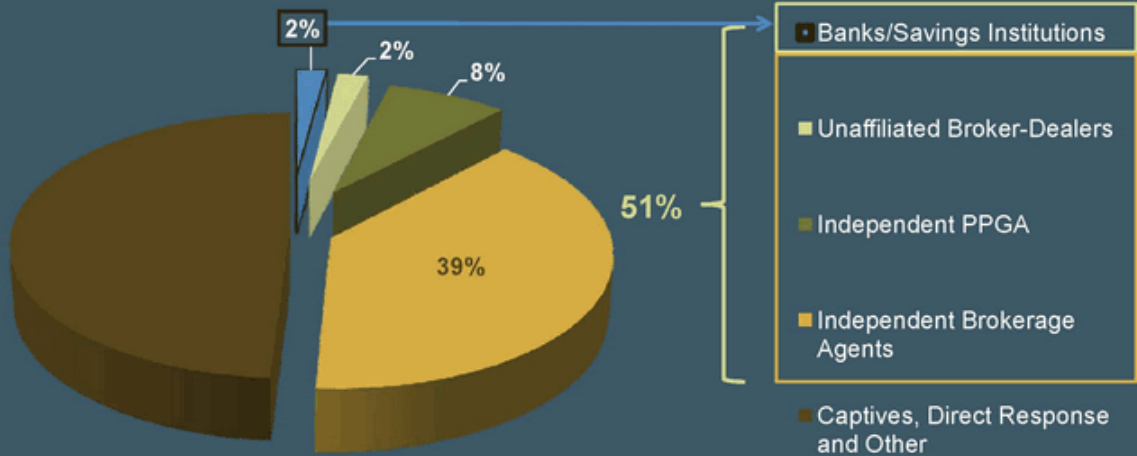
Life Division: Product Breakout

2010 Pretax Adjusted Operating Income



Individual Life Market Share by Distribution Channel¹

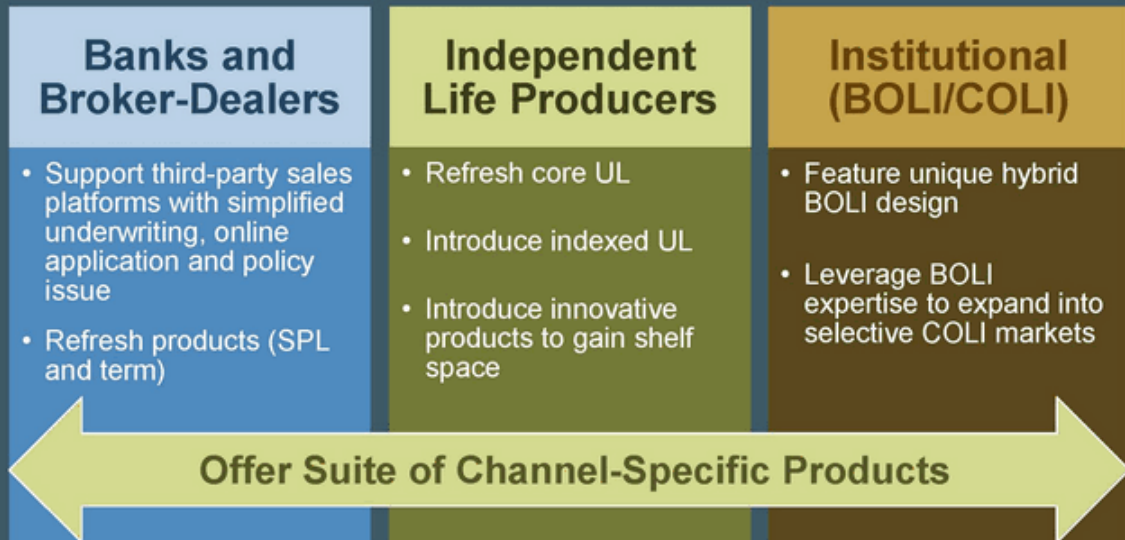
We're targeting the independent half of the distribution market



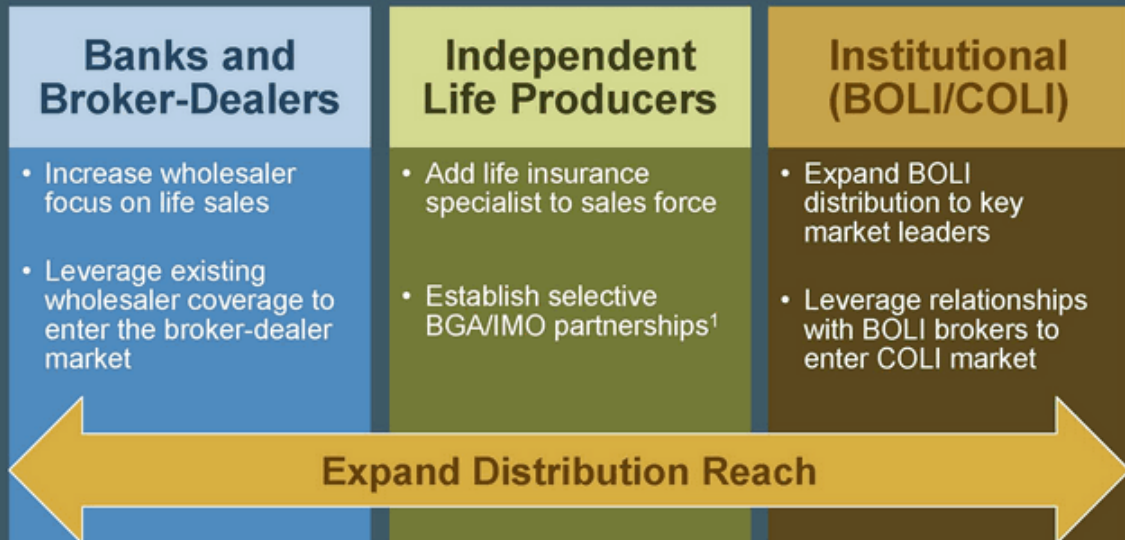
Symetra's Strengths in Individual Life

- Scalable new business and administration systems are already in place
- Strong relationships with bank retail sales force
- Long-term experience and strong market position in BOLI

Growing the Life Business: Product



Growing the Life Business: Distribution



Life Division Strategic Priorities

- New product development
 - Refresh current product offering (beginning with SPL in early 2Q11)
 - Release core UL product in 3Q11
 - Introduce new term offering in 4Q11
 - Plan new COLI product and indexed UL releases in early 2012
- Broadening distribution
 - Increase wholesaling focus on life products
 - Add life insurance specialist to wholesale force
 - Establish selective BGA relationships to broaden distribution
 - Leverage technology to capture “platform” sales opportunities
- Continued disciplined underwriting

Grow and Diversify

Life & Retirement Sales
Rich LaVoice

February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

Opportunities for Growth within Banks

Share of Symetra's Bank Sales

Top Bank Distributors	2008	2010
First	48%	15%
Second	11%	9%
Third	5%	8%
Fourth	4%	7%
Fifth	3%	5%
Top 5 Banks	71%	44%

JPMorganChase 

WELLS
FARGO

usbank
Plus Star Service Guaranteed

 REGIONS

 SUNTRUST

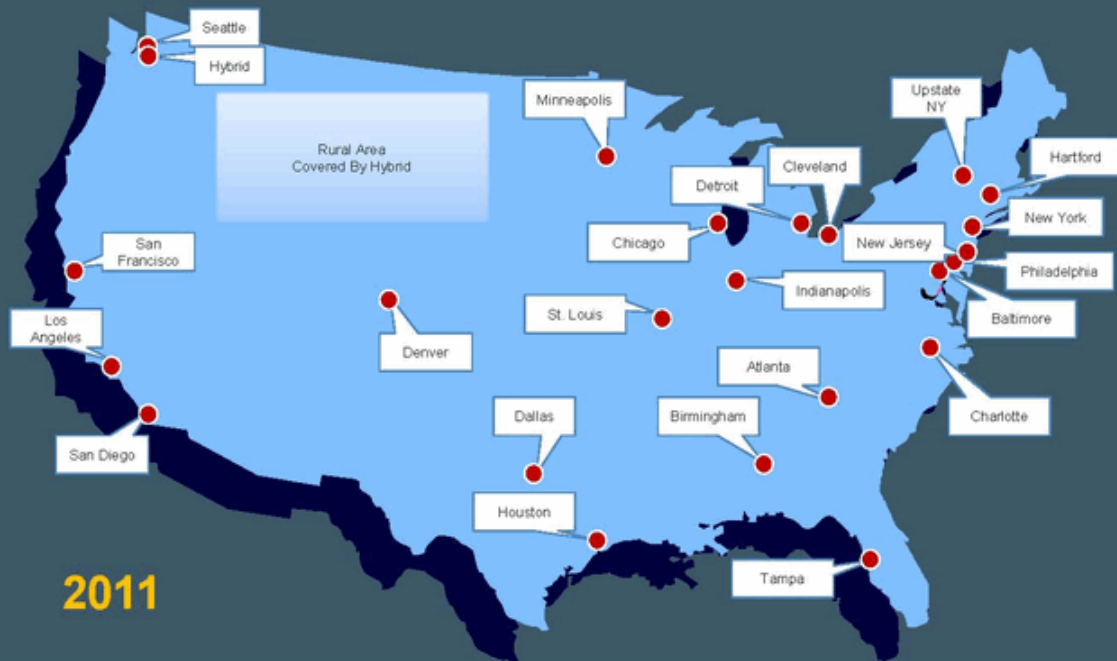
 KeyBank

 Huntington

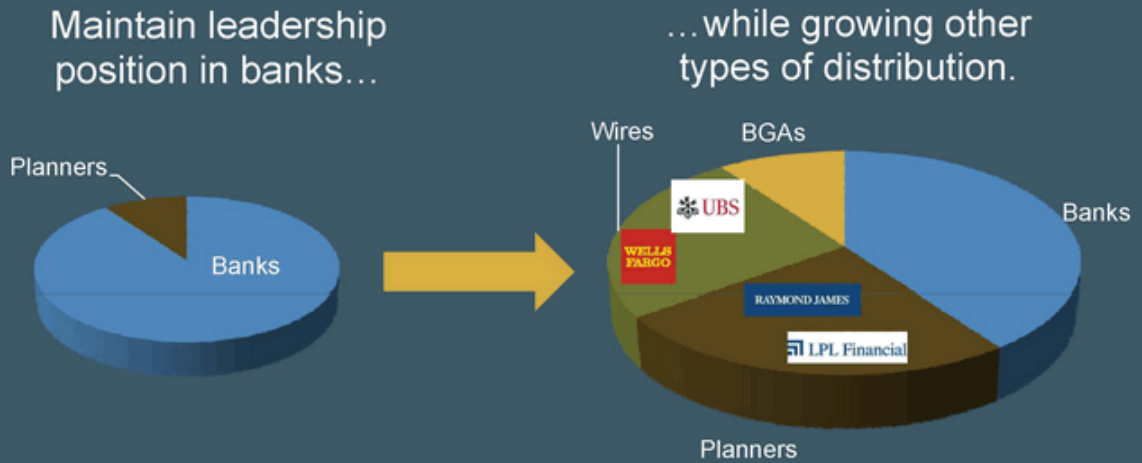
How We Compete

- Consistent presence in bank marketplace (30 years)
- Veteran management team
- Training and education
- Back office and technology integration
- Versatile wholesalers with consultative skills and broader product knowledge
- Smaller territories, major markets

More Feet on the Street



Leverage Bank Success into Broker-Dealers



Grow and Diversify

Group Division
Michael Fry

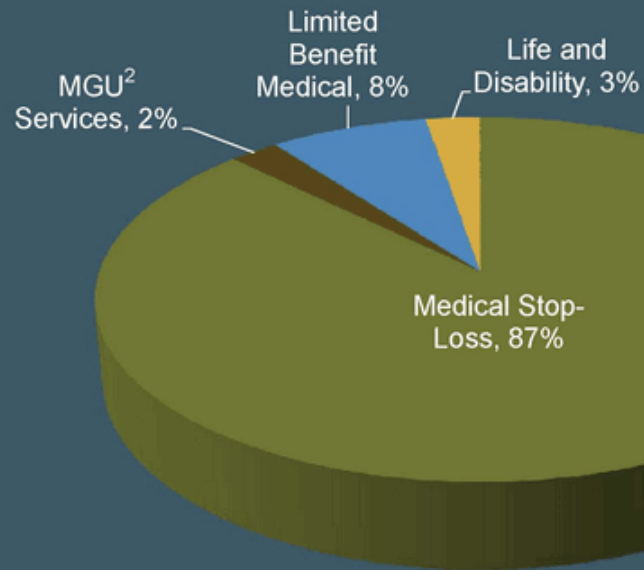
February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

Group Division: Product Breakout

2010 Revenues¹



Why Employers Choose to Self-Fund

160 million people get their coverage through the employer-based healthcare system, including 75 million who are covered by self-funded medical plans⁽¹⁾

- Customization – employer can customize the plan to meet the specific health care needs of its workforce
- Participation – employer (not the insurance company) benefits when claims experience is at or better than expected levels
- Consistent Regulation – self-insured health plans are regulated under federal law
- Lower Taxes – employer is not subject to state health insurance premium taxes

The Role of Stop-Loss Insurance

- All but the very largest of self-funded employers have some level of risk that they are not comfortable keeping
- Employee benefit brokers bring self-funded employers to insurance carriers who offer stop-loss coverage
- Two types of coverage work together to protect the self-funded employer:
 - Specific Stop Loss protects against the *severity* of medical claims
 - Aggregate Stop Loss protects against the *frequency* of claims

Impact of Healthcare Reform

- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
 - Affects market for major medical and mini-med plans
 - Mandates elimination of certain limits and exclusions
 - Establishes new payout standards with Medical Loss Ratio minimums
- Studies find that the majority of employers (74%¹) intend to continue to offer employee health care plans, despite concerns that costs will rise as a result of healthcare reform
- The elimination of coverage limitations, combined with ongoing medical cost inflation → increasing costs of major medical insurance → could lead more employers to self-fund their plans and manage their risks with stop-loss insurance

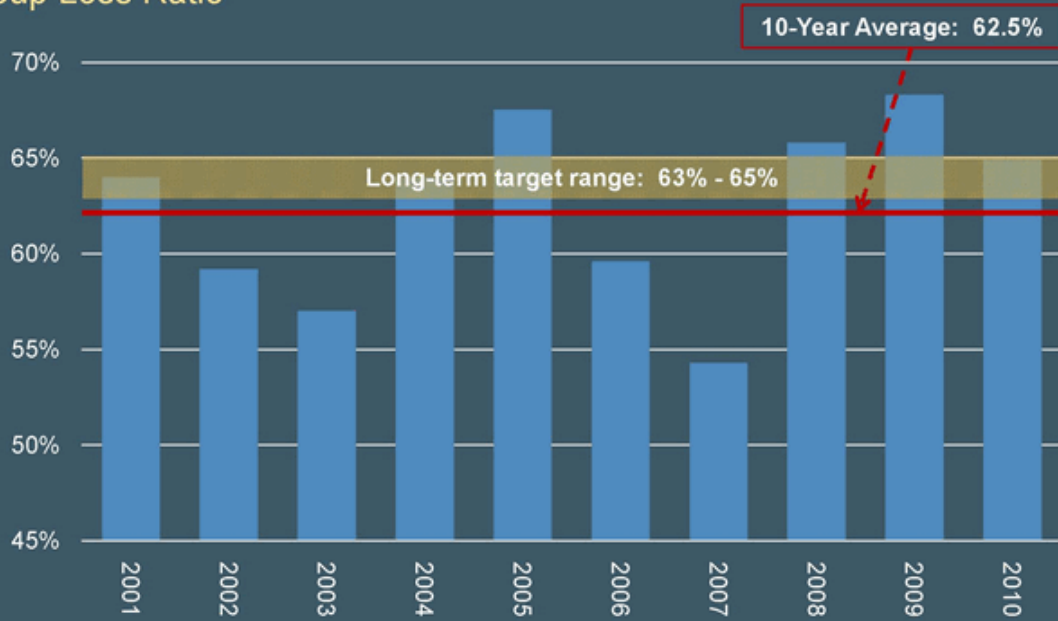
Symetra's Strengths in Medical Stop-Loss

- We manage to the bottom line – not the top line
- Symetra was an early entrant in the 1970s and we have been consistent in our focus for over three decades, resulting in a solid record of profitability
- Field incentives are heavily leveraged on business profitability
- We have built solid relationships and a strong reputation with benefits brokers and employer-customers
- We offer a clean contract design with minimal coverage exclusions
- Our claims service is considered to be “best in class”



Track Record of Profitability

Group Loss Ratio




Group Life Insurance for the Middle Market

There is plenty of room for Symetra to compete effectively in this space

- 106,000 mid-market firms¹ with \$25M to \$1B in revenues:
 - Total annual revenue of \$6 trillion
 - 60% of the U.S. equity market's capitalization
 - Over 30 million employees (more than the companies in the S&P 500)
- The fastest growing insurers in group life have not been the insurance industry's largest companies
- Our expansion strategy is aligned with that of our major distribution partners

Industry Growth Leaders²



Sun Life
Lincoln
Mutual of Omaha
Reliance Standard Life
StanCorp
ING

Group Life: Winning in the Mid-Market

- Differentiation
 - Packaging Life and DI with Medical Stop-Loss
 - Producer incentives for cross-selling products in group portfolio
 - Personal account service with performance guarantees
 - Product flexibility with funding alternatives
- Capitalizing on our strengths
 - Strong, long-standing broker relationships
 - Experienced external partnerships
 - Strong financial discipline



Launching Group Life with a Phased Approach

Current State



- ✓ Competitive contract designs
- ✓ Dependence on external partnerships
- ✓ Limited field expertise
- ✓ Ceding large share of risk

12 – 18 Months



- ✓ Key leadership and field hires
- ✓ Technology platform investment begins
- ✓ Begin reclaiming key functions
- ✓ Increase risk share over time

Target State



- ✓ Diverse employee benefits solutions
- ✓ Core business line representing 25% of Group Division revenues
- ✓ DI risks and costs mitigated through reinsurance

Group Division Strategic Framework

- Medical Stop-Loss priorities:
 - Maintain leadership position
 - Maximize profitability through disciplined underwriting and claims payment practices
- Group Life priorities:
 - Develop leadership team and in-house capabilities
 - Leverage medical stop-loss distribution network
- Limited Benefit Medical priorities:
 - Drive growth through group benefit brokers
 - Capitalize on healthcare reform opportunities

Grow and Diversify

Financial Review
Margaret Meister

February 7, 2011



SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

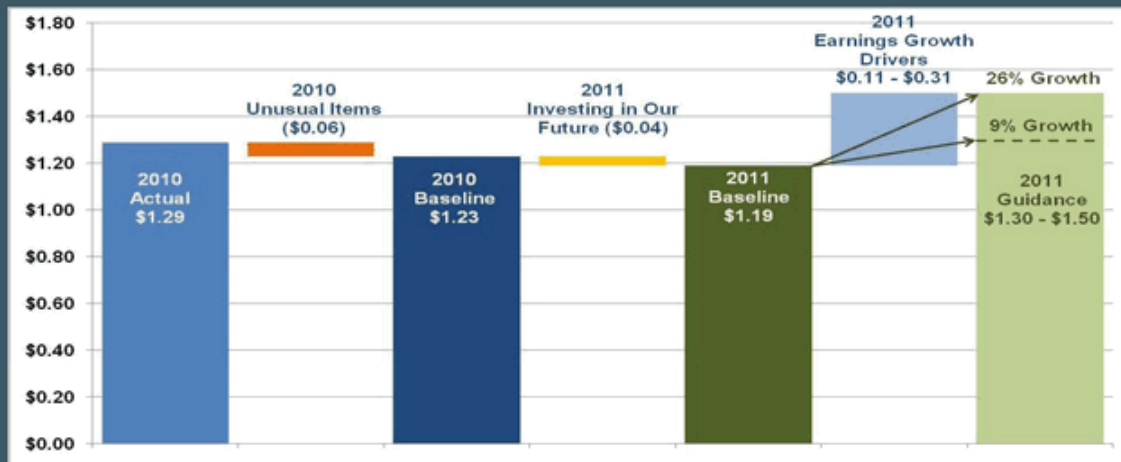
Financial Discussion and Outlook

- 2011 earnings guidance
- ROE expansion
- Capital management
- Investment portfolio
- Diversification objectives
- Summary

2011 - 2013 Outlook Assumptions

- Stable interest rate environment at today's levels
- Supply and spreads for commercial mortgage loan originations comparable to 2010
- Modest increase in equities investment
- Mortality experience comparable to 2010
- Achieve and maintain targets for investment of cash
- No M&A transactions
- No equity or debt capital management activities
- Current accounting rules

2011 Operating EPS Guidance¹: \$1.30 - \$1.50



Investing in our future:

- Group life team
- Accelerated product development
- System implementations

Earnings drivers:

- Growth from existing products
- Sales and renewals of stop-loss
- Continued CML² push

¹ Denotes a non-GAAP financial measure also referred to as "adjusted operating income per diluted share of common stock." See Appendix for definition and reconciliation to most directly comparable GAAP measure.

² Commercial mortgage loans

2011 Guidance Range: What Moves Us Up or Down

Middle-Upper End of Guidance Range:

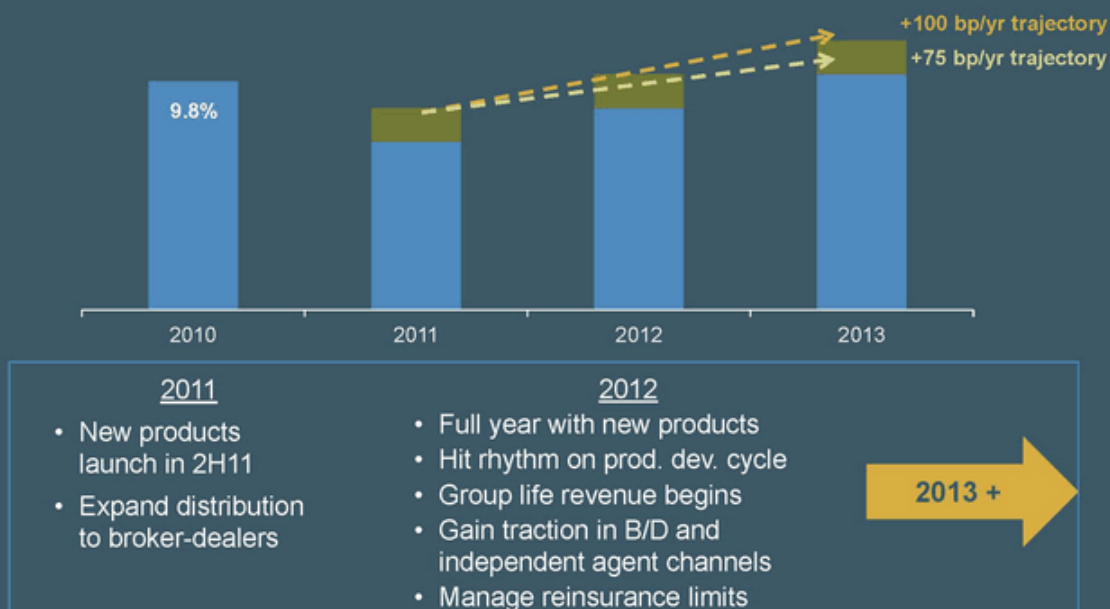
- Interest rate environment stable to improving
- Group loss ratio at bottom/below long-term target range
- Timing of product launches on schedule

Lower End-Middle of Guidance Range:

- Interest rate environment deteriorates
- Group loss ratio at top/above long-term target range
- Delays in timing of product launches
- New product sales slower than expected
- Loss of favorable CML margins
- Unfavorable return on alternative investments

Expand ROE: 75 – 100 bp Per Year

Long-Term Operating ROAE¹ Target: 12% in next 4-5 years



Capital Management Priorities

Key Consideration: Ratings

1. Organic

- Higher sales
- New products with higher capital intensity
- Reserve solutions

2. M&A

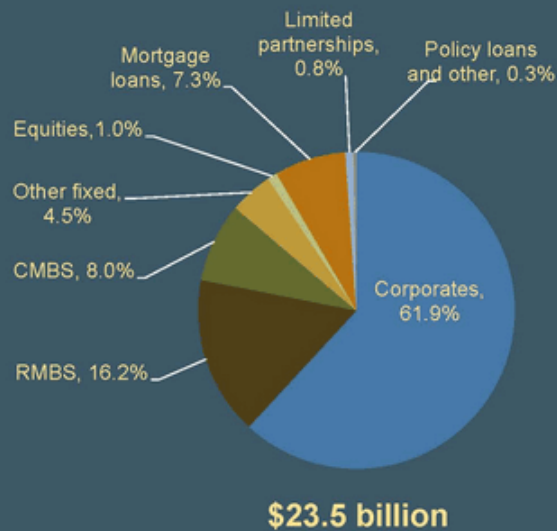
- Faster way to execute on some strategies
- Creates sustainable ROE expansion

3. Capital Actions

- None planned, but always the litmus test for alternative uses of capital
- Leverage drops through the period

High-Quality Investment Portfolio

Portfolio Composition as of 12/31/10



- 90.6% fixed maturities
- 7.3% commercial mortgage loans
 - Current weighted average LTV: 57%
 - Average loan size: \$2.2M
 - Majority with personal recourse
- Outstanding equity portfolio performance:
 - 2010 total return of 21.6% (6.5% higher than S&P 500 Total Return Index)
 - Life-to-date¹ annualized total return of 12.0% (9.3% higher than S&P 500 Total Return Index)
- Minimal exposure to alternative assets
- AOCI of \$432.5M at 12/31/10 versus \$(49.7)M at 12/31/09
- Pretax impairments of \$20.9M in 2010 versus \$86.5M in 2009

Maintaining Balance Sheet Strength

- Conservative investment strategy:
 - ALM - matching asset and liability cash flows
 - Same disciplined approach applied to new products (e.g., hedging for FIA)
 - Driving improved yield
 - ✓ Commercial mortgage loan portfolio
 - ✓ Increasing equity-type investments for longest tailed liabilities
- 85% of liabilities are mostly illiquid
- DAC + goodwill represent only 12% of stockholders' equity (14% of adjusted book value¹)

We're Diversifying Our Risks

Relative Risk Exposure	Present	Future
Rising interest rates	High	Medium
Falling interest rates	High	Medium
Morbidity (loss ratio)	Medium	Medium
Premium revenues (underwriting cycles)	Medium	Medium
Mortality	Low	Medium
Equity	Low	Medium
Credit	High	Medium

Strategic Priorities for Growth and Diversification

- Group Division:
 - Maintain leadership position in medical stop-loss, while maintaining focus on improving profitability
 - Launch group life initiative
- Retirement Division
 - Increase penetration in our banking channel relationships
 - Expand distribution in broker-dealer channel
 - Evaluate opportunities for introducing product innovations
- Life Division:
 - Refresh individual life product offering
 - Continue to leverage bank relationships, and expand distribution in the broker-dealer and independent agent channels
 - Build on strengths in BOLI and consider entry into the COLI market

SYMETRA[®]
FINANCIAL

Appendix: Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures

\$ in millions

	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31	
	2010	2009
Net income	\$ 200.9	\$128.3
Less: Net realized investment gains (losses) (net of taxes)	25.9	(19.1)
Add: Net investment gains on FIA options (net of taxes)	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Adjusted operating income ¹	<u>\$175.2</u>	<u>\$147.9</u>
Adjusted operating income per diluted share of common stock ²	<u>\$ 1.29</u>	<u>\$ 1.32</u>

	Twelve Months Ended Dec. 31	
	2010	2009
Return on equity (ROE)	9.3%	15.4%
Average book value	\$ 2,167.9	\$ 832.4
Operating return on average equity (ROAE) ³	9.8%	10.5%
Average adjusted book value	\$ 1,795.4	\$ 1,407.7

	As of Dec. 31	
	2010	2009
Total stockholders' equity	\$2,380.6	\$1,433.3
AOCI (Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (net of taxes))	432.5	\$(49.7)
Adjusted book value ⁴	\$1,948.1	\$1,483.0

55 ¹ Adjusted operating income is a non-GAAP financial measure calculated as net income, less after-tax net realized investment gains (losses), plus after-tax net investment gains on our FIA options. ² Diluted weighted average shares outstanding for 2010 and 2009 were 135.618 million and 111.626 million, respectively. ³ Operating ROAE is a non-GAAP financial measure computed as adjusted operating income for the most recent four quarters, divided by average adjusted book value for the most recent five quarters. ⁴ Adjusted book value is a non-GAAP measure calculated as stockholders' equity less AOCI.

SYMETRA.
FINANCIAL

SYMETRA[®]

FINANCIAL

Symetra Financial Corporation, 777 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1200, Bellevue, WA 98004

AOXP-321

Life insurance and annuities issued by and group benefits insured by Symetra Life Insurance Company, 777 108th Avenue NE, Suite 1200, Bellevue, WA 98004.
Not available in all states or any U.S. territories. Symetra ® and the Symetra Financial logo are registered service marks of Symetra Life Insurance Company.

2/11