

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND
Form N-CSRS
June 26, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT FILE NUMBER: 811-21484

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN CHARTER)

2020 Calamos Court, Naperville,

Illinois 60563-2787

(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)

John P. Calamos, Sr., President

Calamos Advisors LLC

2020 Calamos Court

Naperville, Illinois

60563-2787

(NAME AND ADDRESS OF AGENT FOR SERVICE)

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE: (630) 245-7200

DATE OF FISCAL YEAR END: October 31, 2013

DATE OF REPORTING PERIOD: November 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013

Item 1. Report to Shareholders

Experience and Foresight

About Calamos Investments

For nearly 35 years, we have helped investors like you manage and build wealth to meet their long-term individual objectives by working to capitalize on the opportunities of the evolving global marketplace. We launched our first mutual fund in 1985 and our first closed-end fund in 2002. Today, we manage five closed-end funds. Three are enhanced fixed income offerings, which pursue high current income from income and capital gains. Two are income-oriented total return offerings, which seek current income, with increased emphasis on capital gains potential. Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (CSQ), falls into this category. Please see page 5 for a more detailed overview of our closed-end offerings.

We are dedicated to helping our clients build and protect wealth. We understand when you entrust us with your assets, you also entrust us with your achievements, goals and aspirations. We believe we best honor this trust by making investment decisions guided by integrity, by discipline, and by our conscientious research.

We believe an active, risk-conscious approach is essential for wealth creation. In the 1970s, we pioneered strategies that seek to participate in equity market upside and mitigate some of the potential risks of equity market volatility. Our investment process seeks to manage risk at multiple levels and draws upon our experience investing through multiple market cycles.

We have a global perspective. We believe globalization offers tremendous opportunities for countries and companies all over the world. In our view, this creates significant opportunities for investors. In our U.S., global and international portfolios, we are seeking to capitalize on the potential growth of the global economy.

We believe there are opportunities in all markets. Our history traces back to the 1970s, a period of significant volatility and economic concerns. We have invested through multiple market cycles, each with its own challenges. Out of this experience comes our belief that the flipside of volatility is opportunity.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Letter to Shareholders</u>	1
<u>The Calamos Closed-End Funds:</u>	
<u>An Overview</u>	5
<u>Investment Team Discussion</u>	6
<u>Schedule of Investments</u>	9
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	16
<u>Statement of Operations</u>	17
<u>Statements of Changes In Net Assets</u>	18
<u>Statement of Cash Flows</u>	19
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	20
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	28
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	29
<u>Trustee Approval of Management Agreement</u>	30
<u>About Closed-End Funds</u>	32
<u>Level Rate Distribution Policy</u>	33
<u>Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	33

Letter to Shareholders

JOHN P. CALAMOS, SR.

CEO and Global Co-CIO

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

Welcome to your semiannual report for the six-month period ended April 30, 2013. This report includes commentary from our investment team, as well as a listing of portfolio holdings, financial statements and highlights, and detailed information about the performance and allocation of your fund. I invite you to read it carefully.

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (CSQ) is an income-oriented total return fund. This means we are focused not only on delivering a competitive stream of distributions, but also on total return.

Steady and Competitive Distributions

During the annual period, CSQ provided steady monthly distributions. We believe the Fund's distribution rate, which was 7.95%* on a market price basis as of April 30, 2013, was very competitive, given the low interest rates in many segments of the bond market.

We understand that many closed-end fund investors seek steady, predictable distributions instead of distributions that fluctuate. Therefore, this Fund has a level rate distribution policy. As part of this policy, we aim to keep distributions consistent from month to month, and at a level that we believe can be sustained over the long term. In setting the Fund's distribution rate, the investment management team and the Fund's Board of Directors consider the interest rate, market and economic environment. We also factor in our assessment of individual securities and asset classes. (For additional information on our level rate distribution policy, please see *The Calamos Closed-End Funds: An Overview* on page 5 and *Level Rate Distribution Policy* on page 33.)

Market Environment

Today's market conditions remind me of the often tumultuous 1970s, when macro events fueled uncertainty and volatility. This time around, however, massive accommodative monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and central banks around the world has

¹ Current Annualized Distribution Rate is the Fund's most recent distribution, expressed as an annualized percentage of the Fund's current market price per share. The Fund's 4/15/13 distribution was \$0.0700 per share. Based on our current estimates, we anticipate that approximately \$0.0590 is paid from ordinary income and \$0.0110 of the distribution represents a return of capital. Estimates are calculated on a tax basis rather than on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis, but should not be used for tax reporting purposes. Distributions are subject to re-characterization for tax purposes after the end of the fiscal year. This information is not legal or tax advice. Consult a professional regarding your specific legal or tax matters. Under the Fund's level rate distribution policy, distributions paid to common shareholders may include net investment income, net realized short-term capital gains and return of capital. When the net investment income and net realized short-term capital gains are not sufficient, a portion of the level rate distribution will be a return of capital. In addition, a limited number of distributions per calendar year may include net realized long-term capital gains. Distribution rate may vary.

Letter to Shareholders

supported the global equity markets and their overall recoveries. However, this aggressive easing policy has also driven government bond yields in developed markets to historic lows. As a result, the search for income continued to be a primary concern for many investors, contributing to distortions in the equity markets as well.

The U.S. stuck to its slow-growth trajectory, adding to its growing string of consecutive quarters of economic expansion. A recovering housing market and rising equity markets contributed to a wealth effect that carried through to retail and auto sales. Although sequestration cast a shadow at the end of the year that carried into 2013, the country managed to avoid the fiscal cliff, and the passage of a new continuing resolution has prevented a Washington shutdown.

Elsewhere, we continued to see underwhelming euro zone GDP and ongoing tensions between the haves and have-nots. Italy's ill-fated election, as well as Cyprus's woes and the EU's missteps in addressing them, underscored the tensions in the EU and the complexities of the bailout-austerity cycle. There was better news coming out of Japan, however, as the Bank of Japan took steps during the period to reverse deflation, resulting in better factory output, consumer confidence and business sentiment for that key global economy.

Conditions were best in the U.S., as economic recovery continued at a slow and steady pace. U.S. stocks rallied to a double-digit performance, with the S&P 500 Index¹ returning an impressive 14.42% for the six-month period. Global markets also participated in the upswing, as the MSCI World Index², a measure of developed market equity performance, posted a robust 13.78% gain. Meanwhile, emerging markets lagged their developed market counterparts for the period amid concerns of slowing growth and less accommodative monetary policy in several key economies, but the MSCI Emerging Markets Index³ still managed a gain of 5.40%.

Many of the Calamos funds utilize convertible securities, and this area of the market also enjoyed the six-month rally, as the BofA Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertible Ex-Mandatory Index⁴ returned 12.69%, prompted by lower-quality higher yielding securities. High yield issuance continued to maintain a steady pace, while performance for the six-month period was also healthy, with a 7.21% return in the Credit Suisse High Yield Index⁵. The lower yielding U.S. bond market was more muted, however, as the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index⁶ posted a gain of just 0.90%.

Global Outlook: Cautious Optimism

Our global outlook remains cautiously optimistic, and we believe, now more than ever, that active management and diversification are crucial to long-term investing success.

We expect the global economic recovery to continue at a measured pace, led by the U.S. and the emerging markets. Our greatest concerns relate to euro zone GDP and a potential slowdown in earnings growth, globally. We believe that valuations and long-term secular trends (including those related to the EM consumer) support our positioning. Recent housing and consumer data in the U.S. has been encouraging, and although

Letter to Shareholders

some of China's first quarter economic data (GDP and industrial production) has fallen short of estimates, numbers remain high in absolute terms and relative to developed markets.

On the back of central bank intervention and investors' quest for income, valuations for areas such as staples have become stretched to a point that we believe merits caution. Meanwhile, we believe that the valuations of

growth equities are attractive by many measures. For example, U.S. growth equities are highly compelling on the basis of free cash flow yields versus 10-year Treasury yields, as well as on a P/E basis versus value stocks. Many growth-rich but dividend-poor technology stocks are especially undervalued. After strong performance in the first half of 2012, we've seen the sector give some back, but the fundamentals still look attractive from both top-down and bottom-up perspectives.

We are also encouraged by trends in the U.S. and global convertible markets. Economic growth has supported increased issuance globally, and we continue to find attractively valued convertibles that offer the characteristics we seek—that is, a balance between equity participation and potential downside resilience.

Our Use of Leverage*

We have the flexibility to utilize leverage in this Fund. Over the long term, we believe that the judicious use of leverage provides us with opportunities to enhance total return and support the Fund's distribution rate. Leverage strategies typically entail borrowing at short-term interest rates and investing the proceeds at higher rates of return. During the reporting period, we believed the prudent use of leverage would be advantageous given the economic environment, specifically the low borrowing costs we were able to secure. Overall, our use of leverage contributed favorably to the returns of the Fund, as the performance of the Fund's holdings exceeded the costs of our borrowing activities.

Consistent with our focus on risk management, we have employed techniques to hedge against a rise in interest rates. We have used interest rate swaps to manage the borrowing costs associated with our leverage activities. Interest rate swaps allow us to lock down an interest rate we believe to be attractive. Although rates are at historically low levels across much of the fixed income market, history has taught us that rates can rise quickly, in some cases, in a matter of months. We believe that the Fund's use of interest rate swaps is beneficial because it provides a degree of protection should a rise in rates occur.

A Global, Long-Term Perspective

Despite our broadly constructive outlook for equities and the global economy, we expect continued choppiness in the markets, and would not be surprised to see the equity market correct off recent highs, with

* Leverage creates risks that may adversely affect return, including the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of common shares; and fluctuations in the variable rates of the leverage financing.

Letter to Shareholders

overpriced sectors potentially coming under particular pressure. We believe this can create new buying opportunities, and we are carefully assessing opportunities across industries.

In this environment, we believe that maintaining long-term focus, global perspective and a commitment to diversified asset allocation are vital to investing success. We recognize that our role is to understand and adapt to the markets we are in, and we believe that our experience, proprietary research and active approach position us well in this regard. We continue to enhance our team and our approach, adding new resources, including a dedicated value investing team, additional specialized team members and more risk management capabilities.

If you would like any additional information about this Fund or our other closed-end offerings, please contact your financial advisor or our client services team at 800.582.6959 (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Central Time), or visit us at www.calamos.com. We thank you for your continued trust.

Sincerely,

John P. Calamos, Sr.

CEO and Global Co-CIO,

Calamos Advisors LLC

Before investing, carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Please see the prospectus containing this and other information or call 800.582.6959. Please read the prospectus carefully. Performance data represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted.

1 The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. Source: Lipper, Inc.

2 The MSCI World Index (U.S. Dollars) is a market-capitalization weighted index composed of companies representative of the market structure of developed market countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region. Source: Lipper, Inc.

3 The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index considered broadly representative of emerging market equity performance. The index represents companies within the constituent emerging markets that are available to investors worldwide.

4 The BofA Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles Ex-Mandatory Index represents the U.S. convertible securities market excluding mandatory convertibles.

5 The Credit Suisse High Yield Index is an unmanaged index of approximately 1,600 issues with an average maturity range of seven to ten years with a minimum capitalization of \$75 million. The Index is considered generally representative of the U.S. market for high yield bonds.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

6 The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is considered generally representative of the investment-grade bond market. Source: Lipper, Inc. Unmanaged index returns assume reinvestment of any and all distributions and, unlike fund returns, do not reflect fees, expenses or sales charges. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

Investments in overseas markets pose special risks, including currency fluctuation and political risks. These risks are generally intensified for investments in emerging markets. Countries, regions, and sectors mentioned are presented to illustrate countries, regions, and sectors in which a fund may invest. Fund holdings are subject to change daily. The Funds are actively managed.

The information contained herein is based on internal research derived from various sources and does not purport to be statements of all material facts relating to the securities mentioned. The information contained herein, while not guaranteed as to the accuracy or completeness, has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable. There are certain risks involved with investing in convertible securities in addition to market risk, such as call risk, dividend risk, liquidity risk and default risk, that should be carefully considered prior to investing. This information is being provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or an offer to buy or sell any security in the portfolio.

This report is for informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice.

4 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT

The Calamos Closed-End Funds: An Overview

In our closed-end funds, we draw upon decades of investment experience, including a long history of opportunistically blending asset classes in an attempt to capture upside potential while managing downside risk. We launched our first closed-end fund in 2002.

Closed-end funds are long-term investments. Most focus on providing monthly distributions, but there are important differences among individual closed-end funds. Calamos closed-end funds can be grouped into multiple categories that seek to produce income while offering exposure to various asset classes and sectors.

Portfolios Positioned to Pursue High Current Income from Income and Capital Gains

OBJECTIVE: U.S. ENHANCED FIXED INCOME
Calamos Convertible Opportunities and Income Fund

(Ticker: CHI)

Invests in high yield and convertible securities, primarily in U.S. markets

Calamos Convertible and High Income Fund

(Ticker: CHY)

Invests in high yield and convertible securities, primarily in U.S. markets

OBJECTIVE: GLOBAL ENHANCED FIXED INCOME
Calamos Global Dynamic Income Fund

(Ticker: CHW)

Invests in global fixed income securities, alternative investments and equities

Our Level Rate Distribution Policy

Closed-end fund investors often look for a steady stream of income. Recognizing this, Calamos closed-end funds have a level rate distribution policy in which we aim to keep monthly income consistent through the disbursement of net investment income, net realized short-term capital gains and, if necessary, return of capital. We set distributions at levels that we believe are sustainable for the long term. Our team is focused on delivering an attractive monthly distribution, while maintaining a long-term focus on risk management. The level of the funds' distributions can be greatly influenced by market conditions, including the interest rate environment. The funds' distributions will depend on the individual performance of positions the funds hold, our view of the benefits of retaining leverage, fund tax considerations, and maintaining regulatory requirements.

For more information about any of these funds, we encourage you to contact your financial advisor or Calamos Investments at 800.582.6959 (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Central Time). You can also visit us at www.calamos.com.

For more information on our level rate distribution policy, please see page 33.

Portfolios Positioned to Seek Current Income, with Increased Emphasis on Capital Gains Potential

OBJECTIVE: GLOBAL TOTAL RETURN
Calamos Global Total Return Fund

(Ticker: CGO)

Invests in equities and higher yielding convertible securities and corporate bonds, in both U.S. and non-U.S. markets

OBJECTIVE: U.S. TOTAL RETURN
Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

(Ticker: CSQ)

Invests in equities and higher yielding convertible securities and corporate bonds, primarily in U.S. markets

Investment Team Discussion

TOTAL RETURN* AS OF 4/30/13

Common Shares Inception 3/26/04

	6 Months	1 Year	Since Inception**
On Market Price	7.33%	16.16%	4.60%
On NAV	10.10%	14.10%	5.77%

* Total return measures net investment income and net realized gain or loss from Fund investments, and change in net unrealized appreciation and depreciation, assuming reinvestment of income and net realized gains distributions.

** Annualized since inception.

SECTOR WEIGHTINGS

Information Technology	18.3%
Energy	15.4
Consumer Discretionary	11.9
Industrials	11.9
Health Care	11.3
Financials	11.0
Consumer Staples	5.5
Telecommunication Services	5.0
Materials	4.4
Utilities	2.1

Sector Weightings are based on managed assets and may vary over time. Sector Weightings exclude any government/sovereign bonds or options on broad market indexes the Fund may hold.

STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND (CSQ)

INVESTMENT TEAM DISCUSSION

The Fund's Investment Team discusses strategy, performance and positioning for the six-month period ended April 30, 2013.

Q. To provide a context for its performance, please discuss the Fund's strategy and role within an asset allocation.

A. Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (CSQ) is a total return-oriented offering that seeks to provide a steady stream of income paid out on a monthly basis. We invest in a diversified portfolio of equities, convertible securities and high-yield securities. The allocation to each asset class is dynamic, and reflects our view of the economic landscape as well as the potential of individual securities. By combining these asset classes, we believe that the Fund is well positioned over the long term to generate capital gains as well as income. This broader range of security types also provides us with increased opportunities to manage the risk and reward characteristics of the portfolio over full market cycles. Through this approach, the Fund seeks to offer investors an attractive monthly distribution, as well as equity participation.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

While investing primarily in securities of U.S. issuers, we favor those companies that are actively participating in globalization with geographically diversified revenue streams and global business strategies. We emphasize companies that we believe offer reliable debt servicing, respectable balance sheets and good prospects for sustainable growth.

Q. How did the Fund perform over the reporting period?

A. The Fund gained 10.10% on a net asset value (NAV) basis for the six-month period ended April 30, 2013, while the S&P 500 Index gained 14.42%. On a market price basis, the Fund returned 7.33% for the same period.

SINCE INCEPTION MARKET PRICE AND NAV HISTORY THROUGH 4/30/13

Performance data quoted represents past performance, which is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. The principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Returns at NAV reflect the deduction the Fund's management fee, debt leverage costs and other expenses. You can obtain performance data current to the most recent month end by visiting www.calamos.com.

Q. How do NAV and market price return differ?

A. Closed-end funds trade on exchanges, where the price of shares may be driven by factors other than the value of the underlying securities. The price of a share in the market is called market value. Market price may be influenced by factors unrelated to

Investment Team Discussion

the performance of the fund's holdings. A fund's NAV return measures the return of the individual securities in the portfolio, less fund expenses. It also measures how a manager was able to capitalize on market opportunities. Because we believe closed-end funds are best utilized as a long-term holding within asset allocations, we believe that NAV return is the better measure of a fund's performance.

Q. Please discuss the Fund's distributions during the annual period.

A. We employ a level rate distribution policy within this Fund with the goal of providing shareholders with a consistent distribution stream. The Fund provided a steady distribution stream over the period. Monthly distributions were \$0.0700 per share. The Fund's annual distribution rate was 7.95% of market price as of April 30, 2013.

We believe that both the Fund's distribution rate and level remained attractive and competitive, as low interest rates limited yield opportunities in much of the marketplace. For example, as of April 30, 2013, the dividend yield of S&P 500 Index stocks averaged 2.08%. Yields also remained low within the U.S. government bond market, with 10-year U.S. Treasuries and 30-year U.S. Treasuries yielding 1.70% and 2.88%, respectively.

Q. The Fund is currently trading at a discount to its NAV. Please discuss this discount.

A. As of the close of the reporting period, the Fund was trading at a discount of 5.38%. This means that its market share price is 5.38% less than its NAV price. At the beginning of the reporting period, the Fund was trading at a discount of 2.94%. As we have noted in the past, we believe that this may be favorable for long-term investors seeking to purchase shares because investors can buy shares of the portfolio at a price that is lower than the fair value of the portfolio, as measured by its NAV.

Q. What factors influenced performance over the reporting period?

A. Consistent with their demand for yield, investors gravitated towards more defensive, higher dividend paying stocks as they invested in the equity markets. Although the Fund's equity and convertible exposure participated measurably in the improving stock markets, our holdings in fixed income securities reduced returns relative to the general equity market index. Security selection in the materials sector, especially commodity-related issues, held back returns as gold mining names in particular lagged.

During the period, high yield bonds performed strongly as credit spreads tightened in the space by 108 basis points as measured by J.P. Morgan. As spreads narrowed due to demand for income coupled with an improving equity market, yields on high yield bonds fell to historic lows. Lower credit qualities in the high yield space were outperformers as investors' demand for yield inspired interest in the CCC-rated tier. However, given our more conservative approach to managing the high yield space, the Fund did not participate in the gains that exposure to these types of securities would have provided.

ASSET ALLOCATION AS OF 4/30/13

Fund asset allocations are based on total investments and may vary over time.

Investment Team Discussion

Q. How is the Fund positioned?

A. With over 60% of the portfolio consisting of common stock and convertible bonds, we believe the Fund is well positioned to participate in improving equity markets buoyed by a better economy. However, unlike a general equity vehicle, the Fund is positioned through its fixed income investments to provide cash for monthly distributions to shareholders.

The Fund continues to be overweight in the energy, industrials and information technology sectors, as we believe these areas will outperform in light of the global economic recovery. We have also increased the Fund's exposure to financials, as we believe companies in the sector will benefit from the ongoing recovery in the housing market. We have also added to the Fund's exposure in consumer discretionary. We have reduced the Fund's exposure to health care, but it still remains slightly higher than the index average.

We continue to emphasize mid-grade corporate credits in the Fund, as we believe they offer compelling yields and capital appreciation potential at levels of risk that we find appropriate. In the current environment, we have also been selective in regard to the most speculative issues, reflecting our concerns that these credits may not presently provide adequate compensation for associated risk. We continue to maintain a higher average credit quality in our high yield securities relative to the Credit Suisse High Yield Index.

Q. What is your outlook for the Fund?

A. As we look forward, our global economic outlook remains one of cautious optimism. We believe the U.S. appears positioned to continue on its slow and steady recovery. Improvements in the housing sector and rising equity markets have contributed to consumer confidence, which appears to be buoying the economy. Job growth is also improving, albeit at a slow pace. Many high yield issuers look well positioned for the future, having taken advantage of low rates to reduce borrowing costs. We continue to favor mid-grade corporate credits and moderate bond durations, as history has shown that interest rate increases can move quickly. Given current spread levels, we expect performance of high income strategies to reflect bottom-up fundamental considerations, rather than a further narrowing of spreads.

Corporations continue to strengthen their balance sheets and have access to low-priced capital. We expect these dynamics will continue to foster growth both domestically and in foreign markets. In general, we believe the current equity market is no worse than fairly priced based on historical measures, and is poised for investment opportunities.

We are encouraged by trends in the U.S. and global convertible markets. Economic growth has supported increased issuance globally, and we see this as positive for the Fund. We continue to find attractively valued convertibles that offer the characteristics we seek by striking a balance between equity participation and a potential downside protection. Although we are constructive on equities and the global economy, we see persistent choppiness in the market – an environment that we believe underscores the benefits of access to convertibles as an investment strategy.

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT		VALUE
CORPORATE BONDS (37.8%)		
Consumer Discretionary (6.3%)		
	American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc.m	
2,849,000	6.250%, 03/15/21 [^]	\$ 3,014,598
2,653,000	6.625%, 10/15/22	2,842,026
4,421,000	Coinstar, Inc.*	
	6.000%, 03/15/19	4,589,551
	DISH Network Corp.	
14,768,000	5.875%, 07/15/22m	15,072,590
8,352,000	5.125%, 05/01/20*	8,289,360
3,242,000	Dufry Finance, SCA*	
	5.500%, 10/15/20	3,418,284
	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	
9,124,000	8.250%, 08/15/20	10,235,987
4,421,000	7.000%, 05/15/22m	4,799,548
	Jaguar Land Rover Automotive, PLC*	
9,826,000	8.125%, 05/15/21	11,213,922
3,685,000	5.625%, 02/01/23	3,869,250
992,000	L Brands, Inc.m	
	5.625%, 02/15/22	1,067,640
4,913,000	Liberty Interactive, LLCm	
	8.250%, 02/01/30	5,471,854
	Meritage Homes Corp.m	
4,274,000	7.000%, 04/01/22	4,837,634
2,456,000	7.150%, 04/15/20	2,782,955
4,800,000	MGM Resorts Internationalm	
	7.500%, 06/01/16	5,400,000
10,955,000	Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.m	
	7.500%, 10/15/27	12,495,547
5,851,000	Ryland Group, Inc.m	
	5.375%, 10/01/22	6,085,040
2,083,000	Sally Holdings, LLCm	
	5.750%, 06/01/22	2,247,036
239,000	Wolverine World Wide, Inc.m*	
	6.125%, 10/15/20	260,361
		107,993,183
Consumer Staples (0.9%)		
14,452,000	Post Holdings, Inc.m	16,068,818

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

		7.375%, 02/15/22	
		Energy (9.9%)	
24,564,000	NOK	Aker Solutions, ASA	
		6.120%, 06/06/17	4,398,219
4,293,000		Atwood Oceanics, Inc.m	
		6.500%, 02/01/20	4,695,469
5,404,000		Berry Petroleum Companym	
		6.375%, 09/15/22	5,789,035
4,860,000		Bristow Group, Inc.m	
		6.250%, 10/15/22	5,300,437
6,141,000		Calfrac Holdings, LPm*	
		7.500%, 12/01/20	6,298,363
3,930,000		Calumet Specialty Products, LPm	
4,912,000		9.625%, 08/01/20*	4,497,394
		9.375%, 05/01/19	5,505,849
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT			VALUE
		Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.m	
2,982,000		7.500%, 09/15/20	\$ 3,218,696
2,751,000		8.625%, 10/15/18	3,043,294
10,808,000		Cimarex Energy Companym	
		5.875%, 05/01/22	11,807,740
6,976,000		Drill Rigs Holdings, Inc.m*	
		6.500%, 10/01/17	7,058,840
10,808,000		Gulfmark Offshore, Inc.m	
		6.375%, 03/15/22	11,314,625
7,860,000		Holly Energy Partners, LP	
		6.500%, 03/01/20	8,528,100
4,716,000		Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.m	
		5.875%, 04/01/20	4,966,538
12,773,000		Linn Energy, LLCm*	
		6.250%, 11/01/19	13,339,802
4,878,000		Oasis Petroleum, Inc.	
1,474,000		6.500%, 11/01/21m	5,387,141
4,323,000		6.875%, 01/15/23~	1,634,298
		Parker Drilling Companym	
		9.125%, 04/01/18	4,739,089
2,948,000		Pioneer Energy Services Corp.m	
		9.875%, 03/15/18	3,231,745
10,808,000		Samson Investment Companym*	
		9.750%, 02/15/20	11,476,745
6,387,000		SEACOR Holdings, Inc.m	
		7.375%, 10/01/19	7,105,537
3,930,000		SESI, LLCm	
		7.125%, 12/15/21	4,475,288

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

2,948,000	SM Energy Company	
	6.500%, 11/15/21	3,246,485
6,387,000	Swift Energy Company	
	8.875%, 01/15/20	6,949,854
2,653,000	Tesoro Logistics, LPm*	
	5.875%, 10/01/20	2,853,633
3,282,000	Trinidad Drilling, Ltd.*	
	7.875%, 01/15/19	3,567,124
12,429,000	W&T Offshore, Inc.m	
	8.500%, 06/15/19	13,640,827
2,112,000	Western Refining, Inc.*	
	6.250%, 04/01/21	2,189,880
		170,260,047
	Financials (2.4%)	
5,011,000	AON Corp.m	
	8.205%, 01/01/27	6,577,439
8,548,000	Jefferies Finance, LLCm*	
	7.375%, 04/01/20	8,841,837
10,808,000	Neuberger Berman Group LLCm*	
	5.875%, 03/15/22	11,632,110
	Nuveen Investments, Inc.*	
3,242,000	9.500%, 10/15/20	3,458,809
3,242,000	9.125%, 10/15/17	3,434,494
5,974,000	Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc.m	
	5.875%, 03/15/24	6,541,530
		40,486,219

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 9

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

PRINCIPAL		VALUE
AMOUNT		
	Health Care (3.9%)	
13,756,000	Community Health Systems, Inc.m	
	7.125%, 07/15/20	\$ 15,484,097
5,404,000	Endo Health Solutions, Inc.m	
	7.000%, 07/15/19	5,937,645
7,782,000	Hologic, Inc.	
	6.250%, 08/01/20	8,414,288
	Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.m*	
9,826,000	7.250%, 07/15/22	11,189,358
8,843,000	7.000%, 10/01/20	9,821,257
14,738,000	Warner Chilcott Company, LLCm	
	7.750%, 09/15/18	16,045,997
		66,892,642
	Industrials (4.2%)	
10,808,000	Belden, Inc.m*	
	5.500%, 09/01/22	11,179,525
4,991,000	Deluxe Corp.*	
	6.000%, 11/15/20	5,212,476
4,525,000	H&E Equipment Services, Inc.	
	7.000%, 09/01/22	5,034,063
5,964,000	Mead Products, LLC/Acco Brands Corp.*	
	6.750%, 04/30/20	6,347,932
5,777,000	Navistar International Corp.m ^	
	8.250%, 11/01/21	6,022,522
7,664,000	Rexel, SAm*	
	6.125%, 12/15/19	8,238,800
6,111,000	RR Donnelley & Sons Companym^	
	7.875%, 03/15/21	6,680,087
	Terex Corp.m	
7,860,000	6.500%, 04/01/20	8,557,575
1,356,000	6.000%, 05/15/21	1,457,700
1,371,000	TransDigm Group, Inc.m	
	7.750%, 12/15/18	1,521,810

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

11,299,000	United Rentals North America, Inc.m	
	7.625%, 04/15/22	12,916,169
		73,168,659
	Information Technology (3.2%)	
	Amkor Technology, Inc.m	
4,421,000	6.625%, 06/01/21	4,586,787
3,026,000	6.375%, 10/01/22^~	3,112,998
2,948,000	7.375%, 05/01/18	3,145,147
14,768,000	iGATE Corp.	
	9.000%, 05/01/16	16,143,270
6,387,000	Nuance Communications, Inc.m*	
	5.375%, 08/15/20	6,574,618
2,751,000	NXP BV*	
	5.750%, 03/15/23	2,890,269
2,204,000	Sanmina Corp.*	
	7.000%, 05/15/19	2,343,128
	Seagate Technology, PLC	
3,439,000	6.875%, 05/01/20	3,763,556
983,000	7.000%, 11/01/21m^	1,086,215
	PRINCIPAL	
	AMOUNT	VALUE
3,459,000	SunGard Data Systems, Inc.*	
	6.625%, 11/01/19	\$ 3,664,378
6,878,000	ViaSat, Inc.m	
	6.875%, 06/15/20	7,518,514
		54,828,880
	Materials (3.3%)	
12,282,000	FMG Resourcesm^*	
	8.250%, 11/01/19	13,517,876
	Inmet Mining Corp.*	
5,404,000	8.750%, 06/01/20	5,819,432
2,260,000	7.500%, 06/01/21	2,364,525
	New Gold, Inc.*	
7,860,000	7.000%, 04/15/20	8,311,950
2,063,000	6.250%, 11/15/22	2,130,047
	Sealed Air Corp.*	
5,139,000	8.125%, 09/15/19m	5,890,579
1,641,000	5.250%, 04/01/23	1,685,102
	Steel Dynamics, Inc.*	
2,774,000	6.125%, 08/15/19	3,049,666
1,572,000	5.250%, 04/15/23	1,625,055
1,228,000	6.375%, 08/15/22m	1,350,033
5,689,000	Trinseo Op/ Trinseo Finance, Inc.m^*	
	8.750%, 02/01/19	5,717,445
5,350,000	United States Steel Corp.m^	
	6.875%, 04/01/21	5,553,969

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

		57,015,679
Telecommunication Services (1.6%)		
3,321,000	Frontier Communications Corp.m [^]	
	7.625%, 04/15/24	3,474,596
	Intelsat, SAm [^] *	
10,808,000	7.750%, 06/01/21	11,429,460
786,000	8.125%, 06/01/23	838,073
	MetroPCS Wireless, Inc.*	
9,875,000	6.625%, 04/01/23m	10,609,453
1,248,000	6.250%, 04/01/21	1,338,480
		27,690,062
Utilities (2.1%)		
2,849,000	AES Corp.m	
	7.375%, 07/01/21	3,381,407
15,721,000	AmeriGas Finance Corp.m	
	7.000%, 05/20/22	17,607,520
	Calpine Corp.m*	
11,496,000	7.875%, 01/15/23	13,105,440
2,414,000	7.500%, 02/15/21	2,718,767
		36,813,134
TOTAL CORPORATE BONDS		
	(Cost \$611,406,232)	651,217,323
CONVERTIBLE BONDS (8.9%)		
Consumer Discretionary (1.6%)		
2,275,000	Jarden Corp.*~	
	1.875%, 09/15/18	2,670,338

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

PRINCIPAL

AMOUNT		VALUE
25,000,000	Liberty Interactive, LLC (Time Warner Cable, Inc., Time Warner, Inc.)m*\$	
	0.750%, 03/30/43	\$ 25,932,625
		28,602,963
	Financials (2.6%)	
20,020,000	Affiliated Managers Group, Inc.m	
	3.950%, 08/15/38	25,122,898
7,676,000	Ares Capital Corp.m	8,098,832
3,458,000	4.750%, 01/15/18**	3,806,134
3,400,000	5.750%, 02/01/16	
	IAS Operating Partnership, LP*	
	5.000%, 03/15/18	3,441,837
3,500,000	Starwood Property Trust, Inc.m	
	4.550%, 03/01/18	3,882,463
		44,352,164
	Health Care (1.3%)	
4,700,000	Hologic, Inc.m^	
	2.000%, 12/15/37	5,369,186
15,000,000	WellPoint, Inc.*	
	2.750%, 10/15/42	18,009,600
		23,378,786
	Industrials (0.7%)	
9,500,000	Trinity Industries, Inc.m	
	3.875%, 06/01/36	11,357,250
	Information Technology (2.1%)	
9,900,000	Linear Technology Corp.m	
	3.000%, 05/01/27	10,533,006
2,155,000	Nuance Communications, Inc.m	
	2.750%, 11/01/31	2,251,188
23,500,000	Salesforce.com, Inc.m*	
	0.250%, 04/01/18	23,644,760

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

		36,428,954
	Materials (0.6%)	
4,900,000	Glencore Finance Europe, SA	
	5.000%, 12/31/14	5,610,843
4,000,000	RTI International Metals, Inc.	
	1.625%, 10/15/19	4,081,020
		9,691,863

TOTAL CONVERTIBLE BONDS

(Cost \$145,305,614) 153,811,980

	U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY SECURITY (0.5%)	
9,040,000	United States Treasury Note~	
	1.750%, 01/31/14	
	(Cost \$9,146,827)	9,150,528

PRINCIPAL

AMOUNT VALUE

	SYNTHETIC CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES (0.8%)	
	Corporate Bonds (0.7%)	
	Consumer Discretionary (0.1%)	
	American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc.m	
51,000	6.250%, 03/15/21^	\$ 53,964
47,000	6.625%, 10/15/22	50,349
79,000	Coinstar, Inc.*	
	6.000%, 03/15/19	82,012
	DISH Network Corp.	
262,000	5.875%, 07/15/22m	267,404
148,000	5.125%, 05/01/20*	146,890
58,000	Dufry Finance, SCA*	
	5.500%, 10/15/20	61,154
	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	
162,000	8.250%, 08/15/20	181,744
79,000	7.000%, 05/15/22m	85,764
	Jaguar Land Rover Automotive, PLC*	
174,000	8.125%, 05/15/21	198,577
65,000	5.625%, 02/01/23	68,250
18,000	L Brands, Inc.m	
	5.625%, 02/15/22	19,373
87,000	Liberty Interactive, LLCm	
	8.250%, 02/01/30	96,896
	Meritage Homes Corp.m	
76,000	7.000%, 04/01/22	86,022
44,000	7.150%, 04/15/20	49,857
85,000	MGM Resorts Internationalm	
	7.500%, 06/01/16	95,625

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

195,000		Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.m	
		7.500%, 10/15/27	222,422
104,000		Ryland Group, Inc.m	
		5.375%, 10/01/22	108,160
37,000		Sally Holdings, LLCm	
		5.750%, 06/01/22	39,914
4,000		Wolverine World Wide, Inc.m*	
		6.125%, 10/15/20	4,358
			1,918,735
		Consumer Staples (0.0%)	
257,000		Post Holdings, Inc.m	
		7.375%, 02/15/22	285,752
		Energy (0.2%)	
436,000	NOK	Aker Solutions, ASA	
		6.120%, 06/06/17	78,066
76,000		Atwood Oceanics, Inc.m	
		6.500%, 02/01/20	83,125
96,000		Berry Petroleum Companym	
		6.375%, 09/15/22	102,840
86,000		Bristow Group, Inc.m	
		6.250%, 10/15/22	93,794
109,000		Calfrac Holdings, LPm*	
		7.500%, 12/01/20	111,793

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 11

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

PRINCIPAL

AMOUNT		VALUE
	Calumet Specialty Products, LPm	
70,000	9.625%, 08/01/20*	\$ 80,106
88,000	9.375%, 05/01/19	98,639
	Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.m	
53,000	7.500%, 09/15/20	57,207
49,000	8.625%, 10/15/18	54,206
192,000	Cimarex Energy Companym	
	5.875%, 05/01/22	209,760
124,000	Drill Rigs Holdings, Inc.m*	
	6.500%, 10/01/17	125,473
192,000	Gulfmark Offshore, Inc.m	
	6.375%, 03/15/22	201,000
140,000	Holly Energy Partners, LP	
	6.500%, 03/01/20	151,900
84,000	Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.m	
	5.875%, 04/01/20	88,463
227,000	Linn Energy, LLCm*	
	6.250%, 11/01/19	237,073
	Oasis Petroleum, Inc.	
87,000	6.500%, 11/01/21m	96,081
26,000	6.875%, 01/15/23~	28,828
77,000	Parker Drilling Companym	
	9.125%, 04/01/18	84,411
52,000	Pioneer Energy Services Corp.m	
	9.875%, 03/15/18	57,005
192,000	Samson Investment Companym*	
	9.750%, 02/15/20	203,880
113,000	SEACOR Holdings, Inc.m	
	7.375%, 10/01/19	125,712
70,000	SESI, LLCm	
	7.125%, 12/15/21	79,713
52,000	SM Energy Companym	
	6.500%, 11/15/21	57,265
113,000	Swift Energy Companym	
	8.875%, 01/15/20	122,958

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

47,000	Tesoro Logistics, LPm*	
	5.875%, 10/01/20	50,554
58,000	Trinidad Drilling, Ltd.*	
	7.875%, 01/15/19	63,039
221,000	W&T Offshore, Inc.m	
	8.500%, 06/15/19	242,547
38,000	Western Refining, Inc.*	
	6.250%, 04/01/21	39,401
		3,024,839
	Financials (0.0%)	
89,000	AON Corp.m	
	8.205%, 01/01/27	116,821
152,000	Jefferies Finance, LLCm*	
	7.375%, 04/01/20	157,225
192,000	Neuberger Berman Group LLCm*	
	5.875%, 03/15/22	206,640
58,000	Nuveen Investments, Inc.*	
	9.500%, 10/15/20	61,879
58,000		61,444
	9.125%, 10/15/17	
	PRINCIPAL	
	AMOUNT	VALUE
106,000	Omega Healthcare Investors, Inc.m	
	5.875%, 03/15/24	\$ 116,070
		720,079
	Health Care (0.1%)	
244,000	Community Health Systems, Inc.m	
	7.125%, 07/15/20	274,652
96,000	Endo Health Solutions, Inc.m	
	7.000%, 07/15/19	105,480
138,000	Hologic, Inc.	
	6.250%, 08/01/20	149,213
	Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.m*	
174,000		198,143
157,000		174,368
262,000	Warner Chilcott Company, LLCm	
	7.750%, 09/15/18	285,252
		1,187,108
	Industrials (0.1%)	
192,000	Belden, Inc.m*	
	5.500%, 09/01/22	198,600
89,000	Deluxe Corp.*	92,949

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

	6.000%, 11/15/20	
80,000	H&E Equipment Services, Inc.	
	7.000%, 09/01/22	89,000
106,000	Mead Products, LLC/Acco Brands Corp.*	
	6.750%, 04/30/20	112,824
103,000	Navistar International Corp.m ^	
	8.250%, 11/01/21	107,378
136,000	Rexel, SAm*	
	6.125%, 12/15/19	146,200
109,000	RR Donnelley & Sons Companym^	
	7.875%, 03/15/21	119,151
	Terex Corp.m	
140,000	6.500%, 04/01/20	152,425
24,000	6.000%, 05/15/21	25,800
24,000	TransDigm Group, Inc.m	
	7.750%, 12/15/18	26,640
201,000	United Rentals North America, Inc.m	
	7.625%, 04/15/22	229,768
		1,300,735
	Information Technology (0.1%)	
	Amkor Technology, Inc.m	
79,000	6.625%, 06/01/21	81,962
54,000	6.375%, 10/01/22^~	55,552
52,000	7.375%, 05/01/18	55,478
262,000	iGATE Corp.	
	9.000%, 05/01/16	286,399
113,000	Nuance Communications, Inc.m*	
	5.375%, 08/15/20	116,319
49,000	NXP BV*	
	5.750%, 03/15/23	51,481
39,000	Sanmina Corp.*	
	7.000%, 05/15/19	41,462

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

PRINCIPAL

AMOUNT		VALUE
	Seagate Technology, PLC	
61,000	6.875%, 05/01/20	\$ 66,757
17,000	7.000%, 11/01/21m^	18,785
61,000	SunGard Data Systems, Inc.*	
	6.625%, 11/01/19	64,622
122,000	ViaSat, Inc.m	
	6.875%, 06/15/20	133,361
		972,178
	Materials (0.1%)	
218,000	FMG Resourcesm^*	
	8.250%, 11/01/19	239,936
	Inmet Mining Corp.*	
96,000	8.750%, 06/01/20	103,380
40,000	7.500%, 06/01/21	41,850
	New Gold, Inc.*	
140,000	7.000%, 04/15/20	148,050
37,000	6.250%, 11/15/22	38,203
	Sealed Air Corp.*	
91,000	8.125%, 09/15/19m	104,309
29,000	5.250%, 04/01/23	29,779
	Steel Dynamics, Inc.*	
49,000	6.125%, 08/15/19	53,869
28,000	5.250%, 04/15/23	28,945
22,000	6.375%, 08/15/22m	24,186
101,000	Trinseo Op/Trinseo Finance, Inc.m^*	
	8.750%, 02/01/19	101,505
95,000	United States Steel Corp.m^	
	6.875%, 04/01/21	98,622
		1,012,634
	Telecommunication Services (0.0%)	
59,000	Frontier Communications Corp.m^	
	7.625%, 04/15/24	61,729
	Intelsat, SAm^*	
192,000	7.750%, 06/01/21	203,040
14,000	8.125%, 06/01/23	14,927
	MetroPCS Wireless, Inc.*	
175,000	6.625%, 04/01/23m	188,016
22,000	6.250%, 04/01/21	23,595

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

		491,307
	Utilities (0.0%)	
51,000	AES Corp.m	
	7.375%, 07/01/21	60,530
279,000	AmeriGas Finance Corp.m	
	7.000%, 05/20/22	312,480
	Calpine Corp.m*	
204,000	7.875%, 01/15/23	232,560
43,000	7.500%, 02/15/21	48,429
		653,999
	TOTAL CORPORATE BONDS	11,567,366

	U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY SECURITY (0.0%)	
160,000	United States Treasury Note~	
	1.750%, 01/31/14	161,956

NUMBER OF
CONTRACTS

VALUE

	PURCHASED OPTION (0.1%) #	
	Information Technology (0.1%)	
3,420	Salesforce.com, Inc.	
	Call, 01/18/14, Strike \$38.75	\$ 2,069,100

TOTAL SYNTHETIC

CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES

(Cost \$13,251,867) 13,798,422

NUMBER OF

SHARES

VALUE

	CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS (7.2%)	
	Consumer Discretionary (0.3%)	
100,000	General Motors Company [^]	
	4.750%	4,648,000
	Consumer Staples (0.7%)	
111,900	Bunge, Ltd.	
	4.875%	11,777,475
	Energy (2.3%)	
39,514	Chesapeake Energy Corp.*	
	5.750%	40,006,603

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

Financials (0.8%)		
40,000	Fifth Third Bancorp	
	8.500%	5,909,600
165,000	MetLife, Inc.m	
	5.000%	8,274,750
		14,184,350
Industrials (2.2%)		
650,000	United Technologies Corp.m ^	
	7.500%	38,441,000
Telecommunication Services (0.2%)		
76,669	Intelsat, SA	
	5.750%	4,216,795
Utilities (0.7%)		
200,000	NextEra Energy, Inc.	
	5.599%	11,465,000
TOTAL CONVERTIBLE		
PREFERRED STOCKS		
	(Cost \$128,961,391)	124,739,223
COMMON STOCKS (76.2%)		
Consumer Discretionary (7.7%)		
45,000	Amazon.com, Inc.m#	11,421,450
400,000	Carnival Corp.m	13,804,000
89,912	General Motors Companym#	2,772,886
245,000	Home Depot, Inc.	17,970,750
180,000	Las Vegas Sands Corp.	10,125,000
123,000	McDonald s Corp.	12,563,220
22,573	Motors Liquidation Companym^#	689,493

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 13

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

NUMBER OF

SHARES

VALUE

239,000		Nike, Inc. - Class B	\$ 15,200,400
320,000		Starbucks Corp.	19,468,800
153,000		TJX Companies, Inc.m	7,461,810
320,000		Walt Disney Companym	20,108,800
			131,586,609
		Consumer Staples (5.8%)	
1,145,000		Coca-Cola Companym	48,467,850
365,000		Companhia de Bebidas das Americas	15,337,300
165,000		Costco Wholesale Corp.m	17,890,950
190,000		Philip Morris International, Inc.	18,162,100
			99,858,200
		Energy (8.5%)	
800,000		BP, PLCm	34,880,000
325,000		Chevron Corp.m	39,653,250
60,000		Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.m	4,146,000
185,000		EOG Resources, Inc.m	22,414,600
435,000		Schlumberger, Ltd.	32,377,050
50,000	EUR	Technip, SA^	5,363,018
150,000	EUR	TOTAL, SAm	7,550,562
			146,384,480
		Financials (9.1%)	
345,000		Allstate Corp.	16,994,700
42,000		American International Group, Inc.m#	1,739,640
500,000		Bank of America Corp.m	6,155,000
400,000		Blackstone Group, LPm	8,220,000
172,745		Citigroup, Inc.m	8,060,282
120,000		Franklin Resources, Inc.m	18,559,200
118,000		Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.m^	17,236,260
985,000		JPMorgan Chase & Company	48,274,850
158,074		Lincoln National Corp.m	5,376,097
116,457		MetLife, Inc.m	4,540,658
185,000		T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.m^	13,412,500
231,676		Wells Fargo & Companym	8,799,054
			157,368,241
		Health Care (10.0%)	
300,000		Eli Lilly and Companym	16,614,000
400,000		Johnson & Johnsonm	34,092,000
555,000		Merck & Company, Inc.m	26,085,000
3,300,000		Pfizer, Inc.	95,931,000
			172,722,000

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

Industrials (8.8%)			
245,000		Caterpillar, Inc.m	20,744,150
440,000		Eaton Corp., PLCm	27,020,400
200,000		Fluor Corp.	11,396,000
2,600,000		General Electric Companym	57,954,000
450,000		Masco Corp.m	8,748,000
NUMBER OF			
SHARES			
135,000	EUR	Siemens, AG	\$ 14,105,750
83,000		Union Pacific Corp.m^	12,280,680
			152,248,980
Information Technology (19.3%)			
340,000		Accenture, PLC - Class A	27,689,600
105,000		Apple, Inc.m	46,488,750
1,550,000		Applied Materials, Inc.m	22,490,500
425,000		CA, Inc.m	11,462,250
80,000		Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. - Class Am#	5,184,000
415,000		eBay, Inc.m#	21,741,850
8,900		MasterCard, Inc. - Class A	4,921,077
835,000		Microsoft Corp.	27,638,500
300,000		Nintendo Company, Ltd.m	4,157,670
2,200,000		Nokia Corp.m	7,436,000
660,000		Oracle Corp.	21,634,800
875,000		QUALCOMM, Inc.	53,917,500
9,000	KRW	Samsung Electronics Company, Ltd.	12,447,184
630,000		SAP, AGm^	50,305,500
4,200,000	TWD	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Ltd.m	15,588,012
			333,103,193
Materials (2.0%)			
400,000		Dow Chemical Companym	13,564,000
190,000		Mosaic Companym^	11,702,100
210,000		Rio Tinto, PLCm	9,672,600
			34,938,700
Telecommunication Services (5.0%)			
1,225,000		AT&T, Inc.m	45,888,500
450,000	EUR	France Telecom, SAm	4,805,725
639,000		Verizon Communications, Inc.m^	34,448,490
			85,142,715
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS			
(Cost \$1,415,907,237)			1,313,353,118
WARRANTS (0.2%) #			
Consumer Discretionary (0.2%)			
81,739		General Motors Company	
		07/10/16, Strike \$10.00	1,752,484
81,739		General Motors Company	
		07/10/19, Strike \$18.33	1,151,703
TOTAL WARRANTS			2,904,187

(Cost \$12,672,791)

14 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT

See accompanying Notes to Schedule of Investments

Schedule of Investments April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

NUMBER OF

SHARES		VALUE
SHORT TERM INVESTMENT (3.1%)		
53,949,486	Fidelity Prime Money Market Fund - Institutional Class	
	(Cost \$53,949,486)	\$ 53,949,486
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (134.7%)		
	(Cost \$2,390,601,445)	2,322,924,267
	LIABILITIES, LESS OTHER ASSETS (-34.7%)	(598,018,492)
	NET ASSETS (100.0%)	\$ 1,724,905,775

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

m Security, or portion of security, is held in a segregated account as collateral for notes payable aggregating a total value of \$1,138,555,920. \$288,304,075 of the collateral has been re-registered by the counterparty, BNP (see Note 7 Borrowings).

^ Security, or portion of security, is on loan.

* Securities issued and sold pursuant to a Rule 144A transaction are excepted from the registration requirement of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may only be sold to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), such as the fund. Any resale of these securities must generally be effected through a sale that is registered under the Act or otherwise exempted from such registration requirements.

Variable rate or step bond security. The rate shown is the rate in effect at April 30, 2013.

~ Security, or portion of security, is segregated as collateral (or potential collateral for future transactions) for written options and swaps. The aggregate value of such securities is \$13,775,034.

§ Securities exchangeable or convertible into securities of one or more entities that are different than the issuer. Each entity is identified in the parenthetical.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

Non-income producing security.

FOREIGN CURRENCY ABBREVIATIONS

EUR	European Monetary Unit
KRW	South Korean Won
NOK	Norwegian Krone
TWD	New Taiwanese Dollar

Note: Value for securities denominated in foreign currencies is shown in U.S. dollars. The principal amount for such securities is shown in the respective foreign currency. The date on options represents the expiration date of the option contract. The option contract may be exercised at any date on or before the date shown.

INTEREST RATE SWAPS

COUNTERPARTY	FIXED RATE (FUND PAYS)	FLOATING RATE (FUND RECEIVES)	TERMINATION DATE	NOTIONAL AMOUNT	UNREALIZED APPRECIATION/ (DEPRECIATION)
BNP Paribas, SA	2.535% quarterly	3 month LIBOR	03/09/14	\$ 90,000,000	\$ (2,049,402)
BNP Paribas, SA	2.970% quarterly	3 month LIBOR	07/03/14	75,000,000	(2,539,072)
BNP Paribas, SA	3.355% quarterly	3 month LIBOR	06/09/14	60,000,000	(2,322,474)
BNP Paribas, SA	0.934% quarterly	3 month LIBOR	07/05/17	52,000,000	(655,483)
BNP Paribas, SA	1.009% quarterly	3 month LIBOR	06/12/17	47,000,000	(749,505)
					\$ (8,315,936)

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 15

Statement of Assets and Liabilities April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

ASSETS	
Investments in securities, at value (cost \$2,390,601,445)	\$ 2,322,924,267
Receivables:	
Accrued interest and dividends	14,735,895
Investments sold	9,604,437
Prepaid expenses	90,012
Other assets	257,951
Total assets	2,347,612,562
LIABILITIES	
Unrealized depreciation on interest rate swaps	8,315,936
Payables:	
Note payable	606,000,000
Investments purchased	5,793,912
Affiliates:	
Investment advisory fees	1,892,827
Deferred compensation to trustees	257,951
Financial accounting fees	21,714
Trustees' fees and officer compensation	11,441
Other accounts payable and accrued liabilities	413,006
Total liabilities	622,706,787
NET ASSETS	\$ 1,724,905,775
COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS	
Common stock, no par value, unlimited shares authorized 154,514,000 shares issued and outstanding	\$ 2,046,371,172
Undistributed net investment income (loss)	(61,107,689)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments, foreign currency transactions and interest rate swaps	(184,363,811)
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments, foreign currency translations and interest rate swaps	(75,993,897)
NET ASSETS	\$ 1,724,905,775
Net asset value per common shares based upon 154,514,000 shares issued and outstanding	\$ 11.16

Statement of Operations Six Months Ended April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

INVESTMENT INCOME	
Interest	\$ 26,081,247
Dividends	21,766,986
Securities lending income	244,963
Dividend taxes withheld	(233,644)
Total investment income	47,859,552
EXPENSES	
Investment advisory fees	11,195,940
Interest expense and related fees	2,980,922
Financial accounting fees	128,329
Printing and mailing fees	126,019
Accounting fees	65,804
Custodian fees	58,890
Audit fees	53,199
Trustees' fees and officer compensation	50,077
Transfer agent fees	9,983
Registration fees	1,979
Legal fees	(61,269)
Other	88,441
Total expenses	14,698,314
NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	33,161,238
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)	
Net realized gain (loss) from:	
Investments	(26,136,393)
Foreign currency transactions	(52,832)
Interest rate swaps	(3,211,975)
Change in net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) on:	
Investments, excluding purchased options	152,407,771
Purchased options	(160,596)
Foreign currency translations	14,075
Interest rate swaps	2,356,008
NET GAIN (LOSS)	125,216,058
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 158,377,296

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 17

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

	(UNAUDITED) SIX MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30,		YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31,
	2013		2012
OPERATIONS			
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 33,161,238		\$ 67,974,528
Net realized gain (loss)	(29,401,200)		30,601,518
Change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation)	154,617,258		86,647,937
Net increase (decrease) in net assets applicable to shareholders resulting from operations	158,377,296		185,223,983
DISTRIBUTIONS FROM			
Net investment income	(64,895,880)		(103,822,713)
Return of capital			(17,857,062)
Net decrease in net assets from distributions	(64,895,880)		(121,679,775)
TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	93,481,416		63,544,208
NET ASSETS			
Beginning of period	\$ 1,631,424,359		\$ 1,567,880,151
End of period	1,724,905,775		1,631,424,359
Undistributed net investment income (loss)	\$ (61,107,689)		\$ (29,373,047)

Statement of Cash Flows Six Months Ended April 30, 2013 (Unaudited)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Net increase/(decrease) in net assets from operations	\$ 158,377,296
Adjustments to reconcile net increase/(decrease) in net assets from operations to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Purchase of investment securities	(620,455,831)
Net proceeds from disposition of short term investments	569,746
Proceeds from written options	354,015
Proceeds from disposition of investment securities	620,895,677
Amortization and accretion of fixed-income securities	371,480
Net realized gains/losses from investments	26,136,393
Change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on investments, excluding purchased options	(152,407,771)
Change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on purchased options	160,596
Change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation on interest rate swaps	(2,356,008)
Net change in assets and liabilities:	
(Increase)/decrease in assets:	
Accrued interest and dividends receivable	3,123,041
Prepaid expenses	(73,935)
Other assets	(14,625)
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:	
Payables to affiliates	24,340
Other accounts payable and accrued liabilities	191,466
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	\$ 34,895,880
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:	
Distributions to shareholders	(64,895,880)
Proceeds from note payable	30,000,000
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	\$ (34,895,880)
Cash at beginning of period	\$
Cash at end of period	\$
Supplemental disclosure	
Cash paid for interest and related fees	\$ 2,821,441

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 19

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Note 1 Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

Organization. Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (the Fund) was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on December 31, 2003 and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the 1940 Act) as a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund commenced operations on March 26, 2004. The Fund's investment objective is to provide total return through a combination of capital appreciation and current income. Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests primarily in common and preferred stocks and income producing securities such as investment grade and below investment grade debt securities.

Fund Valuation. The valuation of the Fund's investments is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by and under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees.

Fund securities that are traded on U.S. securities exchanges, except option securities, are valued at the last current reported sales price at the time a Fund determines its net asset value (NAV). Securities traded in the over-the-counter market and quoted on The NASDAQ Stock Market are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price, as determined by NASDAQ, or lacking a NASDAQ Official Closing Price, the last current reported sale price on NASDAQ at the time the Fund determines its NAV. When a last sale or closing price is not available, equity securities, other than option securities, that are traded on a U.S. securities exchange and other equity securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the mean between the most recent bid and asked quotations in accordance with guidelines adopted by the board of trustees. Each option security traded on a U.S. securities exchange is valued at the mid-point of the consolidated bid/ask quote for the option security, also in accordance with guidelines adopted by the board of trustees. Each over-the-counter option that is not traded through the Options Clearing Corporation is valued based on a quotation provided by the counterparty to such option under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees.

Fixed income securities, certain convertible preferred securities, and non-exchange traded derivatives are normally valued by independent pricing services or by dealers or brokers who make markets in such securities. Valuations of such fixed income securities, certain convertible preferred securities, and non-exchange traded derivatives consider yield or price of equivalent securities of comparable quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other market data and do not rely exclusively upon exchange or over-the-counter prices.

Trading on European and Far Eastern exchanges and over-the-counter markets is typically completed at various times before the close of business on each day on which the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open. Each security trading on these exchanges or over-the-counter markets may be valued utilizing a systematic fair valuation model provided by an independent pricing service approved by the board of trustees. The valuation of each security that meets certain criteria in relation to the valuation model is systematically adjusted to reflect the impact of movement in the U.S. market after the foreign markets close. Securities that do not meet the criteria, or that are principally traded in other foreign markets, are valued as of the last reported sale price at the time the Fund determines its NAV, or when reliable market prices or quotations are not readily available, at the mean between the most recent bid and asked quotations as of the close of the appropriate exchange or other designated time. Trading of foreign securities may not take place on every NYSE business day. In addition, trading may take place in various foreign markets on Saturdays or on other days when the NYSE is not open and on which the Fund's NAV is not calculated.

If the pricing committee determines that the valuation of a security in accordance with the methods described above is not reflective of a fair value for such security, the security is valued at a fair value by the pricing committee, under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees, following the guidelines and/or procedures adopted by the board of trustees.

The Fund also may use fair value pricing, pursuant to guidelines adopted by the board of trustees and under the ultimate supervision of the board of trustees, if trading in the security is halted or if the value of a security it holds is materially affected by events occurring before the Fund's pricing time but after the close of the primary market or exchange on which the security is listed. Those procedures may utilize valuations furnished by pricing services approved by the board of trustees, which may be based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships between securities that are generally recognized by institutional traders, a computerized matrix system, or appraisals derived from information concerning the securities or similar securities received from recognized dealers in those securities.

When fair value pricing of securities is employed, the prices of securities used by a Fund to calculate its NAV may differ from market quotations or official closing prices. In light of the judgment involved in fair valuations, there can be no assurance that a fair value assigned to a particular

security is accurate.

20 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Investment Transactions. Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Net realized gains and losses from investment transactions are reported on an identified cost basis. Interest income is recognized using the accrual method and includes accretion of original issue and market discount and amortization of premium. Dividend income is recognized on the ex-dividend date, except that certain dividends from foreign securities are recorded as soon as the information becomes available after the ex-dividend date.

Foreign Currency Translation. Values of investments and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars using a rate quoted by a major bank or dealer in the particular currency market, as reported by a recognized quotation dissemination service.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of the results of operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in market prices of securities held. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments.

Reported net realized foreign currency gains or losses arise from disposition of foreign currency, the difference in the foreign exchange rates between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions, and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the ex-date or accrual date and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes (due to the changes in the exchange rate) in the value of foreign currency and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies held at period end.

Allocation of Expenses Among Funds. Expenses directly attributable to the Fund are charged to the Fund; certain other common expenses of Calamos Advisors Trust, Calamos Investment Trust, Calamos Convertible Opportunities and Income Fund, Calamos Convertible and High Income Fund, Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund, Calamos Global Total Return Fund and Calamos Global Dynamic Income Fund are allocated proportionately among each fund to which the expenses relate in relation to the net assets of each fund or on another reasonable basis.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Income Taxes. No provision has been made for U.S. income taxes because the Fund's policy is to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and distribute to shareholders substantially all of the Fund's taxable income and net realized gains.

Dividends and distributions paid to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The amount of dividends and distributions from net investment income and net realized capital gains is determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. To the extent these book/tax differences are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the capital accounts based on their federal tax-basis treatment. These differences are primarily due to differing treatments for foreign currency transactions, contingent payment debt instruments and methods of amortizing and accreting for fixed income securities. The financial statements are not adjusted for temporary differences.

The Fund recognized no liability for uncertain tax positions. A reconciliation is not provided as the beginning and ending amounts of unrecognized benefits are zero, with no interim additions, reductions or settlements. Tax years 2008–2012 remain subject to examination by the U.S. and the State of Illinois tax jurisdictions.

Indemnifications. Under the Fund's organizational documents, the Fund is obligated to indemnify its officers and trustees against certain liabilities incurred by them by reason of having been an officer or trustee of the Fund. In addition, in the normal course of business, the Fund may enter into contracts that provide general indemnifications to other parties. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. Currently, the Fund's management expects the risk of material loss in connection to a potential claim to be remote.

Note 2 Investment Adviser and Transactions With Affiliates Or Certain Other Parties

Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement with Calamos Advisors LLC (Calamos Advisors), the Fund pays an annual fee, payable monthly, equal to 1.00% based on the average weekly managed assets. Managed assets means a fund's total assets

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

(including any assets attributable to any leverage that may be outstanding) minus total liabilities (other than debt representing financial leverage).

Pursuant to a financial accounting services agreement, during the period the Fund paid Calamos Advisors a fee for financial accounting services payable monthly at the annual rate of 0.0175% on the first \$1 billion of combined assets, 0.0150% on the next \$1 billion of combined assets and 0.0110% on combined assets above \$2 billion (for purposes of this calculation combined assets means the sum of the total average daily net assets of Calamos Investment Trust, Calamos Advisors Trust and the total average weekly managed assets of Calamos Convertible and High Income Fund, Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund, Calamos Convertible Opportunities and Income Fund, Calamos Global Total Return Fund and Calamos Global Dynamic Income Fund). Financial accounting services include, but are not limited to, the following: managing expenses and expense payment processing; monitoring the calculation of expense accrual amounts; calculating, tracking and reporting tax adjustments on all assets; and monitoring trustee deferred compensation plan accruals and valuations. The Fund pays its pro rata share of the financial accounting services fee payable to Calamos Advisors based on its relative portion of combined assets used in calculating the fee.

The Fund reimburses Calamos Advisors for a portion of compensation paid to the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer. This compensation is reported as part of Trustees' fees and officer compensation expense on the Statement of Operations.

A trustee and certain officers of the Fund are also officers and directors of Calamos Advisors. Such trustee and officers serve without direct compensation from the Fund.

The Fund has adopted a deferred compensation plan (the Plan). Under the Plan, a trustee who is not an interested person (as defined in the 1940 Act) and has elected to participate in the Plan (a participating trustee) may defer receipt of all or a portion of his compensation from the Fund. The deferred compensation payable to the participating trustee is credited to the trustee's deferral account as of the business day such compensation would have been paid to the participating trustee. The value of amounts deferred for a participating trustee is determined by reference to the change in value of Class I shares of one or more funds of Calamos Investment Trust designated by the participant. The value of the account increases with contributions to the account or with increases in the value of the measuring shares, and the value of the account decreases with withdrawals from the account or with declines in the value of the measuring shares. Deferred compensation of \$257,951 is included in Other assets on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at April 30, 2013. The Fund's obligation to make payments under the Plan is a general obligation of the Fund and is included in Payable for deferred compensation to trustees on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities at April 30, 2013.

Note 3 Investments

The cost of purchases and proceeds from sale of long-term investments for the period ended April 30, 2013 were as follows:

Cost of purchases	\$ 608,967,683
Proceeds from sales	613,841,418

The following information is presented on a federal income tax basis as of April 30, 2013. Differences between the cost basis under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to temporary differences.

The cost basis of investments for federal income tax purposes at April 30, 2013 was as follows:

Cost basis of investments	\$ 2,495,009,875
Gross unrealized appreciation	164,055,376

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

Gross unrealized depreciation	(336,140,984)
-------------------------------	---------------

Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	\$ (172,085,608)
--	------------------

Note 4 Income Taxes

The Fund intends to make monthly distributions from its income available for distribution, which consists of the Fund's dividends and interest income after payment of Fund expenses, and net realized gains on stock investments. At least annually, the Fund intends to distribute all or substantially all of its net realized capital gains, if any. Distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The Fund distinguishes between distributions on a tax basis and a financial reporting basis. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that only distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits be reported in the financial

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

statements as a return of capital. Permanent differences between book and tax accounting relating to distributions are reclassified to paid-in-capital. For tax purposes, distributions from short-term capital gains are considered to be from ordinary income. Distributions in any year may include a return of capital component.

The tax character of distributions for the period ended April 30, 2013 will be determined at the end of the Fund's current fiscal year.

Distributions for the year ended October 31, 2012 were characterized for federal income tax purposes as follows:

	YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2012
Distributions paid from:	
Ordinary income	\$ 103,822,713
Return of capital	17,857,062

As of October 31, 2012, the components of accumulated earnings/(loss) on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income	\$
Undistributed capital gains	
Total undistributed earnings	
Accumulated capital and other losses	(64,414,275)
Net unrealized gains/(losses)	(350,324,636)
Total accumulated earnings/(losses)	(414,738,911)
Other	(207,902)
Paid-in capital	2,046,371,172
Net assets applicable to common shareholders	\$ 1,631,424,359

The Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the Act) modernized various tax rules for regulated investment companies, and was effective for taxable years beginning after the enactment date of December 22, 2010. One significant change is to the treatment of capital loss carryforwards. Now, any capital losses recognized will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses, will be utilized before the pre-Act capital loss carryforwards, and will be carried forward indefinitely, until applied in offsetting future capital gains.

As of October 31, 2012, the Fund had pre-Act capital loss carryforwards which, if not used, will expire as follows:

2017	\$ (34,615,980)
2018	(29,798,295)

Note 5 Common Shares

There are unlimited common shares of beneficial interest authorized and 154,514,000 shares outstanding at April 30, 2013. Calamos Advisors owned 317,328 of the outstanding shares at April 30, 2013. Transactions in common shares were as follows:

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

	PERIOD ENDED APRIL 30, 2013	YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2012
Beginning shares	154,514,000	154,514,000
Shares issued through reinvestment of distributions		
Ending shares	154,514,000	154,514,000

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the 1940 Act that the Fund may from time to time purchase its shares of common stock in the open market.

The Fund also may offer and sell common shares from time to time at an offering price equal to or in excess of the net asset value per share of the Fund's common shares at the time such common shares are initially sold.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Note 6 Derivative Instruments

Foreign Currency Risk. The Fund may engage in portfolio hedging with respect to changes in currency exchange rates by entering into forward foreign currency contracts to purchase or sell currencies. A forward foreign currency contract is a commitment to purchase or sell a foreign currency at a future date at a negotiated forward rate. Risks associated with such contracts include, among other things, movement in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar and the ability of the counterparty to perform. The net unrealized gain, if any, represents the credit risk to the Fund on a forward foreign currency contract. The contracts are valued daily at forward foreign exchange rates. The Fund realizes a gain or loss when a position is closed or upon settlement of the contracts. There were no open forward foreign currency contracts at April 30, 2013.

Equity Risk. The Fund may engage in option transactions and in doing so achieves similar objectives to what it would achieve through the sale or purchase of individual securities. A call option, upon payment of a premium, gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the seller of the option the obligation to sell, the underlying security, index or other instrument at the exercise price. A put option gives the purchaser of the option, upon payment of a premium, the right to sell, and the seller the obligation to buy, the underlying security, index, or other instrument at the exercise price.

To seek to offset some of the risk of a potential decline in value of certain long positions, the Fund may also purchase put options on individual securities, broad-based securities indexes or certain exchange traded funds (ETFs). The Fund may also seek to generate income from option premiums by writing (selling) options on a portion of the equity securities (including securities that are convertible into equity securities) in the Fund's portfolio, on broad-based securities indexes, or certain ETFs.

When a Fund purchases an option, it pays a premium and an amount equal to that premium is recorded as an asset. When a Fund writes an option, it receives a premium and an amount equal to that premium is recorded as a liability. The asset or liability is adjusted daily to reflect the current market value of the option. If an option expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a gain or loss to the extent of the premium received or paid. If an option is exercised, the premium received or paid is recorded as an adjustment to the proceeds from the sale or the cost basis of the purchase. The difference between the premium and the amount received or paid on a closing purchase or sale transaction is also treated as a realized gain or loss. The cost of securities acquired through the exercise of call options is increased by premiums paid. The proceeds from securities sold through the exercise of put options are decreased by the premiums paid. Gain or loss on written options and purchased options is presented separately as net realized gain or loss on written options and net realized gain or loss on purchased options, respectively.

As of April 30, 2013, the Fund had outstanding purchased options and/or written options as listed on the Schedule of Investments. For the period ended April 30, 2013, the Fund had the following transactions in options written:

	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	PREMIUMS RECEIVED
Options Outstanding at October 31, 2012		\$
Options written	200	354,015
Options closed		
Options exercised	(200)	(354,015)
Options expired		
Options outstanding at April 30, 2013		\$

Interest Rate Risk. The Fund engages in interest rate swaps primarily to hedge the interest rate risk on the Fund's borrowings (see Note 7 Borrowings). An interest rate swap is a contract that involves the exchange of one type of interest rate for another type of interest rate. If interest rates rise, resulting in a diminution in the value of the Fund's portfolio, the Fund would receive payments under the swap that would offset, in whole or in part, such diminution in value; if interest rates fall, the Fund would likely lose money on the swap transaction. Unrealized gains are reported as an asset, and unrealized losses are reported as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The change in value of swaps,

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

including accruals of periodic amounts of interest to be paid or received on swaps, is reported as change in net unrealized appreciation/depreciation on interest rate swaps in the Statement of Operations. A realized gain or loss is recorded in net realized gain (loss) on interest rate swaps in the Statement of Operations upon payment or receipt of a periodic payment or termination of the swap agreements. Swap agreements are stated at fair value. Notional principal amounts are used to express the extent of involvement in these transactions, but the amounts potentially subject to credit risk are much smaller. In connection with these contracts, securities may be identified as collateral in accordance with the terms of the respective swap contracts in the event of default or bankruptcy of the Fund.

24 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Premiums paid to or by a Fund are accrued daily and included in realized gain (loss) when paid on swaps in the accompanying Statement of Operations. The contracts are marked-to-market daily based upon third party vendor valuations and changes in value are recorded as unrealized appreciation (depreciation). Gains or losses are realized upon early termination of the contract. Risks may exceed amounts recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. These risks include changes in the returns of the underlying instruments, failure of the counterparties to perform under the contracts' terms, counterparty's creditworthiness, and the possible lack of liquidity with respect to the contracts.

As of April 30, 2013, the Fund had outstanding interest rate swap agreements as listed on the Schedule of Investments.

As of April 30, 2013, the Fund had outstanding derivative contracts which are reflected on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as follows:

	ASSET DERIVATIVES FAIR VALUE
Options purchased ¹	\$ 2,069,100
	LIABILITY DERIVATIVES
Interest rate swaps ²	\$ 8,315,936

(1) Generally, the statement of assets and liabilities location for Options purchased is Investment in securities.

(2) Generally, the statement of assets and liabilities location for Interest rate swaps is Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on swaps. For the six months ended April 30, 2013, the volume of derivative activity for the Fund is reflected below*

	DERIVATIVE TYPE
Option purchased	4,275
Option written	200

* Activity during the period is measured by opened number of contracts for options purchased or written.

Note 7 Borrowings

The Fund, with the approval of its board of trustees, including its independent trustees, has entered into a financing package that includes a Committed Facility Agreement (the BNP Agreement) with BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage International Ltd. (BNP) that allows the Fund to borrow up to \$367.5 million, and a lending agreement (Lending Agreement), as defined below. In addition, the financing package also includes a Credit Agreement (the SSB Agreement, together with the BNP Agreement, Agreements) with State Street Bank and Trust Company (SSB) that allows the Fund to borrow up to an initial limit of \$367.5 million, and a related securities lending authorization agreement (Authorized Agreement). Borrowings under the BNP Agreement and the SSB Agreement are secured by assets of the Fund that are held with the Fund's custodian in a separate account (the Pledged Collateral). BNP and SSB share an equal claim on the Pledged Collateral, subject to any adjustment that may be agreed upon between the lenders. Interest on the BNP Agreement is charged at the three month LIBOR (London Inter-bank Offered Rate) plus .65% on the amount borrowed and .55% on the undrawn balance. Interest on the SSB Agreement is charged on the drawn amount at the rate of Overnight LIBOR plus .80% and .10% on the undrawn balance (if the undrawn amount is more than 75% of the borrowing limit, the commitment fee is .20%). For the period ended April 30, 2013, the average borrowings under the Agreements were \$529.4 million. For the period ended April 30, 2013, the average interest rate was 0.96%. As of April 30, 2013, the amount of outstanding borrowings was \$530.2

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

million, which approximates fair value. The interest rate applicable to the borrowings on April 30, 2013 was 0.94%.

The Lending Agreement with BNP is a separate side-agreement between the Fund and BNP pursuant to which BNP may borrow a portion of the pledged collateral (the Lent Securities) in an amount not to exceed the outstanding borrowings owed by the Fund to BNP under the BNP Agreement. The Lending Agreement is intended to permit the Fund to significantly reduce the cost of its borrowings under the BNP Agreement. BNP may re-register the Lent Securities in its own name or in another name other than the Fund, and may pledge, re-pledge, sell, lend or otherwise transfer or use the Lent Securities with all attendant rights of ownership. (It is the Fund's understanding that BNP will perform due diligence to determine the creditworthiness of any party that borrows Lent Securities from BNP.) The Fund may designate any security within the pledged collateral as ineligible to be a Lent Security, provided

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

there are eligible securities within the pledged collateral in an amount equal to the outstanding borrowing owed by the Fund. During the period in which the Lent Securities are outstanding, BNP must remit payment to the Fund equal to the amount of all dividends, interest or other distributions earned or made by the Lent Securities.

Under the terms of the Lending Agreement with BNP, the Lent Securities are marked to market daily, and if the value of the Lent Securities exceeds the value of the then-outstanding borrowings owed by the Fund to BNP under the Agreement (the Current Borrowings), BNP must, on that day, either (1) return Lent Securities to the Fund's custodian in an amount sufficient to cause the value of the outstanding Lent Securities to equal the Current Borrowings; or (2) post cash collateral with the Fund's custodian equal to the difference between the value of the Lent Securities and the value of the Current Borrowings. If BNP fails to perform either of these actions as required, the Fund will recall securities, as discussed below, in an amount sufficient to cause the value of the outstanding Lent Securities to equal the Current Borrowings. The Fund can recall any of the Lent Securities and BNP shall, to the extent commercially possible, return such security or equivalent security to the Fund's custodian no later than three business days after such request. If the Fund recalls a Lent Security pursuant to the Lending Agreement, and BNP fails to return the Lent Securities or equivalent securities in a timely fashion, BNP shall remain liable to the Fund's custodian for the ultimate delivery of such Lent Securities, or equivalent securities, and for any buy-in costs that the executing broker for the sales transaction may impose with respect to the failure to deliver. The Fund shall also have the right to apply and set-off an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the then-current fair market value of such Lent Securities against the Current Borrowings.

Under the terms of the Authorized Agreement with SSB, all securities lent through SSB must be secured continuously by collateral received in cash, cash equivalents, or U.S. Treasury bills and maintained on a current basis at an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. Cash collateral held by SSB on behalf of the Fund may be credited against the amounts borrowed under the SSB Agreement. Any amounts credited against the SSB Agreement would count against the Fund's leverage limitations under the 1940 Act, unless otherwise covered in accordance with SEC release IC-10666. Under the terms of the Authorized Agreement with SSB, SSB will return the value of the collateral to the borrower upon the return of the lent securities, which will eliminate the credit against the SSB Agreement and will cause the amount drawn under the SSB Agreement to increase in an amount equal to the returned collateral. Under the terms of the Authorized Agreement with SSB, the Fund will make a variable net income payment related to any collateral credited against the SSB Agreement which will be paid to the securities borrower, less any payments due to the Fund or SSB under the terms of the Authorized Agreement. As of April 30, 2013, the Fund used approximately \$75.8 million of its cash collateral to offset the SSB Agreement, representing 3.3% of managed assets, and was required to pay a net income payment equal to an annualized interest rate of 0.47%, which can fluctuate depending on interest rates.

Note 8 Synthetic Convertible Securities

The Fund may establish a synthetic convertible instrument by combining separate securities that possess the economic characteristics similar to a convertible security, i.e., fixed-income securities (fixed-income component), which may be a convertible or non-convertible security and the right to acquire equity securities (convertible component). The fixed-income component is achieved by investing in fixed income securities such as bonds, preferred stocks, and money market instruments. The convertible component is achieved by investing in warrants or purchased options to buy common stock at a certain exercise price, or options on a stock index. In establishing a synthetic instrument, the Fund may pool a basket of fixed-income securities and a basket of warrants or purchased options that produce the economic characteristics similar to a convertible security. Within each basket of fixed-income securities and warrants or options, different companies may issue the fixed-income and convertible components, which may be purchased separately and at different times.

The Fund may also purchase synthetic securities created by other parties, typically investment banks, including convertible structured notes. Convertible structured notes are fixed-income debentures linked to equity. Convertible structured notes have the attributes of a convertible security; however, the investment bank that issued the convertible note assumes the credit risk associated with the investment, rather than the issuer of the underlying common stock into which the note is convertible. Purchasing synthetic convertible securities may offer more flexibility than purchasing a convertible security.

Notes to Financial Statements (Unaudited)

Note 9 Fair Value Measurements

Various inputs are used to determine the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are categorized into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 Prices are determined using inputs from unadjusted quoted prices from active markets (including securities actively traded on a securities exchange) for identical assets.

Level 2 Prices are determined using significant observable market inputs other than unadjusted quoted prices, including quoted prices of similar securities, fair value adjustments to quoted foreign securities, interest rates, credit risk, prepayment speeds, and other relevant data.

Level 3 Prices reflect unobservable market inputs (including the Fund's own judgments about assumptions market participants would use in determining fair value) when observable inputs are unavailable.

Debt securities are valued based upon evaluated prices received from an independent pricing service or from a dealer or broker who makes markets in such securities. Pricing services utilize various observable market data and as such, debt securities are generally categorized as Level 2. The levels are not necessarily an indication of the risk or liquidity of the Fund's investments. Transfers between the levels for investment securities or other financial instruments are measured at the end of the reporting period.

The following is a summary of the inputs used in valuing the Fund's holdings at fair value:

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	TOTAL
Assets:				
Corporate Bonds	\$	\$ 651,217,323	\$	\$ 651,217,323
Convertible Bonds		153,811,980		153,811,980
U.S. Government and Agency Security		9,150,528		9,150,528
Synthetic Convertible Securities (Corporate Bonds)		11,567,366		11,567,366
Synthetic Convertible Securities (U.S. Government and Agency Security)		161,956		161,956
Synthetic Convertible Securities (Purchased Option)	2,069,100			2,069,100
Convertible Preferred Stocks	61,490,145	63,249,078		124,739,223
Common Stocks	1,249,335,196	64,017,922		1,313,353,118
Warrants	2,904,187			2,904,187
Short Term Investment	53,949,486			53,949,486
Total	\$ 1,369,748,114	\$ 953,176,153	\$	\$ 2,322,924,267
Liabilities:				
Interest Rate Swaps	\$	\$ 8,315,936	\$	\$ 8,315,936
Total	\$	\$ 8,315,936	\$	\$ 8,315,936

Financial Highlights

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period were as follows:

	(Unaudited) Six Months Ended		Year Ended October 31,			
	April 30, 2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$10.56	\$10.15	\$10.27	\$9.39	\$7.92	\$16.92
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income (loss)*	0.21	0.44	0.46	0.51	0.51	0.73
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.81	0.76	0.05	1.00	1.82	(8.26)
Distributions to preferred shareholders from:						
Net investment income (common share equivalent basis)					(0.01)	(0.13)
Net realized gains (common share equivalent basis)						(0.08)
Total from investment operations	1.02	1.20	0.51	1.51	2.32	(7.74)
Less distributions to common shareholders from:						
Net investment income	(0.42)	(0.67)	(0.50)	(0.51)	(0.59)	(1.12)
Net realized gains						(0.14)
Return of capital		(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.26)	
Total distributions	(0.42)	(0.79)	(0.63)	(0.63)	(0.85)	(1.26)
Capital charge resulting from issuance of common and preferred shares and related offering costs					(a)	(a)
Premiums from shares sold in at the market offerings						
Net asset value, end of period	\$11.16	\$10.56	\$10.15	\$10.27	\$9.39	\$7.92
Market value, end of period	\$10.56	\$10.25	\$8.69	\$9.06	\$8.11	\$6.94
Total investment return based on:(b)						
Net asset value	10.10%	12.97%	5.84%	17.61%	34.79%	(47.73%)
Market value	7.33%	28.08%	2.72%	20.13%	32.85%	(47.28%)
Net assets, end of period (000)	\$1,724,906	\$1,631,424	\$1,567,880	\$1,586,968	\$1,451,127	\$1,223,443
Preferred shares, at redemption value (\$25,000 per share liquidation preference) (000 s omitted)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$200,000
Ratios to average net assets applicable to common shareholders:						
Net expenses(c)	1.78%(d)	1.91%	1.93%	2.24%	2.81%	2.35%
Gross expenses prior to expense reductions and earnings credits(c)	1.78%(d)	1.91%	1.93%	2.24%	2.81%	2.35%
Net expenses, excluding interest expense	1.42%(d)	1.45%	1.41%	1.46%	1.69%	1.72%
Net investment income (loss)(c)	4.02%(d)	4.25%	4.31%	5.16%	6.56%	5.43%
Preferred share distributions	%	%	%	%	0.09%	0.97%
Net investment income (loss), net of preferred share distributions from net investment income	4.02%(d)	4.25%	4.31%	5.16%	6.47%	4.46%
Portfolio turnover rate	28%	48%	30%	25%	11%	53%
Average commission rate paid	\$0.0214	\$0.0171	\$	\$0.0113	\$0.0159	\$0.0495
Asset coverage per preferred share, at end of period(e)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$177,949
Asset coverage per \$1,000 of loan outstanding(f)	\$3,846	\$3,832	\$3,722	\$3,944	\$3,692	\$3,694

* Net investment income allocated based on average shares method.

(a) Amount equated to less than \$0.005 per common share.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

- (b) Total investment return is calculated assuming a purchase of common stock on the opening of the first day and a sale on the closing of the last day of the period reported. Dividends and distributions are assumed, for purposes of this calculation, to be reinvested at prices obtained under the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan. Total return is not annualized for periods less than one year. Brokerage commissions are not reflected. NAV per share is determined by dividing the value of the Fund's portfolio securities, cash and other assets, less all liabilities, by the total number of common shares outstanding. The common share market price is the price the market is willing to pay for shares of the Fund at a given time. Common share market price is influenced by a range of factors, including supply and demand and market conditions.
- (c) Does not reflect the effect of dividend payments to Preferred Shareholders.
- (d) Annualized.
- (e) Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities (not including Preferred Shares) from the Fund's total assets and dividing this by the number of Preferred Shares outstanding.
- (f) Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities (not including Note payable) and preferred shares from the Fund's total assets and dividing this by the amount of note payable outstanding, and by multiplying the result by 1,000.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investments, for Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund (the Fund) as of April 30, 2013, and the related statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows and the financial highlights for the semi-annual period then ended. These interim financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements and financial highlights taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to such interim financial statements and financial highlights for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the statement of changes in net assets of the Fund for the year ended October 31, 2012 and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended; and in our report dated December 14, 2012, we expressed an unqualified opinion on such statement of changes in net assets and financial highlights.

Chicago, Illinois

June 21, 2013

Trustee Approval of the Management Agreement (Unaudited)

The Board of Trustees of the Fund oversees the management of the Fund, and, as required by law, determines annually whether to continue the Fund's management agreement with Calamos Advisors (the Adviser) under which the Adviser serves as the investment manager and administrator for the Fund. The Independent Trustees, who comprise more than 80% of the Board, have never been affiliated with the Adviser.

In connection with their most recent consideration regarding the continuation of the management agreement, the Trustees received and reviewed a substantial amount of information provided by the Adviser in response to detailed requests of the Independent Trustees and their independent legal counsel. In the course of their consideration of the agreement, the Independent Trustees were advised by their counsel and, in addition to meeting with management of the Adviser, they met separately in executive session with their counsel.

At a meeting held on June 28, 2012, based on their evaluation of the information referred to above and other information, the Trustees determined that the overall arrangements between the Fund and the Adviser were fair and reasonable in light of the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Adviser and its affiliates, the fees charged for those services and other matters that the Trustees considered relevant in the exercise of their business judgment. At that meeting, the Trustees, including all of the Independent Trustees, approved the continuation of the management agreement through July 31, 2013, subject to possible earlier termination as provided in the agreement.

In connection with its consideration of the management agreement, the Board considered, among other things: (i) the nature, quality and extent of the Adviser's services, (ii) the investment performance of the Fund as well as performance information for comparable funds and other comparable clients of the advisor, (iii) the fees and other expenses paid by the Fund as well as expense information for comparable funds and for other, comparable clients of the Adviser, (iv) the profitability of the Adviser and its affiliates from their relationship with the Fund, (v) the extent to which economies of scale may apply, and (vi) other benefits to the Adviser from its relationship with the Fund. In the Board's deliberations, no single factor was responsible for the Board's decision to approve continuation of the management agreements.

Nature, Extent and Quality of Services. The Board's consideration of the nature, extent and quality of the Adviser's services to the Fund took into account the knowledge gained from the Board's meetings with the Adviser throughout the prior year. In addition, the Board considered: the Adviser's long-term history of managing the Fund; the consistency of investment approach; the background and experience of the Adviser's investment personnel responsible for managing the Fund; the Adviser's performance as administrator of the Fund, including, among other things, in the areas of brokerage selection, trade execution, compliance and shareholder communications; and frequent favorable recognition of the Adviser in the media and in industry publications. The Board also reviewed the Adviser's resources and key personnel involved in providing investment management services to the Fund and the investment results produced by the Adviser's in-house research. The Board noted the personal investments that the Adviser's key investment personnel have made in the Fund, which further aligns the interests of the Adviser and its personnel with those of the Fund's shareholders. In addition, the Board considered compliance reports about the Adviser from the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer. The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Adviser to the Fund were appropriate and consistent with the management agreements and that the Fund was likely to continue to benefit from services provided under its management agreement with the Adviser.

Investment Performance of the Fund. The Board considered the Fund's investment performance over various time periods, including how the Fund performed compared to the median performance of a group of comparable funds (the Fund's Universe Median) selected by Lipper, Inc., an independent data service provider (Lipper). The performance periods considered by the Board ended on March 31, 2012. Where available, the Board considered one-, three-, five- and ten-year performance.

The Board considered that the Fund underperformed its Universe Median during the one-, three- and five- year periods. The Board considered that the Fund has provided investors positive returns over the one-, three-, five- and since inception periods of 4.14%, 26.04%, 1.43% and 4.97%, respectively.

For the reasons noted above, the Board concluded that continuation of the management agreement for the Fund was in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders.

Trustee Approval of the Management Agreement (Unaudited)

Costs of Services Provided and Profits Realized by the Adviser. Using information provided by Lipper, the Board evaluated the Fund's actual management fee rate compared to the median management fee rate for other mutual funds similar in size, character and investment strategy (the Fund's Expense Group), and the Fund's total expense ratio compared to the median total expense ratio of the Fund's Expense Group.

The Board considered that the Fund's management fee rate and total expense ratio are higher than the respective medians of the Fund's Expense Group.

The Board also reviewed the Adviser's management fee rates for its institutional separate accounts and for its sub-advised funds (for which the Adviser provides portfolio management services only). The Board took into account the Adviser's assertion that although, generally, the rates of fees paid by institutional clients were lower than the rates of fees paid by the Fund, the differences reflected the Adviser's greater level of responsibilities and significantly broader scope of services regarding the Fund, and the more extensive regulatory obligations and risks associated with managing the Fund.

The Board also considered the Adviser's costs in serving as the Fund's investment adviser and manager, including costs associated with technology, infrastructure and compliance necessary to manage the Fund. The Board reviewed the Adviser's methodology for allocating costs among the Adviser's lines of business. The Board also considered information regarding the structure of the Adviser's compensation program for portfolio managers, analysts and certain other employees and the relationship of such compensation to the attraction and retention of quality personnel. Finally, the Board reviewed information on the profitability of the Adviser in serving as the Fund's investment manager and of the Adviser and its affiliates in all of their relationships with the Fund, as well as an explanation of the methodology utilized in allocating various expenses among the Fund and the Adviser's other business units. Data was provided to the Board with respect to profitability, both on a pre- and post-marketing cost basis. The Board also reviewed the annual report of the Adviser's parent company and discussed its corporate structure.

After its review of all the matters addressed, including those outlined above, the Board concluded that the rate of management fee paid by the Fund to the Adviser, in light of the nature and quality of the services provided, was reasonable and in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders.

Economies of Scale and Fee Levels Reflecting Those Economies. In reviewing the Fund's fees and expenses, the Trustees examined the potential benefits of economies of scale and whether any economies of scale should be reflected in the Fund's fee structure. They noted that the Fund is a closed-end fund, and has therefore had a relatively stable asset base since commencement of operations and that there do not appear to have been any significant economies of scale realized since that time.

Other Benefits Derived from the Relationship with the Fund. The Board also considered other benefits that accrue to the Adviser and its affiliates from their relationship with the Fund. The Board concluded that, other than the services to be provided by the Adviser and its affiliates pursuant to their agreements with the Fund and the fees payable by the Fund therefore, the Fund and the Adviser may potentially benefit from their relationship with each other in other ways. The Board also considered the Adviser's use of a portion of the commissions paid by the Fund on their portfolio brokerage transactions to obtain research products and services benefiting the Fund and/or other clients of the Adviser and concluded, based on reports from the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer, that the Adviser's use of soft commission dollars to obtain research products and services was consistent with regulatory requirements.

After full consideration of the above factors as well as other factors that were instructive in their consideration, the Trustees, including all of the Independent Trustees, concluded that the continuation of the management agreement with the Adviser was in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders.

About Closed-End Funds

What is a Closed-End Fund?

A closed-end fund is a publicly traded investment company that raises its initial investment capital through the issuance of a fixed number of shares to investors in a public offering. Shares of a closed-end fund are listed on a stock exchange or traded in the over-the-counter market. Like all investment companies, a closed-end fund is professionally managed and offers investors a unique investment solution based on its investment objective approved by the fund's Board of Directors.

Potential Advantages of Closed-End Fund Investing

Defined Asset Pool Allows Efficient Portfolio Management Although closed-end fund shares trade actively on a securities exchange, this doesn't affect the closed-end fund manager because there are no new investors buying into or selling out of the fund's portfolio.

More Flexibility in the Timing and Price of Trades Investors can purchase and sell shares of closed-end funds throughout the trading day, just like the shares of other publicly traded securities.

Lower Expense Ratios The expense ratios of closed-end funds are oftentimes less than those of mutual funds. Over time, a lower expense ratio could enhance investment performance.

Closed-End Structure Makes Sense for Less-Liquid Asset Classes A closed-end structure makes sense for investors considering less-liquid asset classes, such as high-yield bonds or micro-cap stocks.

Ability to Put Leverage to Work Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (such as preferred shares or debentures) or borrow money to leverage their investment positions.

No Minimum Investment Requirements

OPEN-END MUTUAL FUNDS VERSUS CLOSED-END FUNDS

OPEN-END FUND

Issues new shares on an ongoing basis

Issues common equity shares

Sold at NAV plus any sales charge

Sold through the fund's distributor

Fund redeems shares at NAV calculated at the close of business day

CLOSED-END FUND

Generally issues a fixed number of shares

Can issue common equity shares and senior securities such as preferred shares and bonds

Price determined by the marketplace

Traded in the secondary market

Fund does not redeem shares

You can purchase or sell common shares of closed-end funds daily. Like any other stock, market price will fluctuate with the market. Upon sale, your shares may have a market price that is above or below net asset value and may be worth more or less than your original investment. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount which is a market price that is below their net asset value.

Leverage creates risks which may adversely affect return, including the likelihood of greater volatility of net asset value and market price of common shares and fluctuations in the variable rates of the leverage financing.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

Each open-end or closed-end fund should be evaluated individually. **Before investing carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses.**

32 CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT

Level Rate Distribution Policy

Using a Level Rate Distribution Policy to Promote Dependable Income and Total Return

The goal of the level rate distribution policy is to provide investors a predictable, though not assured, level of cash flow, which can either serve as a stable income stream or, through reinvestment, contribute significantly to long-term total return.

We understand the importance that investors place on the stability of dividends and their ability to contribute to long-term total return, which is why we have instituted a level rate distribution policy for the Fund. Under the policy, monthly distributions paid may include net investment income, net realized short-term capital gains and, if necessary, return of capital. In addition, a limited number of distributions per calendar year may include net realized long-term capital gains. There is no guarantee that the Fund will realize capital gains in any given year. Distributions are subject to re-characterization for tax purposes after the end of the fiscal year. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for distributions via Form 1099-DIV.

Distributions from the Fund are generally subject to Federal income taxes. For purposes of maintaining the level rate distribution policy, the Fund may realize short-term capital gains on securities that, if sold at a later date, would have resulted in long-term capital gains. Maintenance of a level rate distribution policy may increase transaction and tax costs associated with the Fund.

Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan

Maximizing Investment with an Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan offers a simple, cost-efficient and convenient way to reinvest your dividends and capital gains distributions in additional shares of the Fund, allowing you to increase your investment in the Fund.

Potential Benefits

Compounded Growth: By automatically reinvesting with the Plan, you gain the potential to allow your dividends and capital gains to compound over time.

Potential for Lower Commission Costs: Additional shares are purchased in large blocks, with brokerage commissions shared among all plan participants. There is no cost to enroll in the Plan.

Convenience: After enrollment, the Plan is automatic and includes detailed statements for participants. Participants can terminate their enrollment at any time.

Pursuant to the Plan, unless a shareholder is ineligible or elects otherwise, all dividend and capital gains on common shares distributions are automatically reinvested by Computershare, as agent for shareholders in administering the Plan (Plan Agent), in additional common shares of the Fund. Shareholders who elect not to participate in the Plan will receive all dividends and distributions payable in cash paid by check mailed directly to the shareholder of record (or, if the shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to such nominee) by Plan Agent, as dividend paying agent. Shareholders may elect not to participate in the Plan and to receive all dividends and distributions in cash by sending written

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

instructions to Plan Agent, as dividend paying agent, at: Dividend Reinvestment Department, P.O. Box 358016, Pittsburgh, PA 15252. Participation in the Plan is completely voluntary and may be terminated or resumed at any time without penalty by giving notice in writing to the Plan Agent; such termination will be effective with respect to a particular dividend or distribution if notice is received prior to the record date for the applicable distribution.

CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND SEMIANNUAL REPORT 33

Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The shares are acquired by the Plan Agent for the participant's account either (i) through receipt of additional common shares from the Fund (newly issued shares) or (ii) by purchase of outstanding common shares on the open market (open-market purchases) on the NASDAQ or elsewhere. If, on the payment date, the net asset value per share of the common shares is equal to or less than the market price per common share plus estimated brokerage commissions (a market premium), the Plan Agent will receive newly issued shares from the Fund for each participant's account. The number of newly issued common shares to be credited to the participant's account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the dividend or distribution by the greater of (i) the net asset value per common share on the payment date, or (ii) 95% of the market price per common share on the payment date.

If, on the payment date, the net asset value per common share exceeds the market price plus estimated brokerage commissions (a market discount), the Plan Agent has a limited period of time to invest the dividend or distribution amount in shares acquired in open-market purchases. The weighted average price (including brokerage commissions) of all common shares purchased by the Plan Agent as Plan Agent will be the price per common share allocable to each participant. If the Plan Agent is unable to invest the full dividend amount in open-market purchases during the purchase period or if the market discount shifts to a market premium during the purchase period, the Plan Agent will cease making open-market purchases and will invest the uninvested portion of the dividend or distribution amount in newly issued shares at the close of business on the last purchase date.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and distributions will not relieve participants of any federal, state or local income tax that may be payable (or required to be withheld) on such dividends even though no cash is received by participants.

There are no brokerage charges with respect to shares issued directly by the Fund as a result of dividends or distributions payable either in shares or in cash. However, each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open-market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of dividends or distributions. If a participant elects to have the Plan Agent sell part or all of his or her common shares and remit the proceeds, such participant will be charged his or her pro rata share of brokerage commissions on the shares sold, plus a \$15 transaction fee. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants.

A participant may request the sale of all of the common shares held by the Plan Agent in his or her Plan account in order to terminate participation in the Plan. If such participant elects in advance of such termination to have the Plan Agent sell part or all of his shares, the Plan Agent is authorized to deduct from the proceeds a \$15.00 fee plus the brokerage commissions incurred for the transaction. A participant may re-enroll in the Plan in limited circumstances.

The terms and conditions of the Plan may be amended by the Plan Agent or the Fund at any time upon notice as required by the Plan.

This discussion of the Plan is only summary, and is qualified in its entirety to the Terms and Conditions of the Dividend Reinvestment Plan filed as part of the Fund's registration statement.

For additional information about the Plan, please contact the Plan Agent, Computershare, at 866.226.8016. If you wish to participate in the Plan and your shares are held in your own name, simply call the Plan Agent. If your shares are not held in your name, please contact your brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee to request that they participate in the Plan on your behalf. If your brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee is unable to participate on your behalf, you may request that your shares be re-registered in your own name.

We're pleased to provide our shareholders with the additional benefit of the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan and hope that it may serve your financial plan.

MANAGING YOUR CALAMOS FUNDS INVESTMENTS

Calamos Investments offers several convenient means to monitor, manage and feel confident about your Calamos investment choice.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE: 800.582.6959

Dial this toll-free number to speak with a knowledgeable Client Services Representative who can help answer questions or address issues concerning your Calamos Fund.

YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR

We encourage you to talk to your financial advisor to determine how the Calamos Funds can benefit your investment portfolio based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, time horizon and income needs.

STAY CONNECTED

www.calamos.com

Visit our Web site for timely fund performance, detailed fund profiles, fund news and insightful market commentary.

Edgar Filing: CALAMOS STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND - Form N-CSRS

A description of the Calamos Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures and the Fund's proxy voting record for the 12-month period ended June 30, 2012, are available free of charge upon request by calling 800.582.6959, by visiting the Calamos Web site at www.calamos.com, by writing Calamos at: Calamos Investments, Attn: Client Services, 2020 Calamos Court, Naperville, IL 60563. The Fund's proxy voting record is also available free of charge by visiting the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov.

The Fund files its complete list of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Forms N-Q are available free of charge, upon request, by calling or writing Calamos Investments at the phone number or address provided above or by visiting the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov. You may also review or, for a fee, copy the forms at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 800.732.0330.

The Fund's report to the SEC on Form N-CSR contains certifications by the fund's principal executive officer and principal financial officer as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act, relating to, among other things, the quality of the Fund's disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting.

FOR 24-HOUR AUTOMATED SHAREHOLDER ASSISTANCE: 866.226.8016

TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENTS: 800.582.6959

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.calamos.com

INVESTMENT ADVISER:

Calamos Advisors LLC

2020 Calamos Court

Naperville, IL 60563-2787

CUSTODIAN AND FUND ACCOUNTING AGENT:

State Street Bank and Trust Company

225 Franklin Street

Boston, MA 02111

TRANSFER AGENT:

Computershare

P.O. Box 358016

Pittsburgh, PA 15252

866.226.8016

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM:

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chicago, IL

LEGAL COUNSEL:

K&L Gates LLP

Chicago, IL

2020 Calamos Court

Naperville, IL 60563-2787

800.582.6959

www.calamos.com

© 2013 Calamos investments LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Calamos® and Calamos Investments® are registered

trademarks of Calamos investments LLC.

CSQSAN 1946 2013

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

Included in the Report to Shareholders in Item 1.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

No material changes.

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

- a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have evaluated the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures within 90 days of this filing and have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures were effective, as of that date, in ensuring that information required to be disclosed by the registrant in this Form N-CSR was recorded, processed, summarized, and reported timely.
- b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal controls over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the Investment Company Act of 1940) that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

- (a)(1) Code of Ethics Not applicable.
- (a)(2)(i) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.
- (a)(2)(ii) Certification of Principal Financial Officer.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund

By: /s/ John P. Calamos, Sr.
Name: John P. Calamos, Sr.
Title: Principal Executive Officer
Date: June 21, 2013

By: /s/ Nimish S. Bhatt
Name: Nimish S. Bhatt
Title: Principal Financial Officer
Date: June 21, 2013

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ John P. Calamos, Sr.
Name: John P. Calamos, Sr.
Title: Principal Executive Officer
Date: June 21, 2013

By: /s/ Nimish S. Bhatt
Name: Nimish S. Bhatt
Title: Principal Financial Officer
Date: June 21, 2013