ATLANTIC AMERICAN CORP Form 10-K March 27, 2015 TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended <u>December 31, 2014</u>

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission file number 0-3722

ATLANTIC AMERICAN CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Georgia 58-1027114

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

4370 Peachtree Road, N.E.,

Atlanta, Georgia

30319

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code) (404) 266-5500

Securities registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share Name of exchange NASDAQ Global Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes o No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes o No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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 definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer o Accelerated Non-accelerated filer o Smaller reporting company filer o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No

The aggregate market value of voting and nonvoting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2014, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, was \$17,958,941. For purposes hereof, beneficial ownership is determined under rules adopted pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the foregoing excludes value ascribed to common stock that may be deemed beneficially owned by the directors and executive officers, and 10% or greater stockholders, of the registrant, some of whom may not be deemed to be affiliates upon judicial determination. On March 17, 2015 there were 20,582,006 shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

1. Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days of the registrant's fiscal year end, have been incorporated by reference in Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Part III of this Form 10-K.

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PART I

Item 1. Business

The Company

Atlantic American Corporation, a Georgia corporation incorporated in 1968 (the Parent or Company), is a holding company that operates through its subsidiaries in well-defined specialty markets within the life and health and property and casualty insurance industries. The Parent's principal operating subsidiaries are American Southern Insurance Company and American Safety Insurance Company (together known as American Southern) within the property and casualty insurance industry and Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance Company and Bankers Fidelity Assurance Company (together known as Bankers Fidelity) within the life and health insurance industry. Each of American Southern and Bankers Fidelity is managed separately based upon the type of products it offers, and is evaluated on its individual performance. The Company's strategy is to focus on well-defined geographic, demographic and/or product niches within the insurance marketplace. Each of American Southern and Bankers Fidelity operates with relative autonomy, which structure is designed to allow for quick reaction to market opportunities.

The Parent has no significant business operations of its own and relies on fees, dividends and other distributions from its operating subsidiaries as the principal source of cash flow to meet its obligations. Additional information regarding the cash flow and liquidity needs of the Parent can be found in the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Property and Casualty Operations

American Southern comprises the Company's property and casualty operations and its primary product lines are as follows:

<u>Business Automobile Insurance</u> policies provide bodily injury and/or property damage liability coverage, uninsured motorist coverage and physical damage coverage for commercial accounts.

<u>General Liability Insurance</u> policies cover bodily injury and property damage liability for both premises and completed operations exposures for general classes of business.

<u>Property Insurance</u> policies provide for payment of losses on business personal property caused by fire or other multiple perils.

<u>Surety Bonds</u> are contracts under which one party, the insurance company issuing the surety bond, guarantees to a third party that the primary party will fulfill an obligation in accordance with a contractual agreement. This obligation may involve meeting a contractual commitment, paying a debt or performing certain duties.

American Southern provides tailored business automobile insurance coverage, on a multi-year contract basis, to state governments, local municipalities and other large motor pools and fleets (block accounts) that can be specifically rated and underwritten. The size of the block accounts insured by American Southern are generally such that individual class experience can be determined, which allows for customized policy terms and rates. American Southern is licensed to do business in 32 states and the District of Columbia. While the majority of American Southern's premiums are derived from its automobile lines of business, American Southern also offers business personal property, inland marine and general liability coverages. Additionally, American Southern directly provides surety bond coverage for school bus transportation and subdivision construction, as well as performance and payment bonds.

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The following table summarizes, for the periods indicated, the allocation of American Southern's net earned premiums from each of its principal product lines:

	Year Ended	Year Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	
	(In thousands)		
Automobile liability	\$ 26,438	\$ 24,259	
Automobile physical damage	11,633	8,365	
General liability	3,577	3,521	
Property	3,697	2,699	
Surety	7,309	7,007	
Total	\$ 52,654	\$ 45,851	

Life and Health Operations

Bankers Fidelity comprises the life and health operations of the Company and offers a variety of life and supplemental health products with a focus on the senior markets. Products offered by Bankers Fidelity include ordinary and term life insurance, Medicare supplement and other accident and health insurance products. Health insurance products, primarily Medicare supplement insurance, accounted for 89.2% of Bankers Fidelity's net earned premiums in 2014 while life insurance, including both whole and term life insurance policies, accounted for the balance. In terms of the number of policies written in 2014, 80.9% were health insurance policies and 19.1% were life insurance policies.

The following table summarizes, for the periods indicated, the allocation of Bankers Fidelity's net earned premiums from each of its principal product lines followed by a brief description of the principal products:

	Year Endo	Year Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	
	(In t	(In thousands)	
Life insurance	\$ 10,887	\$ 11,139	
Medicare supplement	85,197	83,979	
Other accident and health	4,750	4,661	
Total health insurance	89,947	88,640	
Total	\$ 100,834	\$ 99,779	

<u>Life Insurance</u> products include non-participating individual term and whole life insurance policies with a variety of riders and options. Policy premiums are dependent upon a number of factors, including issue age, level of coverage and selected riders or options.

<u>Medicare Supplement Insurance</u> includes 8 of the 11 standardized Medicare supplement policies created under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), which are designed to provide insurance coverage for certain expenses not covered by the Medicare program, including copayments and deductibles.

<u>Other Accident and Health Insurance</u> coverages include several policies providing for the payment of standard benefits in connection with the treatment of diagnosed cancer and other critical illnesses, as well as a number of other policies providing nursing facility care, accident expense, hospital indemnity and disability coverages.

Marketing

Property and Casualty Operations

A portion of American Southern's business is marketed through a small number of specialized, experienced independent agents. American Southern's agent selection process is actively managed by internal marketing personnel with oversight from management. Senior management carefully reviews all new programs prior to acceptance. Most of American Southern's agents are paid an up-front commission with the potential for

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additional commissions by participating in a profit sharing arrangement that is directly linked to the profitability of the underlying business. American Southern also solicits business from governmental entities. As an experienced writer of insurance policies for certain governmental programs, the company actively pursues this market on a direct basis. Much of this business is priced by means of competitive bid situations and there can be no assurance with respect to ultimate profitability or that the company can obtain or retain such business at the time of a specific contract renewal.

Life and Health Operations

Bankers Fidelity markets its policies through three distribution channels all of which utilize commissioned, independent agents. The three channels utilized include traditional independent agents, broker-agents typically interested in a specific product of Bankers Fidelity and special market agents who promote workplace, association and/or branded products.

Bankers Fidelity has implemented an agent qualification process and had 2,440 licensed agents as of December 31, 2014. The agents generally concentrate their sales activities in both the accident and health or life insurance product lines. During 2014, approximately 693 of the licensed agents wrote policies on behalf of Bankers Fidelity.

Bankers Fidelity, in an effort to motivate all of its licensed agents to market its products, offers the following: competitive products and commission structures, efficient claims service, prompt payment of commissions that vest immediately, simplified policy issuance procedures, periodic sales incentive programs and, as described below, for traditional independent agents, protected sales territories determined based on specific counties and/or zip codes.