

GWG Holdings, Inc.
Form POS AM
March 24, 2016

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 24, 2016

Registration Nos. 333-197227 and
333-197227-01

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO
FORM S-1
REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

Under the Securities Act of 1933

GWG HOLDINGS, INC.

GWG LIFE, LLC

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	26-2222607
Delaware	20-4356955
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Tel: (612) 746-1944

Fax: (612) 746-0445

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

Jon R. Sabes
Chief Executive Officer
220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
Tel: (612) 746-1944

Copies to:
Paul D. Chestovich, Esq.
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, LLP
3300 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street

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(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone
number, including area code, of agent for service)

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
Tel: (612) 672-8200

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: from time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the SEC pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer " Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company x

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to Be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
L Bonds – Units	1,000,000	\$ 1,000 (1)	\$ 1,000,000,000	\$ 128,800.00 (2)

(1) The L Bonds will be issued in “Units” of \$1,000 in principal amount, in minimum amounts of 25 Units (\$25,000 principal amount) and in any whole or fractional Unit amounts in excess of such minimum amount.

(2) Registration fee previously paid.

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, of which this prospectus is a part, shall have been declared effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MARCH 24, 2016

GWG HOLDINGS, INC.

1,000,000 Units of L Bonds
(\$1,000,000,000)

GWG Holdings, Inc., through its subsidiaries, invests in life insurance assets in the secondary marketplace. Our objective is to earn returns from our investments in life insurance assets that are greater than the costs necessary to purchase, finance and service those policies to their maturity.

We are offering up to 1,000,000 Units of L Bonds (the “L Bonds”) at \$1,000 principal amount per whole Unit, representing \$1,000,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of L Bonds. This is a continuous offering and there is no minimum amount of L Bonds that must be sold before we can use any of the proceeds. The proceeds from the sale of the L Bonds will be paid directly to us following each sale and will not be placed in an escrow account. We will use the net proceeds from the offering of the L Bonds primarily to purchase and finance additional life insurance assets, and to service and retire other outstanding debt obligations. The minimum investment in L Bonds is 25 Units, or \$25,000. Investments in excess of such minimum amount may be made in any number of whole or fractional Units. The L Bonds will be sold with varying maturity terms, interest rates and frequency of interest payments, all as set forth in this prospectus and in supplements we publish from time to time. Depending on our capital needs and the amount of your investment, L Bonds with certain terms may not always be available. Although we will periodically establish and change interest rates on unsold L Bonds offered pursuant to this prospectus, once an L Bond is sold, its interest rate will not change during its term (subject, however, to the extension and renewal provisions contained in such L Bond). Upon maturity, subject to the terms and conditions described in this prospectus, the L Bonds will be automatically renewed for the same (or lesser) term at the interest rate we are offering at that time to other investors with similar aggregate L Bond portfolios for L Bonds of the same maturity, unless redeemed upon maturity at our or your election.

The L Bonds are secured by the assets of GWG Holdings, Inc. and a pledge of all of the common stock by our largest stockholders. Importantly, GWG Holdings’ most significant assets are cash and its investment in subsidiaries. Obligations under the L Bonds will be guaranteed by our subsidiary GWG Life, LLC, which guarantee will involve the grant of a security interest in all of the assets of such subsidiary. The majority of our life insurance assets are held in our subsidiaries GWG DLP Funding II, LLC (“DLP II”) and GWG DLP Funding III, LLC (“DLP III”), which are a direct subsidiaries of GWG Life. The life insurance assets held by GWG DLP Funding II will not be collateral for obligations under the L Bonds although the guarantee and collateral provided by GWG Life will include its ownership interest in DLP II and DLP III. These facts present the risk to investors that the collateral security we and our subsidiary have granted for our obligations under the L Bonds may be insufficient to repay the L Bonds upon an event of default. The security offered for the L Bonds will provide rights as to collateral that are pari passu with the holders of certain other secured debt previously issued by GWG Life and GWG Holdings. This generally means that claims for payment and entitlement to security among the holders of L Bonds and such other secured debt previously issued by GWG Life and GWG Holdings will be treated equally and without preference.

We may call and redeem the entire outstanding principal and accrued but unpaid interest of any or all of the L Bonds at any time without penalty or premium. L Bond holders will have no right to put (that is, require us to redeem) any L Bond prior to the due date unless in the case of death, bankruptcy or total disability. In the event we agree to redeem L Bond upon the request of an L Bond holder — other than after death, bankruptcy or total disability of such holder — we may impose a redemption fee of 6% against the outstanding principal balance of the redeemed L Bond. This redemption fee will be subtracted from the amount paid.

We do not intend to list our L Bonds on any securities exchange during the offering period, and we do not expect a secondary market in the L Bonds to develop. As a result, you should not expect to be able to resell your L Bonds regardless of how we perform. Accordingly, an investment in our L Bonds is not suitable for investors that require liquidity in advance of their L Bond's maturity date.

We maintain a senior borrowing arrangement that subordinates the right to payment on, and shared collateral securing, the L Bonds to our senior secured lender. From time to time we may add or replace senior lenders and the particular arrangements under which we borrow from them. In addition, these borrowing arrangements with senior lenders restrict, and are expected to continue to restrict, our cash flows and, subject to certain exceptions, distributions from our operating subsidiaries. These provisions will restrict cash flows available for payment of principal and interest on the L Bonds.

We are an “emerging growth company” under applicable law and are subject to reduced public company reporting requirements. Please read the disclosures on page 13 of this prospectus for more information. Investing in our L Bonds may be considered speculative and involves a high degree of risk, including the risk of losing your entire investment. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page 18 to read about the risks you should consider before buying our L Bonds. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in this prospectus. The L Bonds are only suitable for persons with substantial financial resources and with no need for liquidity in this investment.

Please read this prospectus before investing and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports with the SEC. This information will be available free of charge by contacting us at 220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 or by phone at (612) 746-1944 or on our website at www.gwglife.com. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains such information.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2016

The L Bonds will be offered and sold on a best-efforts basis by Emerson Equity LLC, a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). Emerson Equity will be our placement agent for the L Bonds in this offering for purposes of the Securities Act of 1933. Emerson Equity may retain other dealers to act as an agent on its behalf in the course of offering and selling L Bonds in this offering. We will pay Emerson Equity a selling commission ranging from 0.75% to 6.00% of the principal amount of L Bonds sold, depending on the L Bonds’ maturity date. We will also pay Emerson Equity additional compensation consisting of a dealer-manager fee, a wholesaling fee (payable only to wholesaling dealers), and an accountable expense allowance. Emerson Equity will share its commissions and accountable expense allowance with other dealers who may participate in the offering. We have also agreed to reimburse Emerson Equity for certain pre-offering expenses that we anticipate will aggregate to no more than \$30,000. The total amount of the selling commissions and additional compensation (including reimbursements, non-transaction-based and non-cash selling compensation) paid to Emerson Equity and any other FINRA member in the course of offering and selling L Bonds will not exceed 8.00% of the aggregate L Bonds. See “Plan of Distribution” and “Use of Proceeds” for further information.

	Units	Price to Investor	Aggregate Commissions, Fees, and Expense Allowances(1)(2)	Net Proceeds to Company	
Minimum Investment	25	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,812	\$ 23,188	(3)
Offering	1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 920,000,000	(4)

(1) Assumes an average sales commission of 5.00%, average dealer-manager fee of 0.50%, average wholesaling fees of 1.30%, and average accountable expense allowance of 1.20%. As explained above, actual commissions will vary based on the term of the L Bonds sold. Nevertheless, the total amount of selling commissions and additional compensation (consisting of dealer-manager fees, wholesaling fees and accountable expense allowance, together with non-transaction-based and non-cash selling compensation, if any) paid to the placement agent will not exceed 8.00% of the aggregate gross offering proceeds we receive from the sale of the L Bonds sold. Accordingly, and assuming our sale of all \$1,000,000,000 in principal amount of bonds offered hereby, the maximum amount of selling commissions we can pay is 6.00% of the gross offering proceeds we receive from the sale of the L Bonds (or \$60,000,000), the maximum dealer-manager fee we can pay is 0.50% of the gross offering proceeds we receive from the sale of the L Bonds (or \$5,000,000), and the maximum amount of aggregated accountable expenses, wholesaling fees, non-transaction-based and non-cash selling compensation we can pay will not exceed 2.50% of the aggregate gross offering proceeds we receive from the sale of the L Bonds. If all L Bonds sold have seven-year maturities resulting in sales commissions of 6.00%, then the maximum amounts of aggregate accountable expenses, wholesaling fees, non-transaction-based and non-cash selling compensation will not exceed 1.5%.

(2) Emerson Equity has agreed to offer the L Bonds on a “best efforts” basis.

(3) Net Proceeds to Company based on the Minimum Investment are calculated after deducting (i) selling commissions and (ii) additional compensation (consisting of a dealer-manager fee, wholesaling fee, an accountable expense allowance and non-transaction-based and non-cash selling compensation). We expect that our own offering expenses, consisting of legal, accounting, printing, mailing, registration, qualification and associated securities offering filing costs and expenses, will through the course of the offering aggregate to approximately \$1,500,500, but for purposes of illustrating the Net Proceeds to Company based on the Minimum Investment, those offering expenses of \$1,500,500 are not reflected.

(4) Net Proceeds to Company based on the offering of 1,000,000 L Bond Units (representing \$1,000,000,000 in aggregate principal amount) are calculated as described in fn. 3 above, but also before deducting our own expected offering expenses of \$1,500,500.

L Bonds will be sold as “Units,” with each whole Unit representing \$1,000 in principal amount of L Bonds. Throughout this prospectus, we refer to L Bond Units simply as “L Bonds.” We will issue the L Bond Units in book-entry form, certificated form, or in the form of a global certificate deposited with a depository. Depending on the manner in which you purchase L Bonds, you may not receive a physical certificate representing your L Bonds. In all cases, however, we will deliver written confirmation to purchasers of L Bonds. Bank of Utah will act as trustee for the L Bonds.

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The initial interest rates for the L Bonds based on the applicable maturity thereof is set forth in the table below.

Maturity Term	Interest Rate (%)
6 months	4.25
1 year	5.00
2 years	6.50
3 years	7.50
5 years	8.50
7 years	9.00

We may change the interest rates applicable to unsold L Bonds from time to time during this offering, in which case the applicable interest rates will be set forth in an interest rate supplement to this prospectus. Once an L Bond is sold, the interest rate will not change during its term (subject, however, to the extension and renewal provisions contained in such L Bond).

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GWG Holdings, Inc.
220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 746-1944
Fax: (612) 746-0445

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

We have prepared this prospectus as part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC for our continuous offering of L Bonds. We will endeavor to avoid interruptions in the continuous offering of our L Bonds. Nonetheless, our continuous offering may be suspended while the SEC or FINRA reviews certain amendments to our registration statement, until ultimately declared effective by the SEC.

Any statement that we make in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement made by us in a subsequent prospectus supplement. The registration statement we filed with the SEC includes exhibits that provide more detailed descriptions of the matters discussed in this prospectus and certain information that is incorporated by reference. You should read this prospectus, the related exhibits filed with the SEC, and any prospectus supplement, together with additional information described below under “Where You Can Find More Information.” In this prospectus, we use the term “day” to refer to a calendar day, and we use the term “business day” to refer to any day other than Saturday, Sunday, a legal holiday or a day on which banks in New York City are authorized or required to close.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus. Neither we nor the dealer-manager have authorized any other person to provide you with any information different from that contained in this prospectus or information furnished by us upon request as described herein. The information contained in this prospectus is complete and accurate only as of the date of this prospectus, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or sale of our L Bonds. This prospectus contains summaries of certain other documents, which summaries contain all material terms of the relevant documents and are believed to be accurate, but reference is hereby made to the full text of the actual documents for complete information concerning the rights and obligations of the parties thereto. Such information necessarily incorporates significant assumptions, as well as factual matters. All documents relating to this offering and related documents and agreements, if readily available to us, will be made available to a prospective investor or its representatives upon request. During the course of this offering and prior to sale, each prospective L Bond holder is invited to ask questions of and obtain additional information from us concerning the terms and conditions of this offering, our company, the L Bonds and any other relevant matters, including but not limited to additional information necessary or desirable to verify the accuracy of the information set forth in this prospectus. We will provide the information to the extent it possesses such information or can obtain it without unreasonable effort or expense. If there is a material change in the affairs of our company, we will supplement this prospectus or amend the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

No information contained herein, nor in any prior, contemporaneous or subsequent communication should be construed by a prospective investor as legal or tax advice. Each prospective investor should consult its, his or her own legal, tax and financial advisors to ascertain the merits and risks of the transactions described herein prior to purchasing the L Bonds. This written communication is not intended to be written advice as defined in Circular 230 published by the U.S. Treasury Department.

The L Bonds will be issued under an indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time (referred to herein collectively as the “indenture”). This prospectus is qualified in its entirety by the terms of that indenture filed with SEC as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. All material terms of the indenture are summarized in this prospectus. You may obtain a copy of the indenture upon written request to us or online at www.sec.gov.

The indenture trustee did not participate in the preparation of this prospectus and makes no representations concerning the L Bonds, the collateral, or any other matter stated in this prospectus. The indenture trustee has no duty or obligation to pay the L Bonds from their funds, assets or capital or to make inquiry regarding, or investigate the use of, amounts disbursed from any account.

INDUSTRY AND MARKET DATA

The industry and market data used throughout this prospectus have been obtained from our own research, surveys or studies conducted by third parties and industry or general publications. Industry publications and surveys generally state that they have obtained information from sources believed to be reliable, but do not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of such information. We believe that each of these studies and publications is reliable.

HOW TO PURCHASE L BONDS

If, after carefully reading this entire prospectus, obtaining any other information requested and available, and being fully satisfied with the results of pre-investment due-diligence activities, you would like to purchase L Bonds, you will have two different ways in which to consummate a purchase: (1) DTC settlement, and (2) direct settlement with the Company.

1. Depository Trust Company Settlement (DTC settlement). If your broker-dealer is a participant in the DTC system and makes DTC settlement available to you, then you can place an order for the purchase of L Bonds through your broker-dealer. A broker-dealer using this service will have an account with DTC in which your funds will be placed to facilitate the monthly closing cycle. Orders will be executed by your broker-dealer electronically and you must coordinate with your broker-dealer's registered representative to pay the full purchase price for the L Bonds by the final settlement date. Orders may be placed at any time, and the final settlement date will be the date on which your subscription agreement is accepted. You will be credited with ownership of an L Bond on the first business day following the month in which the subscription is made. However, interest will begin to accrue from the final settlement date. Your purchase price for L Bonds purchased in this way will not be held in escrow.

2. Direct Settlement with the Company. If you wish to purchase L Bonds through direct settlement with the Company, then you must complete, execute and return the Subscription Agreement to us together with a certified check or personal check payable to the order of "GWG Holdings, Inc. — Subscription Account" (or wire sent to the Subscription Account) equal to the principal amount of L Bonds you wish to purchase. If you are working with a broker-dealer, your subscription materials and the certified check or personal check should be delivered to your broker-dealer, who will deliver it to us at the following address:

GWG Holdings, Inc.
220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Wire Instructions

GWG Holdings, Inc. — Subscription Account
Account: 500023916
Routing: 091310521
Bank Name: Bell State Bank & Trust

Your purchase is subject to our acceptance. All information provided is confidential and will be disclosed only to our directors, officers and employees who need to know, affiliates, managing broker-dealer, legal counsel and, if required, to governmental authorities and self-regulatory organizations or as otherwise required by law. For your purchase to be effective as of the first business day of a calendar month, your completed and executed Subscription Agreement, together with your related funds, must be received by the final settlement date (i.e., the last business day of the prior calendar month).

Upon our receipt of the signed Subscription Agreement and acceptance of your purchase, we will notify you of such acceptance. We may, in our sole discretion, accept or reject any purchase, in whole or in part. In the event we do not accept your purchase of L Bonds for any reason, we will promptly return your payment. We may terminate or suspend

this offering at any time, for any reason or no reason, in our sole discretion. You may obtain a copy of the Subscription Agreement from our website at www.gwglife.com, your broker-dealer (if you are working with one), or from us by contacting us at 1-877-494-2388.

COVERED SECURITY

Our L Bonds are a “covered security.” The term “covered security” applies to securities exempt from state registration pursuant to Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1933. Generally, securities listed on national exchanges are the most common type of covered security exempt from state registration. A non-traded security also can be a covered security if it has a seniority greater than or equal to other securities from the same issuer that are listed on a national exchange. Our L Bonds are a covered security because they will be senior to our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market.

Although the status of our L Bonds as a “covered security” will facilitate their purchase and sale to a broader range of investors than would otherwise be available to us, and although the offer and sale of a “covered security” generally involves fewer issuance costs to the issuer of such securities, our L Bonds are not a suitable purchase for all investors. Investors are urged to read carefully the risk factors relating to our business and our Company contained in the Risk Factors section of this prospectus beginning on page 18. In addition, investors should understand that because our L Bonds are a “covered security” exempt from state securities regulations, neither our Company, the L Bonds, or any other aspects of this offering have been the subject of any merit-based review by state securities regulators.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS OFFERING

The following questions and answers about this offering highlight material information regarding us and this offering that you may wish to review. Nevertheless, you should read this entire prospectus, including the section entitled “Risk Factors,” before deciding to purchase our L Bonds.

Can you explain and clarify the interplay between GWG Holdings, Inc. and GWG Life, LLC and its subsidiaries in relation to the L Bonds and the registration statement?

GWG Holdings, Inc. will be issuing the L Bonds, receiving all proceeds from the sale of L Bonds, and will be the only entity making regular payments on the L Bonds. Nevertheless, because a significant amount of the consolidated assets of the Company are held in GWG Life, LLC and its direct subsidiaries, GWG Life is a guarantor of the Company’s obligations under the L Bonds. As guarantor of the L Bonds, SEC rules require that GWG Life be included as a co-registrant under this registration statement. GWG Life will not, however, be otherwise involved in the offering of L Bonds.

It seems as though you are offering several bonds with different interest rates and maturities but calling them all L Bonds. Is this the case?

All bonds we issue in this offering will have identical terms, excepting the interest rate and the maturity length. In this regard, we have essentially created multiple classes of L Bonds, similar to how companies may have different classes of stocks with slightly different economic rights. Currently, we are offering six classes of L Bonds, as follows:

- “Class .5-1” L Bonds will mature six months from their issuance and accrue interest at 4.25% per annum.
- “Class 1-1” L Bonds will mature one year from their issuance and accrue interest at 5.00% per annum.
- “Class 2-1” L Bonds will mature two years from their issuance and accrue interest at 6.50% per annum.
- “Class 3-1” L Bonds will mature three years from their issuance and accrue interest at 7.50% per annum.
- “Class 5-1” L Bonds will mature five years from their issuance and accrue interest at 8.50% per annum.
- “Class 7-1” L Bonds will mature seven years from their issuance and accrue interest at 9.00% per annum.

The economic terms for each L Bond in any particular class will be identical to all other L Bonds in the same class (other than the date of maturity). In the event we adjust the interest rate for any class of bonds we offer, we will create a new class of L Bonds. Upon the renewal of any L Bonds we have sold, any new interest rate applied to an L Bond will be applied to all L Bonds in the same class. We presently do not use the “class” designation in our prospectus, but intend to do so if and when DTC settlement of our L Bonds is permitted.

Your prospectus states that the interest rate for the L Bonds may be adjusted from time to time during the course of the offering. Will any such adjustment apply retroactively to L Bonds already issued?

No. Once you purchase an L Bond, the interest rate on that L Bond will not change during the entirety of its original term. The interest rate on an issued L Bond may, however, be adjusted upon renewal of that L Bond. In any such case, we will advise you of any different interest rate that may apply to your L Bond upon renewal. In sum, any new interest rates for the L Bonds will apply only to newly issued L Bonds sold or renewed after the date of any interest rate change. Our decision to change interest rates depends on numerous factors, including but not limited to things such as market interest rates, our capitalization, demand for our L Bonds, the life settlement market in general, our capital requirements, and many other factors. We have not changed interest rates since January 2014, which was the only

time we have changed the interest rates on our publicly offered L Bonds. Please see “Description of the L Bonds — Interest Rate.”

How do I subscribe for L Bonds, and what is the settlement process?

L Bonds may be purchased either directly from the Company or through a DTC participant once DTC settlement is permitted.

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If you purchase directly from the Company, you will send your completed and executed Subscription Agreement, together with your subscription amount to us at the address listed in “How to Purchase L Bonds.” Your subscription amount is principal amount of L Bonds you wish to purchase, and should be paid through a certified check or personal check payable to the order of “GWG Holdings, Inc. — Subscription Account.” In lieu of paying by check, you may wire your subscription amount to the account referenced in “How to Purchase L Bonds.” If you are working with a broker-dealer or other investment professional, your broker-dealer or professional will gather and send in the required information on your behalf, and may facilitate your payment of the subscription amount. Once we have received your subscription amount and required documentation, we will either reject or accept your subscription. Once accepted, we will have immediate access to your subscription amount and you will start to accrue interest on your investment at the rate applicable to the L Bond you have purchased. Nevertheless, we will formally issue your L Bond on the first day of the month following the month in which your subscription is accepted. This means that if your subscription is accepted July 3, 2015, then your L Bond will be issued August 1, 2015. As indicated above, interest will nonetheless accrue on your L Bond from July 3, 2015 to July 31, 2015, and will be paid on August 15, 2015. If you purchase directly from the Company, your L Bond will ordinarily be issued in book-entry (or certificated) form and payments will be made directly into the account you indicate in your Subscription Agreement.

Purchasing through a DTC participant is a slightly different process. In this case, you will provide your order for the purchase of L Bonds to your broker-dealer, together with such other information as your broker-dealer may require. Your broker-dealer will ensure your order is electronically placed with the Company and that the Company timely receives your subscription amount. There is no need to furnish the Company with a Subscription Agreement when you purchase through a DTC participant. Once we have received your subscription amount, we will either reject or accept your subscription. Once accepted, we will have immediate access to your subscription amount and you will start to accrue interest on your investment at the rate applicable to the L Bond you have purchased. Nevertheless, we will formally issue your L Bond on the first day of the month following the month in which your subscription is accepted. This means that if your subscription is accepted July 3, 2015, then your L Bond will be issued August 1, 2015. As indicated above, interest will nonetheless accrue on your L Bond from July 3, 2015 to July 31, 2015, and will be paid on August 15, 2015. If you purchase through a DTC participant, your L Bond will be issued to DTC in the name of Cede & Co, as its nominee. In this sense, DTC will be the legal owner of the L Bond and you will be the beneficial owner. Your ownership of the L Bond should then appear on the brokerage or other investment statements you receive from your broker-dealer. Settling through a DTC participant will only be permitted if and when approved by DTC (The Depository Trust Company).

If and when DTC settlement is approved, we intend to issue each class of L Bonds a unique identifying number (CUSIP) each month to facilitate the settlement of L Bonds. Thus, Class 1-1 L Bonds issued in August 2015 (and maturing August 2016) will all have the same CUSIP, which will be different from the CUSIP applicable to Class 1-1 L Bonds issued in September 2015 (and maturing September 2016). In this way, all L Bonds belonging to a single CUSIP will be completely fungible, meaning that they will all mature on the same date and have identical terms so that one L Bond with a particular CUSIP is interchangeable with any other L Bond having the same CUSIP. This process helps us track L Bond issuances and creates a tracking system for the L Bonds to be issued to and transferred through DTC.

What is the role of the trustee?

The Bank of Utah is the trustee for the L Bonds. The role of the trustee is essentially to enforce the terms of the L Bonds on behalf of bondholders, including direct and beneficial holders, and facilitate the relationship between our Company and the bondholders. We must notify the trustee of certain events as required under the indenture, and the trustee will in turn notify bondholders. The trustee has also been granted a security interest in all of the assets of GWG Holdings and GWG Life for the benefit of the bondholders. The trustee has no duty to pay any obligations under L Bonds or to make inquiry regarding, or investigate the use of, amounts disbursed from any account. Upon an event of default under the indenture, and subject to those limitations in the indenture designed to benefit our senior creditors, the trustee may take action against us to enforce the rights of holders of the L Bonds.

What is the role of the paying agent?

The paying agent is the term ascribed to whomever it is that is making the payment to the holders of L Bonds. Presently, the Company itself is the paying agent and therefore responsible for tracking investors' respective payment dates and ensuring timely payment of principal and interest under the L Bonds. Under the indenture, we may designate

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a third party, such as a transfer agent registered with the SEC, or a banking institution, to serve as paying agent. The role of the paying agent is essentially mechanical, and does not ordinarily involve the exercise of discretion and judgment in the way that is typical for an indenture trustee.

Do I need to sign any paperwork in connection with renewal of my L Bond?

No. The terms of the L Bond allow for the automatic renewal into a new L Bond of an identical maturity, unless we receive notice from you. If we renew your L Bond, then we will notify you of our decision at least 30 days prior to the maturity date of your L Bond. After receiving such notice, you may yourself elect to be repaid. If you do not elect repayment at least 15 days prior to the maturity date of your L Bond, then your L Bond will be renewed. To effect a renewal, you are not required to sign or submit any new paperwork to us or your broker-dealer. Your L Bond will automatically renew in accordance with the terms of the indenture. Please see “Prospectus Summary—Renewal or Redemption at Maturity” and “Description of the L Bonds — Renewal or Redemption at Maturity.”

Can I resell or transfer my L Bond after it has been purchased?

Yes. Since these L Bonds are being offered and sold pursuant to an effective registration statement, the L Bonds may be transferred so long as such transfer is documented in the form approved by us. We do not, however, expect a public trading market to develop for the L Bonds in the foreseeable future, if ever. If you wish to transfer your L Bond held in book-entry (or certificated) form, you should contact us. If you wish to transfer your L Bond held through DTC, you should contact your broker-dealer.

Will I be able to sell my L Bonds in the secondary market?

We do not intend to list the L Bonds on an exchange and do not expect a public trading market to develop for them in the foreseeable future. Because of the lack of a trading market for L Bonds, it is unlikely that holders will be able to sell their L Bonds easily. If you require liquidity from your L Bond investment, you should contact us about the possibility of an early redemption.

How will I receive interest and principal payments on my L Bonds?

This will depend on how you purchased your L Bond. If you purchased your L Bond directly from us, we will directly deposit our payments of interest and principal into the account indicated in your Subscription Agreement. If you purchased through DTC, all payments of principal and interest will be made to DTC, who will forward such payment to participating broker-dealers. Your participating broker-dealer will then forward such funds to you by crediting those funds to your account held with that broker-dealer. In this case, all accountings of what you have contributed and what you are owed will be the responsibility of your participating broker-dealer.

How does a “best efforts” offering work?

When securities, including the L Bonds, are offered to the public on a “best efforts” basis, the broker-dealers participating in the offering are only required to use their best efforts to sell the securities. These broker-dealers do not themselves have any obligation to purchase any of the L Bonds.

What is GWG Holdings, Inc.?

We are a specialty finance company and a leading purchaser of life insurance policies in the secondary market. We are a holding company, meaning that we hold interests in subsidiaries and the subsidiaries generate income through operations. Through our subsidiary GWG Life, we purchase and finance life insurance policies at a discount to the face value of the policy benefit. In addition, through our subsidiary GWG MCA Capital, we participate in the merchant cash advance business.

While our primary wholly owned operating subsidiary began operations in March 2006, we were formed and organized in Delaware in 2008. In September 2014, we consummated an initial public offering of our common stock. In connection with this offering, we started listing our common stock on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the ticker symbol “GWGH.” We are based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Do you currently own any assets?

Our assets consist primarily of cash and equity interests in our subsidiaries. Nearly all of our life insurance assets are held through our subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2015, our consolidated assets totaled \$398.2 million, of which approximately \$34.4 million was cash and equivalents and approximately \$356.6 million was the fair value of our life insurance assets. Those life insurance assets had an aggregate face value of policy benefits approximating \$945 million.

What is your business strategy?

Our business strategy is to purchase a large and well-diversified portfolio of life insurance policy assets at discounts to their face value of the policy benefits sufficient enough to generate profitable returns. In addition, we seek to bring the value of the secondary market for life insurance to a broader senior consumer market. In order to meet our goals, we have spent and intend to continue to spend significant resources: (i) developing a robust operational platform and systems for originating and purchasing life insurance policies; (ii) obtaining requisite licensure to participate in the life insurance secondary market; (iii) developing financing resources, strategies, and capabilities for servicing a large portfolio of life insurance policies; (iv) recruiting and developing a professional management team; and (v) establishing strategic relationships for delivering its services. We are currently focused on investments in universal life insurance policies.

Operationally, we generally transact directly with the policy owner who originally purchased the life insurance in the primary market through a network of life insurance agents, life insurance brokers, and licensed providers who assist policy owners in accessing the secondary market. We have been expanding our origination practice by marketing to consumers through various marketing initiatives.

Are there any risks involved in investing in this offering?

Yes. Investing in L bonds involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully review the “Risk Factors” section of this prospectus, which contains a detailed discussion of the material risks that you should consider before investing in our L Bonds.

What is the status of this offering and how many L Bonds do you currently have outstanding?

We began this offering on January 9, 2015. As of December 31, 2015, we had sold \$121.9 million in principal amount of L Bonds under this registration statement, and had renewed \$98.4 million in principal amount of L Bonds that had been previously sold. In total, we have outstanding as of December 31, 2015, an aggregate of \$282.2 million in principal amount of L Bonds. This figure includes L Bonds sold since our initial offering of L Bonds commenced in January 2012.

How long will this offering last?

The offering is a continuous offering. The offering under this registration statement expires under SEC rules after three years (i.e., January 9, 2018). We may, however, conduct similar or identical offerings of L Bonds or other securities during this same time or afterwards. We may also decide to terminate this offering at any time.

Will I be notified of how my investment is doing?

We will provide you with periodic updates on our performance through periodic filings we make with the SEC. Such filings will include: (i) three quarterly financial reports; (ii) one annual report; (iii) supplements and amendments to this offering, as appropriate; and (iv) such other reports as required under Sections 13 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information is also available on our corporate website at www.gwglife.com.

Will I receive annual tax information regarding interest payments from you?

You will receive a Form 1099-INT, which will be mailed by March 31 of each year.

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Who can help answer my questions about the offering?

If you have more questions about the offering, you should contact a registered representative of your broker-dealer or other investment professional, or else contact:

GWG Holdings, Inc.

220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200

Minneapolis, MN 55402

(612) 746-1944

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. To understand this offering fully, you should carefully read the entire prospectus, including the section entitled “Risk Factors,” and the documents which are incorporated, or deemed to be incorporated, by reference into this prospectus, before making a decision to invest in our L Bonds. Unless otherwise noted or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” the “Company” and “GWG” refer to GWG Holdings, Inc. together with its wholly owned subsidiaries. In instances where we refer emphatically to “GWG Holdings” or “GWG Holdings, Inc.,” or where we refer to a specific subsidiary of ours by name, we are referring only to that specific legal entity.

Our Company

We are a specialty finance company and a leading financial purchaser of life insurance assets in the secondary market. We create opportunities for consumers owning life insurance to obtain significant value for their policies as compared to the traditional options offered by insurance companies. We also create opportunities for investors to participate in alternative asset classes, such as life insurance, not correlated to traditional financial markets. In so doing, we enable investors to take advantage of financial opportunities dominated by banks prior to the 2008 credit crisis.

The life insurance secondary market provides consumers with the opportunity to sell their life insurance policies to financial buyers for a market value, rather than the surrender value offered by insurance carriers. When a life insurance policy is sold, the purchase price will exceed the surrender value, but will be at a discount to the face value of the policy benefit. Since inception, we have purchased approximately \$1.85 billion in face value of policy benefits from consumers for over \$315.5 million, an amount that exceeded surrender value of those policies by over \$294.7 million. Why do consumers choose to sell their life insurance in the secondary market? There are a number of reasons, such as no longer needing or wanting the coverage, no longer being able to afford the premiums, or just wanting to maximize their life insurance investment. We believe that, for consumers 65 years or older and owning life insurance, we provide a unique financial opportunity that is far more valuable than surrendering a policy for a fraction of its market value or allowing it to lapse as worthless.

The potential secondary market for life insurance is large. According to the American Council of Life Insurers Fact Book 2015 (ACLI), individuals owned over \$11.0 trillion in face value of life insurance policies in the United States in 2014. This figure includes all types of policies, including term and permanent insurance known as whole life and universal life. The ACLI reports that the lapse and surrender rate of individual life insurance policies for 2014 was 5.3%, amounting to over \$602 billion in face value of policy benefits lapsed and surrendered in 2014 alone. These figures do not include group-owned life insurance, such as employer-provided life insurance, the market for which totaled over \$8.2 trillion of face value of life insurance policies in the United States in 2014. Group-owned life insurance exhibits similar lapse and surrender rates to consumer owned life insurance according to the ACLI.

Research by Conning Research & Consulting (Conning) reports that the annual net market potential for life insurance policy benefits sold in the secondary market exceeds \$138 billion in 2015. Of that market potential, Conning estimates that investors purchased approximately \$1.7 billion in face value of life insurance assets in 2014, indicating that the market is dramatically underserved. And with an aging demographic in the United States, Conning expects the net market potential to grow to an annual \$166 billion in face value of life insurance benefits by 2024. We share the belief that the life insurance secondary market represents both a dramatically underserved market and significant long-term growth opportunity.

Our business model is to earn a net profit between the yield generated by the alternative assets we own and the costs we incur to originate and finance the assets. We believe that we are uniquely positioned to acquire life insurance assets directly from consumers needing our services, and to finance our portfolio’s growth by providing investors with the opportunity to participate in the yield we generate from our assets. At the same time, we seek to fill the vacuum

created by the widespread disappearance of bank-driven finance in a variety of other alternative asset classes. We further believe that GWG is well organized and positioned to address the market need.

To participate and compete in our growing market, we have spent and intend to continue spending significant resources: (i) developing a robust operational platform and systems for originating and purchasing life insurance policies and other alternative assets; (ii) creating opportunities for investors to participate in the yield generated by alternative assets we own; (iii) recruiting and developing a professional management team; and (iv) establishing strategic relationships for delivering the services we provide.

Portfolio Information

Our portfolio of life insurance policies, owned by our wholly-owned subsidiaries as of December 31, 2015, is summarized below:

Total portfolio face value of policy benefits	\$ 944,844,000	
Average face value per policy	\$ 2,386,000	
Average face value per insured life	\$ 2,639,000	
Average age of insured (yrs.)	82.6	
Average life expectancy estimate (yrs.)	6.6	
Total number of policies	396	
Number of unique lives	358	
Demographics	70% Males; 30% Females	
Number of smokers	10	
Largest policy as % of total portfolio	1.06	%
Average policy as % of total portfolio	0.25	%
Average annual premium as % of face value	3.41	%

Corporate Organization

Our business was originally organized in February 2006, and we added our current parent holding company, GWG Holdings Inc., in March 2008. In September 2014, we consummated an initial public offering of our common stock on The Nasdaq Capital Market, where our stock trades under the ticker symbol “GWGH.”

GWG Holdings, Inc. (GWG Holdings) conducts its life insurance related business through a wholly-owned subsidiary, GWG Life, LLC (GWG Life), and GWG Life’s wholly-owned subsidiaries, GWG Trust (Trust), GWG DLP Funding II, LLC (DLP II) and GWG DLP Funding III, LLC (DLP III). All of these entities are legally organized in Delaware.

In February 2016, we launched a new operating division in the merchant cash industry through a subsidiary entity, GWG MCA Capital, Inc. (“GWG MCA Capital”). GWG MCA Capital provides secured loans to merchant cash advance funders, and also provides merchant cash advances directly to small businesses across the United States. To begin this operating division, we acquired a \$4.3 million portfolio of loans and advances from a subsidiary of Walker Preston Capital. As part of the transaction, we retained the services of Patrick F. Preece as the President and Chief Executive Officer of GWG MCA Capital. Mr. Preece had been the Chief Executive Officer of Walker Preston Capital prior to our acquisition of its loan portfolio and, prior to his work with Walker Preston Capital, Mr. Preece was head of asset securitization for Autobahn Funding, a \$6 billion commercial paper conduit for DZ Bank that specialized in financing alternative classes. To finance our GWG MCA Capital portfolio, we intend to offer investors the opportunity to participate in the yield potentially generated by these alternative assets through a variety of securities offerings.

Our principal executive offices are located at 220 South Sixth Street, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 and our telephone number is (612) 746-1944. Our website address is www.gwglife.com. The information on or accessible through our website is not part of this prospectus. Our corporate structure, including our principal subsidiaries, is as follows:

The Offering

Issuer	GWG Holdings, Inc.
Indenture Trustee	Bank of Utah
Paying Agent	GWG Holdings, Inc.
Securities Offered	We are offering up to 1,000,000 Units of L Bonds (“L Bonds”), with each whole Unit representing \$1,000 in principal amount of L Bonds. The L Bonds are being sold on a continuous basis.
Method of Purchase	We will sell L Bonds using two different closing or “settlement” services, whenever available. The first service is DTC settlement, and the second is direct settlement with the Company. For more information, see “Plan of Distribution.”
Denomination	The minimum purchase amount is 25 L Bond Units, or \$25,000 in principal amount. Additional L Bonds in excess of 25 Units may be purchased in any number of whole or fractional Units.
Offering Price	\$1,000 per whole Unit, representing 100% of the principal amount of the L Bond represented by a whole Unit. Throughout this prospectus, we refer to L Bond Units simply as “L Bonds.”
Limited Rescission Right	If you are purchasing L Bonds through direct settlement with the Company and your Subscription Agreement is accepted at a time when we have determined that a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part must be filed with the SEC, but such post-effective amendment has not yet been declared effective, you will have a limited time within which to rescind your investment subject to the conditions set forth in this prospectus. See “Description of the L Bonds — Limited Rescission Right” for additional information.
Maturity	You may generally choose maturities for your L Bonds of six months or 1, 2, 3, 5, or 7 years. Nevertheless, depending on our capital requirements, we may not offer and sell L Bonds of all maturities at all times during this offering.
Interest Rates	The interest rate of the L Bonds will be established at the time of your purchase, or at the time of renewal, based upon the rates we are offering in this prospectus or our latest interest rate supplement to this prospectus (i.e., any prospectus supplement containing interest rate information for L Bonds of different maturities), and will remain fixed throughout the term of the L Bond. We may offer higher rates of interest to investors with larger aggregate L Bond portfolios, but only as set forth in the then-current interest rate supplement.
Interest Payments	We will pay interest on the L Bonds based on the terms you choose, which may be monthly or annually. Interest will accrue from the effective date of the L Bond. Interest payments will generally be made on the 15th day immediately following the last day of the month to the L Bond holder of record as of the last day of that interest-payment period. Interest will be paid without any compounding.
Principal Payments	

The maturity date for the L Bonds will be the last day of the month during which the L Bond matures. We are obligated to pay the principal on the L Bond by the fifth day of the month next following its maturity (or the first business day following such date).

Payment Method	Principal and interest payments will be made by direct deposit to the account you designate in your Subscription Agreement if you purchase L Bonds through direct settlement with the Company. If you purchase L Bonds through DTC settlement, principal and interest payments will be made to your brokerage or custodial account through DTC.
Renewal or Redemption at Maturity	<p>Upon maturity, the L Bonds will be automatically renewed for the same term at the interest rate we are offering at that time to other investors with similar aggregate L Bond portfolios for L Bonds of the same maturity, unless repaid upon maturity at our or your election. In this regard, we will notify you at least 30 days prior to the maturity date of your L Bonds. In the notice, we will advise you if we intend to repay the L Bonds or else remind you that your L Bonds will be automatically renewed unless you exercise your option, at least 15 days prior to the maturity date, to elect to have your L Bonds repaid. If applicable, a new certificate will be issued.</p> <p>If we determine that a post-effective amendment to the registration statement covering the offer and sale of L Bonds must be filed during your 15-day repayment election period, we will extend your election period until ten days following the postmark date of our notice to you that the amendment has become effective.</p> <p>For any L Bonds offered hereby that mature after the three-year anniversary of the commencement of this offering, we expect that the renewal of such L Bonds may require us to file a new registration statement. In such a case, the new registration statement must be declared effective before we will be able to renew your L Bond. In this event, if the new registration statement has not yet been filed or become effective, we will extend your election period until ten days following the date of our notice to you that the new registration statement has become effective, which notice will include a new prospectus.</p> <p>If L Bonds with similar terms are not being offered at the time of renewal, (i) the interest rate upon renewal will be (a) the rate specified by us in writing on or before the maturity date or (b) if no such rate is specified, the rate of your existing L Bonds, and (ii) the maturity will, if L Bonds of the same maturity are being offered at the time of renewal, be the same or, if not, the next earliest maturity. Accordingly, you should understand that the interest rate offered upon renewal may differ from the interest rate applicable to your L Bonds prior to maturity. See “Description of the L Bonds — Renewal or Redemption on Maturity.”</p>
Call and Redemption Prior to Maturity	We may call and redeem the entire outstanding principal balance and accrued but unpaid interest of any or all of the L Bonds at any time without penalty or premium. L Bond holders will have no right to require us to redeem any L Bond prior to maturity unless the request is due to death, bankruptcy or total disability. In our sole discretion, we may accommodate other requests to redeem any L Bond prior to maturity. If we agree to redeem an L Bond upon the request of an L Bond holder, we may impose a redemption fee of 6% against the outstanding principal balance of the L Bond redeemed, which fee will be subtracted from the amount paid.
Ranking	

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The L Bonds will constitute secured debt of GWG Holdings. The payment of principal and interest on the L Bonds will be:

- pari passu with respect to payment on and collateral securing the approximately \$24.0 million in outstanding principal amount of Series I Secured Notes previously issued by our subsidiary GWG Life, and the previously issued L Bonds, of which approximately \$282.2 million in principal amount is outstanding as of December 31, 2015 (see the caption “— Collateral Security” below);

- structurally junior to the present and future obligations owed by our subsidiaries DLP II and DLP III under our current senior revolving credit facility with Autobahn/DZ Bank (including the approximately \$65 million presently outstanding under such facility), and structurally or contractually junior to any future obligations that DLP II and DLP III or other primary obligors or guarantors may have under future senior secured borrowing facilities; and
- structurally junior to the present and future claims of other creditors of DLP II and DLP III, including trade creditors.

The indenture will permit us to issue other forms of debt, including senior and secured debt, in the future. Any such secured senior debt will have priority over L Bonds with respect to claims for payment and claims for any collateral that is shared as between the holders of L Bonds and such senior secured debt.

To fully understand the foregoing summary, you should understand that “pari passu” means that claims for payment and entitlement to security among the holders of L Bonds, the holders of previously issued L Bonds, and the holders of Series I Secured Notes previously issued by GWG Life, together with the holders of any later-created class of “pari passu debt” of ours, will generally be treated equally and without preference. We expect to continue our offering of Series I Secured Notes and previously issued L Bonds for purposes of processing renewals only, and any such debt issued on a pari passu basis in the future would also be treated equally and without preference in respect of the L Bonds and any secured debt issued by GWG Life. Thus, in the event of any default on the L Bonds (or any other debt securities of ours that is pari passu with the L Bonds) resulting in claims for payment or claims on collateral security, the holders of the L Bonds and all such other debt securities that are pari passu with the L Bonds would share in payment or collateral in proportion to the amount of principal and interest owed on each such debt instrument. See “Description of the L Bonds — Ranking” for further information.

Guarantee

The payment of principal and interest on the L Bonds is fully and unconditionally guaranteed by GWG Life. This guarantee, together with the accompanying grant of a security interest in all of the assets of GWG Life and the terms and conditions of an intercreditor agreement, makes the L Bonds pari passu, with respect to payment and collateral, with the Series I Secured Notes issued by GWG Life and the previously issued L Bonds issued by GWG Holdings. On December 31, 2015, there was approximately \$24.0 million in outstanding principal amount owed on the Series I Secured Notes and approximately \$282.2 million in outstanding principal amount of previously issued L Bonds.

Collateral Security

The L Bonds are secured by the assets of GWG Holdings, Inc. We have granted a security interest in all of our assets to the indenture trustee for the benefit of the L Bond holders. Our assets consist primarily of our investments in our subsidiaries and any cash proceeds we receive from life insurance assets of our subsidiaries, and all other cash and investments we hold in various accounts.

The majority of our life insurance assets are held in our subsidiaries DLP II and DLP III and the associated master trust. The L Bonds' security interest will be structurally subordinate to the security interest in favor of our senior secured lender under the senior revolving credit facility, together with any future senior secured lenders of ours. The assets of GWG Life, including proceeds it receives as distributions from DLP II and DLP III and derived from the insurance policies owned by DLP II and DLP III, are collateral for GWG Life's guarantee of the repayment of principal and interest on the L Bonds. As indicated above under "Collateral," this security interest will be pari passu to other issued and outstanding debt of GWG Life and GWG Holdings, including our Series I Secured Notes and previously issued L Bonds, respectively. The L Bonds are also secured by a pledge of a majority of our outstanding common stock from our largest stockholders, which pledge is pari passu with the pledge of such common stock to the holders of Series I Secured Notes issued by GWG Life and to the holders of previously issued L Bonds. For a description of the meaning of the term "pari passu," please refer to the caption "Ranking" above.

Indenture Covenants

The indenture governing the L Bonds places restrictive covenants and affirmative obligations on us. For example, our debt coverage ratio may not exceed 90%.

The indenture defines the debt coverage ratio as a percentage calculated by the ratio of (A) obligations owing by us and our subsidiaries on all outstanding debt for borrowed money (including the L Bonds), over (B) the net present asset value of all life insurance assets we own, directly or indirectly, plus any cash held in our accounts. For this purpose, the net present asset value of our life insurance assets is equal to the present value of the cash flows derived from the face value of policy benefit assets we own, discounted at a rate equal to the weighted-average cost of capital for all our indebtedness for the prior month.

We are required to notify the indenture trustee in the event that we violate this restrictive covenant for a period of 30 consecutive days. An “event of default” will exist under the indenture if a violation of this covenant persists for a period of 60 calendar days after the trustee’s notice to us of a breach, or such a notice received from the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of outstanding L Bonds.

The indenture also places limitations on our ability to engage in a merger or sale of all of our assets. See “Description of the Indentures — Events of Default” and “— Consolidation Mergers or Sales” for more information.

Use of Proceeds

If all the L Bonds are sold, we would expect to receive up to approximately \$918.5 million of net proceeds from this offering after paying estimated offering and related expenses and after paying our estimated average selling commissions, dealer-manager fees, accountable expense allowance, wholesale commissions and our offering expenses. There is no minimum amount of L Bonds that must be sold before we access investor funds. The exact amount of proceeds we receive may vary considerably depending on a variety of factors, including how long the L Bonds are offered.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to: service our life insurance assets; and for certain other expenditures we anticipate incurring in connection with this offering and in connection with our business. See “Use of Proceeds” for additional information.

No Market for L Bonds Units; Transferability

There is no existing market for the L Bonds and we do not anticipate that a secondary market for the L Bonds will develop. We do not intend to apply for listing of the L Bonds on any securities exchange or for quotation of the L Bonds in any automated dealer quotation system. Nevertheless, you will be able to freely transfer or pledge L Bonds. See “Description of the L Bonds — Transfers.”

Book Entry

The L Bonds may be issued in book-entry form, certificated form, or in the form of a global certificate deposited with a depository. See “Description of the L Bonds — Registration and Exchange.”

Covered Security

Our L Bonds are a “covered security.” The term “covered security” applies to securities exempt from state registration because of their oversight by federal authorities and national-level regulatory bodies pursuant to Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1933. Generally, securities listed on national exchanges are the most common type of covered security exempt from state registration. A

non-traded security also can be a covered security if it has a seniority greater than or equal to other securities from the same issuer that are listed on a national exchange. Our L Bonds are a covered security because they are senior to our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq Capital Market, and therefore our offering of L Bonds is exempt from state registration.

Although the status of our L Bonds as a “covered security” will facilitate their purchase and sale to a broader range of investors than would otherwise be available to us, and although the offer and sale of a “covered security” generally involves fewer issuance costs to the issuer of such securities, our L Bonds are not a suitable purchase for all investors. In this regard, please carefully review the “Risk Factors” contained in this prospectus, as well as the disclosures on page 18 under the heading “Covered Security.”

Risk Factors

An investment in the L Bonds involves significant risks, including the risk of losing your entire investment, and may be considered speculative. Importantly, we maintain a senior borrowing arrangement that subordinates the right to payment on, and shared collateral securing, the L Bonds to our senior secured lender. From time to time we may add or replace senior lenders and the particular arrangements under which we borrow from them. In addition, these borrowing arrangements with senior lenders restrict, and are expected to continue to restrict, our cash flows and, subject to certain exceptions, distributions from our operating subsidiaries. These provisions will restrict cash flows available for payment of principal and interest on the L Bonds. For a summary of risks relating to this offering and our Company and business, please see “Risk Factors,” page 21.

RISK RELATING TO FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain matters discussed in this prospectus contain forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about our operations and the investments we make, including, among other things, factors discussed under the heading “Risk Factors” in this prospectus and the following:

- changes in the secondary market for life insurance;
- our limited operating history;
- the valuation of assets reflected on our financial statements;
- the reliability of assumptions underlying our actuarial models, including our life expectancy estimates;
- our reliance on debt financing;
- risks relating to the validity and enforceability of the life insurance policies we purchase;
- our reliance on information provided and obtained by third parties;
- federal, state and FINRA regulatory matters;
- competition in the secondary market of life insurance;
- the relative illiquidity of life insurance policies;
- our ability to satisfy our debt obligations if we were to sell our entire portfolio of life insurance policies;
- life insurance company credit exposure;
- general economic outlook, including prevailing interest rates;
- performance of our investments in life insurance policies;
- financing requirements;
- litigation risks;
- restrictive covenants contained in borrowing agreements; and
- increases in the cost of premiums charged by insurers for the policies we own.

Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words like “believes,” “could,” “possibly,” “probably,” “anticipates,” “estimates,” “projects,” “expects,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “seek,” “intend,” “plan,” “expect,” or “consider” or the negative of expressions or other variations, or by discussions of strategy that involve risks and uncertainties. All forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual transactions, results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future transactions, results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

We base these forward-looking statements on current expectations and projections about future events and the information currently available to us. Although we believe that the assumptions for these forward-looking statements

are reasonable, any of the assumptions could prove to be inaccurate. Consequently, no representation or warranty can be given that the estimates, opinions, or assumptions made in or referenced by this prospectus will prove to be accurate. Some of the risks, uncertainties and assumptions are identified in the discussion entitled “Risk Factors” in this prospectus. We undertake no obligation to update our forward-looking statements.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before purchasing the securities offered by this prospectus, you should carefully consider the risks, uncertainties and additional information (i) set forth in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 22, 2016, Currents Reports on Form 8-K filed with SEC on March 8, 2016 and February 26, 2016 and our preliminary proxy statement filed with the SEC on March 23, 2016, all which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and (ii) contained herein or in any applicable prospectus supplement. For a description of these reports and documents, and information about where you can find them, see “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation of Certain Documents By Reference.” The risks and uncertainties in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated, or deemed to be incorporated, by reference in this prospectus are those that we currently believe may materially impact the Company. Additional risks not presently known or are currently deemed immaterial could also materially and adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, business and prospects.

We may not be able to raise the capital that we are seeking, and may be unable to meet our overall business objectives of growing a larger, more statistically diverse portfolio of life insurance policies without the proceeds from our continuous offering of L Bonds.

Our offering of L Bonds has been the principal means by which we have raised the funds needed to meet our goal of growing a larger and more statistically diverse portfolio that is more likely to meet our cash flow projections. While we plan to continue financing our business, if we are unable to continue to do so for any reason we may be unable to meet our goal. In addition, if holders of our Series I Secured Notes or L Bonds were to fail to renew those securities with the frequency we have historically experienced, and actual cash flows from our portfolio of life insurance policies do not occur as our actuarial projections have forecasted, we could be forced to sell our investments in life insurance policies in order to service or satisfy our debt-related obligations. If we are forced to sell investments in life insurance policies or our entire portfolio, we may be unable to sell them at prices we believe are appropriate, and may not be able to sell them at prices that approximate the discount rate we have applied to value our portfolio, particularly if our sale of policies occurs at a time when we are (or are perceived to be) in distress. In any such event, our business and the value of our securities, including our debt securities and common stock, may be materially and adversely impacted.

We depend upon cash distributions from our subsidiaries, and contractual restrictions on distributions to us or adverse events at one of our operating subsidiaries could materially and adversely affect our ability to pay our debts and to continue to operate our business.

GWG Holdings, Inc. is a holding company. As a holding company, we conduct our operations through our operating subsidiaries, and our only significant assets are the capital stock of our subsidiaries. Accordingly, our ability to meet our cash obligations, including our obligations under the L Bonds, depends in material part upon the ability of our subsidiaries to make cash distributions to us. In this regard, the ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us is, and will continue to be, restricted by certain negative covenants in the agreement governing our senior revolving credit facility. DLP Funding II is the borrower under our senior revolving credit facility (see note 5 to our consolidated financial statements). The significant majority of the insurance policies we own are subject to a collateral arrangement with the agent for our revolving credit lender, as described in note 2 to our consolidated financial statements. Under this arrangement, collection and escrow accounts are used to fund purchases of and premiums for our insurance policies and to pay interest and other charges under the senior revolving credit facility. The lender and its agent must authorize all disbursements from these accounts, including any distributions to GWG Life. Distributions are limited to an amount that would result in the borrowers (us) realizing an annualized rate of return on the equity funded amount for such assets of not more than 18%, as determined by the agent. After such amount is reached, the credit agreement requires that excess funds be used to fund repayments or a reserve account in a certain amount, before any additional distributions may be made.

If any of the above limitations were to materially impede the flow of cash to us, such fact would materially and adversely affect our ability to service and repay our debt, including obligations under the L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes. In addition, any adverse event at the subsidiary level, such as a declaration of bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or an event of default under our senior revolving credit facility, could materially and adversely affect

the ability of our subsidiaries to make cash distributions to us. Just as with a material contractual impediment to cash flow, any such subsidiary corporate event would materially and adversely affect our ability to service and repay our debt, including obligations under the L Bonds, and negatively impact our ability to continue operations.

Subordination provisions contained in the indenture will restrict the ability of the trustee or the L Bond holders to enforce their rights against us under the indenture, including the right to payment on the L Bonds, if a default then exists under our senior revolving credit facility.

The L Bonds will be subordinate in right of payment to any claims of the senior lender under our senior revolving credit facility. In this regard, subordination provisions limiting the right of L Bond holders to enforce their rights are contained in the indenture. These provisions include:

- a prohibition on challenging any enforcement action taken by a senior lender or interfering with any legal action or suits undertaken by a senior lender against us and our affiliates;
- a 180-day standstill period during which there may not be brought any action to enforce an event of default against us or our affiliates unless our senior revolving credit facility has been repaid in full, which period may be extended if the credit facility provider takes action during such standstill period; and
- a prohibition on filing a bankruptcy or insolvency case against us or our affiliates for at least one year plus one day after the senior revolving credit facility lender has been paid in full.

Furthermore, in the event of a default, we will be prohibited from making any payment, direct or indirect (whether for interest, principal, as a result of any redemption or repayment at maturity, on default, or otherwise), on the L Bonds and any other indebtedness, and neither the holders of the L Bonds nor the trustee will have the right, directly or indirectly, to sue to enforce the indenture or the L Bonds, if a default or event of default under any senior credit facility has occurred and is continuing, or if any default or event of default under any senior credit facility would result from such payment. This payment restriction will generally remain in effect unless and until: (i) the default and event of default respecting the senior credit facility has been cured or waived or has ceased to exist; and (ii) the end of the period commencing on the date the indenture trustee receives written notice of default from a holder of such credit facility and ending on the earlier of the indenture trustee's receipt of (1) a valid waiver of default from the holder of a credit facility, or (2) a written notice from the holder of a credit facility terminating the payment blockage period.

Other provisions of the indenture permit the trustee to take action to enforce the right of L Bond holders to payment after 179 days have passed since the trustee's receipt of notice of default from the senior lender, but in such case any funds paid as a result of any such suit or enforcement action shall be applied toward the senior credit facility until the facility is indefeasibly paid in full before being applied to the L Bonds. These subordination provisions present the risk that, upon any default by us on obligations owed under our senior debt, the holders of the L Bonds will be unable to enforce their right to payment.

If the 180-day standstill period noted above or any other limitation on the rights of the trustee or L Bond holders to assert their rights to payment of principal or interest under the indenture or L Bonds is ultimately determined to conflict with provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (most notably sections 316(b) and 317(a) of that Act), then the trustee, as well as any holder who shall not have earlier consented to such subordination provisions, shall (notwithstanding such provision contained in the indenture) be authorized to institute a lawsuit for the enforcement of any payment of principal or interest after their respective due dates.

The collateral granted as security for our obligations under the L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes may be insufficient to repay the indebtedness upon an event of default.

Our L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes are structurally subordinate to all obligations of our wholly owned subsidiaries DLP II and DLP III. Importantly in this regard, DLP II and DLP III own most of our life insurance policies and are the borrowers under the credit facility. This means that holders of the L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes will have a junior position to the claims of our senior credit facility provider. Thus, L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes are subordinate to all senior secured debt we have or may incur, to the extent of the value of the assets securing that debt. Importantly, as the issuers of the L Bonds and Series I Secured Notes which have granted a general security interest in its assets as collateral security for those obligations, GWG Holdings' and GWG Life's most significant assets are cash and their investments in subsidiaries. GWG Holdings' total assets at December 31, 2015 were approximately

\$304.5 million, of which approximately \$269.9 million was its investment in subsidiaries. While the indenture agreements governing the L Bonds limits the amount of debt we and our subsidiaries can incur, the indenture permits us and our subsidiaries to incur secured debt (subject to the debt coverage ratio) that may be senior to the L Bonds.

As indicated above, as of December 31, 2015, we had approximately \$65 million of outstanding secured indebtedness under our senior revolving credit facility that is senior to the L Bonds. For a description of the ranking of the L Bonds, see “*Description of the L Bonds — Ranking*” in this prospectus. In addition, the guarantee and associated grant of collateral security by GWG Life for our obligations under the L Bonds may offer security that is insufficient to fully satisfy obligations under the L Bonds. Like GWG Holdings, GWG Life’s most significant asset is its investment in its subsidiaries (in this case, DLP II and DLP III). GWG Life’s total assets at December 31, 2015 were approximately \$297.1 million, of which approximately \$291.3 million was its investment in subsidiaries.

Because of the foregoing, and because of the fact that a majority of our life insurance assets as of December 31, 2015 are held in our DLP II and DLP III subsidiary or its associated master trust (and all of those assets serve as collateral security for our obligations under the senior revolving credit facility), L Bond holders risk the possibility that the collateral security we have granted for our obligations under such securities may be insufficient to repay those securities upon an event of default.

If a significant number of holders of our Series I Secured Notes and L Bonds demand repayment of those instruments upon maturity instead of renewing them, and at such time we do not have sufficient capital on hand to fund those repayments (and do not otherwise have access to sufficient capital), we may be forced to liquidate some of our life insurance policy assets, which could have a material and adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

As of December 31, 2015, GWG Holdings had approximately \$282.2 million in principal amount of L Bonds outstanding, and GWG Life had approximately \$24.0 million in principal amount of Series I Secured Notes outstanding. By virtue of GWG Life’s full and unconditional guarantee of obligations under the L Bonds, and other agreements contained in or made in connection with the indenture, the L Bonds are pari passu in right of payment and collateral with the Series I Secured Notes. The indenture governing the L Bonds, and the note issuance and security agreement governing the Series I Secured Notes, each provide for cross defaults upon an event of default under the provisions of the other agreement (i.e., an event of default under the note issuance and security agreement will constitute an event of default under the indenture for the L Bonds, and vice versa).

The terms of the Series I Secured Notes have renewal features. Since we first issued our Series I Secured Notes, we have experienced \$150.2 million in maturities, of which \$116.1 million has renewed for an additional term, as of December 31, 2015. This has provided us with an historical renewal rate of approximately 77% for investments in our Series I Secured Notes. Since we first issued our L Bonds, we have experienced \$155.8 million in maturities, of which \$98.4 million has renewed for an additional term, as of December 31, 2015. This has provided us with an historical renewal rate of approximately 63% for investments in our L Bonds.

Future contractual maturities of Series I Secured Notes and L Bonds as of December 31, 2015 are:

Years Ending December 31,	Series I		Total
	Secured Notes	L Bonds	
2016	\$ 13,819,000	\$ 94,790,000	\$ 108,609,000
2017	6,179,000	64,589,000	70,768,000
2018	1,427,000	64,372,000	65,799,000
2019	347,000	18,513,000	18,860,000
2020	1,765,000	19,810,000	21,575,000
Thereafter	40,000	20,096,000	20,136,000
	\$ 23,577,000	\$ 282,170,000	\$ 305,747,000

If investors holding existing indebtedness with short-term maturities do not elect to renew their investments and we do not at such time have or have access to sufficient capital, then we may need to liquidate some of our investments in life insurance policies earlier than anticipated. In such an event, we may be unable to sell those policies at prices we believe are fair or otherwise appropriate and such sales could have a material and adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

Because we intend to hold our life insurance policies to their maturity, we therefore measure our debt coverage ratio against our current cost of financing, which may not reflect the sale price of our life insurance policies if we were to liquidate them.

We intend to hold our life insurance policy investments until they are paid out at the mortality of the insured. As a result, we measure our debt coverage ratio based on the portfolio's gross expected yield against the interest cost of our total debt obligations to finance the portfolio. The debt coverage ratio, expressed as a percentage, is defined as the ratio of (i) total amounts outstanding on any indebtedness for borrowed money, over (ii) the net present asset value of all life insurance assets we own, plus any cash held in our accounts. For this purpose, the net present asset value of our life insurance assets is calculated as the present value of the life insurance portfolio's expected future cash flows discounted at the weighted-average interest rate of the indebtedness for the previous month. Under the indenture, the maximum amount of such securities we may issue at any time is limited to an amount such that our debt coverage ratio does not exceed 90%. This limitation is designed to provide some comfort to holders of our debt that the value of our assets exceeds our obligations to those holders. Nevertheless, the debt coverage ratio (as calculated) is not based on the fair value of our life insurance assets, which may be different — greater or less — than the amount we would receive if we were forced to sell those assets in the marketplace. Furthermore, mere compliance with the debt coverage ratio does not contemplate or account for the significant transactional costs that could be associated with a sale of all or any significant portion of our portfolio.

We have no obligation to redeem L Bonds prior to their maturity date except in narrowly limited circumstances.

We will have no obligation, and L Bond holders will have no right to require us, to redeem any L Bonds prior to their maturity date. The only exceptions exist for situations in which an individual natural person investor suffers a total permanent disability or a bankruptcy, or dies. In any such event, we will be required to redeem the L Bonds of such person so long as certain procedural requirements are met. Outside these narrow exceptions, we may nonetheless agree, in our sole and absolute discretion, to accommodate requests to redeem L Bonds prior to their maturity in other cases. If we do agree to redeem any L Bonds, we will assess a 6% redemption fee for such transaction. For more information, see "Description of the L Bonds — Call and Redemption Prior to Stated Maturity." As a result, any investment in our L Bonds should be considered illiquid and unable to be redeemed until its stated maturity.

Fraudulent transfer statutes may limit your rights under the guarantee of the L Bonds.

Our obligations under the L Bonds will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by our direct wholly owned subsidiary, GWG Life. The guarantee may be subject to review under various laws for the protection of creditors. It is possible that other creditors of GWG Life may challenge the guarantee as a fraudulent transfer under relevant federal and state laws. Under certain circumstances, including a finding that GWG Life was insolvent at the time its guarantee was issued, a court could hold that the obligations of GWG Life under the guarantee may be voided or are subordinate to other obligations of GWG Life, or that the amount for which GWG Life is liable under its guarantee of the L Bonds may be limited. Different jurisdictions define "insolvency" differently, and we cannot assure you as to what standard a court would apply to determine whether GWG Life was insolvent. If a court were to determine that GWG Life was insolvent on the date on which it guaranteed the L Bonds, or that the guarantee constituted a fraudulent transfer on other legal grounds, the claims of creditors of GWG Life would effectively have priority with respect to GWG Life's assets and earnings over the claims of the holders of the L Bonds.

Our controlling stockholders and principal executives are involved in litigation "clawback" claims, and it is possible that adverse outcomes from these claims could negatively affect the Company.

Our Chief Executive Officer, Jon R. Sabes, and our corporate secretary and Executive Vice President of Originations and Servicing, Steven F. Sabes, who together beneficially own or control approximately 74% of our common stock, are subject to litigation relating to claims by a bankruptcy trustee for loan payments made to an affiliate, Opportunity Finance, LLC. The litigation stems from the 2010 conviction of an individual operating a fraudulent business, which

business filed for bankruptcy in 2008. The bankruptcy trustee alleges that loan repayments to Opportunity Finance were avoidable transfers under preference or other legal theories and seeks to recover amounts for other creditors of the bankruptcy estate. Case No. 08-45257 (U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Minnesota). Such payments may ultimately be deemed to be avoidable transfers under preference or other legal theories. In addition, GWG Holdings invested \$1.0 million in Opportunity Finance, LLC in 2006 and was repaid and received \$176,948 of interest income from that investment in 2007. To date no claim has been made against the Company.

The loss of the services of our current executives or other key employees, or the failure to attract additional key individuals, would materially adversely affect our business operations and prospects.

Our financial success is significantly d