

NATHANS FAMOUS INC

Form DEF 14A

July 20, 2018

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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

Information Required in Proxy Statement

Schedule 14a Information

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

Nathan's Famous, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Persons(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1)

Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2)

Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3)

Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1)

Amount previously paid:

(2)

Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3)

Filing Party:

(4)

Date Filed:

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NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

To our Stockholders:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC. ("Nathan's" or the "Company"), will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at our offices located at One Jericho Plaza, Second Floor — Wing A, Jericho, New York 11753, at 10:00 a.m. At the meeting, you will be asked to consider and vote on:

- the election of eight directors to the Board of Directors; and
- ratification of the appointment of Marcum LLP as auditors of the Company for fiscal 2019.

Action will also be taken on any other matters that properly come before the meeting. If you are a stockholder of record at the close of business on July 17, 2018, you are entitled to vote at the meeting or at any adjournment or postponement of the meeting. This notice and proxy statement are first being mailed to stockholders on or about July 20, 2018.

Please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible so your shares may be voted as you direct.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Ronald G. DeVos  
Secretary  
Jericho, New York  
July 19, 2018

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NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC.

One Jericho Plaza

Jericho, New York 11753

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Nathan's Famous, Inc. ("Nathan's" or the "Company"), will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at our headquarters at One Jericho Plaza, Second Floor — Wing A, Jericho, New York 11753, at 10:00 a.m.

Our Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy to vote your shares of common stock at the annual meeting or any adjournments of that meeting. This proxy statement, which was prepared by our management for the Board of Directors, contains information about the matters to be considered at the meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. All proxies will be voted in accordance with the instructions they contain. If you do not specify your voting instructions on the proxy you submit for the meeting, it will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised at the meeting by giving our Secretary written notice to that effect. This proxy statement and our annual report is first being sent to stockholders on or about July 20, 2018.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting to be Held on September 12, 2018. This proxy statement, the proxy card and annual report are available at <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=113414&p=proxy>.

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ABOUT THE MEETING

What is being considered at the annual meeting?

You will be voting for:

- the election of eight directors for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified; and
- the ratification of the appointment of Marcum LLP as our auditors for fiscal 2019.

In addition, our management will report on our performance during fiscal 2018 and respond to your questions. The Board of Directors does not intend to present to the meeting any matters not referred to in the form of proxy. If any proposal not set forth in this proxy statement should be presented for action at the meeting, and is a matter which should come before the meeting, it is intended that the shares represented by proxies will be voted with respect to such matters in accordance with the judgment of the persons voting them.

How many votes must be present to hold the meeting?

Your shares are counted as present at the meeting if you attend the meeting and vote in person or if you properly return a proxy by mail. In order for us to conduct our meeting, a majority of our outstanding shares as of July 17, 2018, the record date, must be present at the meeting, in person or by proxy. This is referred to as a quorum. On July 17, 2018, we had 4,187,539 shares issued and outstanding, excluding treasury shares.

Who can vote at the meeting?

You may vote if you owned stock as of the close of business on July 17, 2018. Each share of stock is entitled to one vote.

Who is being nominated for director?

The only director candidates nominated for election at the annual meeting are Robert J. Eide, Eric Gatoff, Brian S. Genson, Barry Leistner, Howard M. Lorber, Wayne Norbitz, A. F. Petrocelli and Charles Raich, all of whom currently serve on the Board of Directors.

What should I do if I receive more than one proxy card or other set of proxy materials from the Company?

If you hold your shares in multiple accounts or registrations, or in both registered and street name, you will receive a proxy card for each account. Please sign, date and return all proxy cards you receive from the Company. Only your latest dated proxy for each account will be voted. We recommend that you contact your broker and/or our transfer agent to consolidate as many accounts as possible under the same name and address. Our transfer agent is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 800-937-5449.

How do I vote?

If you are a record holder of shares of common stock, you can vote in four ways:

1. Over the Internet: Refer to the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction form for instructions on voting your shares over the Internet, which will include the website and the control number to access your account and vote your shares. You must specify how you want your shares voted or your Internet vote cannot be completed and you will receive an error message. Your shares will be voted according to your instructions.

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2.

By Telephone: Refer to the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction form for instructions on voting your shares by telephone, which will include a toll-free number for the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and the control number to access your account. Simply follow the recorded instructions. You must specify how you want your shares voted and confirm your vote at the end of the call or your telephone vote cannot be completed. Your shares will be voted according to your instructions.

3.

By Mail: If you received your proxy materials by mail, complete and sign your proxy card or voting instruction form and mail it in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope we provided so that it is received by September 11, 2018, the day before the annual meeting, to be sure it is received in time to count.

4.

In Person at the Meeting: If you attend the annual meeting, you may deliver your completed proxy card in person or you may vote by completing a ballot, which we will provide to you at the annual meeting.

Can I vote if my shares are held in “street name”?

If the shares you own are held in “street name” by a brokerage firm, your brokerage firm, as the record holder of your shares, is required to vote your shares according to your instructions. In order to vote your shares, you will need to follow the directions your brokerage firm provides you. Many brokers also offer the option of voting over the Internet or by telephone, instructions for which would be provided by your brokerage firm on your vote instruction form.

Will my shares be voted if I do not provide my proxy?

Under applicable rules, if you do not give instructions to your brokerage firm, it will still be able to vote your shares with respect to certain “discretionary” items, but it will not be allowed to vote your shares with respect to certain “non-discretionary” items. The ratification of Marcum LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2) is considered to be a discretionary item under applicable rules and your brokerage firm will be able to vote on that item even if it does not receive instructions from you, so long as it holds your shares in its name. The remaining item of business at the annual meeting is “non-discretionary” and if you do not instruct your broker how to vote with respect to such proposal, your broker may not vote with respect to this proposal and those votes will be counted as “broker non-votes.” “Broker non-votes” are shares that are held in “street name” by a bank or brokerage firm that indicates on its proxy that it does not have or did not exercise discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter. Please see “What vote is required to approve each of the matters to be considered at the meeting?” for information regarding the vote required to approve the matters being considered at the Annual Meeting and the treatment of broker non-votes.

If you hold your shares directly in your own name, they will not be voted if you do not provide a proxy.

If your shares are held in street name, you must bring an account statement or letter from your bank or brokerage firm showing that you are the beneficial owner of the shares as of the record date (July 17, 2018) in order to be admitted to the meeting on September 12, 2018. To be able to vote your shares held in street name at the meeting, you will need to obtain a proxy card from the holder of record.

Can I change my mind after I vote?

Yes, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the polls close at the meeting. You can do this by (1) signing another proxy with a later date and returning it to us prior to the meeting, or (2) voting again at the meeting.

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What if I return my proxy card but do not include voting instructions?

Proxy cards that are signed and returned but do not include voting instructions will be voted “FOR” the election of the nominee directors recommended by the Board of Directors, and “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Marcum LLP.

What vote is required to approve each of the matters to be considered at the meeting?

Proposal 1: Election of Directors. Directors of the Company are elected by a plurality of the votes cast in contested and uncontested elections. The election at the annual meeting will be uncontested. “Plurality” means that the eight individuals who receive the highest number of “FOR” votes will be elected as directors. You may vote either “FOR” or “WITHHOLD” your vote from any one or more of the nominees. Proxy cards specifying that votes should be withheld with respect to one or more nominees will result in those nominees receiving fewer votes but will not count as a vote against the nominees. If you do not instruct your broker how to vote with respect to this item, your broker may not vote your shares with respect to the election of directors. Any shares not voted by a customer will be treated as broker non-votes, and broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of the election of directors.

Proposal 2: Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. To be approved, this proposal to ratify our selection of an independent registered public accounting firm must receive an affirmative vote from stockholders present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting representing a majority of the votes cast on the proposal. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote “AGAINST” this proposal. For this proposal, brokerage firms have authority to vote shares of their customers that are held in “street name.” If a broker does not exercise this authority, it will result in a broker non-vote. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

How will votes be counted?

Each share of common stock will be counted as one vote according to the instructions contained on a proper proxy card, whether submitted in person, by mail, on a ballot voted in person at the meeting or in accordance with the instructions provided by your broker. With respect to all proposals, shares will not be voted in favor of the matter, and will not be counted as voting on the matter, if they are broker non-votes. Assuming the presence of a quorum, abstentions and broker non-votes for a particular proposal will not be counted as votes cast to determine the outcome of a particular proposal.

Who will count the votes?

Representatives of American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, the transfer agent for our common stock, par value \$.01 per share (“Common Stock”), will tabulate the votes.

Will my vote be kept confidential?

Yes, your vote will be kept confidential and we will not disclose your vote, unless (1) we are required to do so by law (including in connection with the pursuit or defense of a legal or administrative action or proceeding), or (2) there is a contested election for the Board of Directors. The inspector of elections will forward any written comments that you make on the proxy card to management without providing your name, unless you expressly request disclosure on your proxy card.

How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote on the proposals?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote on the proxy card:

“FOR” the election of each of the eight nominees, Robert J. Eide, Eric Gatoff, Brian S. Genson, Barry Leistner, Howard M. Lorber, Wayne Norbitz, A. F. Petrocelli and Charles Raich, proposed by the Board of Directors to serve as directors, each for a term of one year (Proposal 1); and

“FOR” the ratification of the selection of Marcum LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2019 fiscal year (Proposal 2).

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Where can I find the voting results?

We will report the voting results in a Form 8-K within four business days after the end of our annual meeting.

How and when may I submit a stockholder proposal, including a stockholder nomination for director, for the 2019 Annual Meeting?

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for inclusion in our proxy statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting, you need to follow the procedures outlined in Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act. To be eligible for inclusion, we must receive your stockholder proposal for our proxy statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders at our principal corporate offices in Jericho, New York no later than March 22, 2019.

In addition, our bylaws require that we be given advance written notice for nominations for election to our Board of Directors and other matters that stockholders wish to present for action at an annual meeting other than those to be included in our proxy statement under Rule 14a-8.

Any stockholder who wants to nominate a candidate for election to the Board must deliver timely notice to our Secretary at our principal executive offices. Pursuant to our bylaws, in order to be timely, the notice must be delivered:

- in the case of an annual meeting, not later than 60 days and not earlier than 90 days prior to the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting of stockholders, although if we did not hold an annual meeting or the annual meeting is called for a date that is more than 30 days before or more than 60 days after the anniversary date of the prior year's annual meeting, the notice must be received no earlier than 90 days prior to the meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of (i) the 60th day prior to the meeting or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which we publicly announce the date of the meeting; and

- in the case of a special meeting of stockholders called for the purpose of electing directors, the notice must be received not earlier than the close of business on the 90th day prior to such special meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 60th day prior to such special meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement is first made of the date of the special meeting and of the nominees proposed by the board of directors to be elected at such meeting.

The stockholder's notice to the Secretary must set forth (1) as to each person whom the stockholder proposes to nominate for election as a director (a) his name, age, business address and residence address, (b) his principal occupation and employment, (c) the number of shares of Common Stock of Nathan's which are owned beneficially or of record by him and (d) any other information relating to the nominee that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors pursuant to Section 14 of the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; and (2) as to the stockholder giving the notice (a) his name and record address and (b) the number of shares of Nathan's Common Stock which are owned beneficially or of record by him. The notice delivered by a stockholder must be accompanied by a written consent of each proposed nominee to being named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected. The stockholder must be a stockholder of record on the date on which he gives the notice described above and on the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

Pursuant to our bylaws, if notice of any stockholder proposal is received before June 14, 2019, or after July 14 2019, then the notice will be considered untimely and we are not required to present such proposal at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Additionally, if the Board of Directors chooses to present a proposal submitted after July 14 2019, at the 2019 Annual Meeting, then the persons named in proxies solicited by the Board of Directors for the 2019 Annual Meeting may exercise discretionary voting power with respect to such proposal.

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These requirements are separate from and in addition to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that a stockholder must meet in order to have a stockholder proposal included in our proxy statement.

Any proposals, nominations or notices should be sent to:

Nathan's Famous, Inc.

One Jericho Plaza

Second Floor — Wing A

Jericho, New York 11573

Attention: Corporate Secretary

What are the costs of soliciting these proxies and who will pay?

We will bear the costs of mailing the proxy statement and solicitation of proxies, which we estimate to be approximately \$25,000. In addition to solicitations by mail, our directors, officers and regular employees may solicit proxies by telephone, email and personal communication. No additional remuneration will be paid to any director, officer or employee of the Company for such solicitation. We will request brokers, custodians and fiduciaries to forward proxy soliciting material to the owners of shares of our Common Stock that they hold in their names. We will reimburse banks and brokers for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the distribution of our proxy materials. To the extent necessary in order to assure sufficient representation, our officers and regular employees may request the return of proxies personally, by telephone or email. The extent to which this will be necessary depends entirely upon how promptly proxies are received, and stockholders are urged to send in their proxies without delay.

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HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of “householding” proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of our proxy statement and annual report to stockholders may have been sent to multiple stockholders in your household unless we have received contrary instructions from one or more stockholders. We will promptly deliver a separate copy of either document to you if you contact us at the following address or telephone number: Nathan’s Famous, Inc., One Jericho Plaza, Jericho, New York 11753, telephone: (516) 338-8500. If you want to receive separate copies of the proxy statement or annual report to stockholders in the future, or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy per household, you should contact your bank, broker, or other nominee record holder, or you may contact us at the above address or telephone number.

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## PROPOSAL 1 — ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Certificate of Incorporation presently provides for a Board of Directors consisting of not less than three nor more than twenty-seven directors. Directors are elected to a one-year term at each annual meeting of stockholders. Our Board of Directors now consists of eight directors, as set forth below, each of whom has consented to be nominated and to serve if elected.

| Name                     | Age | Principal Occupation  | Director Since |
|--------------------------|-----|---|----------------|
| Robert J. Eide(1)(2)(3)  | 65  | Chairman and Chief Executive Officer — Aegis Capital Corp.  | 1987           |
| Eric Gatoff              | 49  | Chief Executive Officer — Nathan's  | 2005           |
| Brian S. Genson(1)(2)(3) | 69  | President — F1Collectors.com  | 1999           |
| Barry Leistner(1)(2)     | 67  | President and Chief Executive Officer — Koenig Iron Works, Inc.                                       | 1989           |
| Howard M. Lorber         | 69  | President and Chief Executive Officer — Vector Group Ltd., Executive Chairman of the Board — Nathan's | 1987           |
| Wayne Norbitz            | 70  | Former President, Chief Operating Officer — Nathan's  | 1989           |
| A. F. Petrocelli(3)      | 74  | Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board — United Capital Corp.                              | 1993           |
| Charles Raich(3)         | 75  | Founding Partner (Retired) — Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP   | 2004           |

(1)  
Member of the Audit Committee.

(2)  
Member of the Compensation Committee.

(3)  
Member of the Nominating Committee.

Unless you indicate otherwise, shares represented by executed proxies will be voted "FOR" the election as directors of the persons listed above. As of the date of this proxy statement, the Company has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve or for good cause will not serve as a director. However, if for any reason a nominee becomes unable to serve or for good cause will not serve if elected, the Nominating Committee may recommend, and the Board may propose, a substitute nominee(s) at the annual meeting and the proxies identified in the proxy card will vote to approve the election of the substitute nominee(s). If substitute nominees are proposed, we will, in full compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, file an amended proxy statement and proxy card that, as applicable, (1) identifies the substitute nominee(s), (2) discloses that such nominees have consented to being named in the revised proxy statement and to serve if elected and (3) includes the disclosure required by Item 7 of Schedule 14A with respect to such nominees.

**Director Qualifications**

Our Board of Directors, acting through our Nominating Committee, is responsible for nominating a slate of director nominees that collectively have the complementary experience, qualifications, and skills and attributes to guide the Company and function effectively as a board. We believe that each of our nominees has the necessary professional experience to provide effective oversight of the Company's business. We also believe each of our nominees has other attributes necessary to create an effective board, such as high personal and professional ethics, business and professional experience, integrity and values; practical wisdom and judgment; and a commitment to representing the long-term interests of all our stockholders. In addition to these attributes, in each individual's biography set forth below, we have highlighted specific experience, qualifications, and skills that we believe qualify each individual to serve as a director of Nathan's.

All directors standing for election at the 2018 annual meeting have previously been elected by Nathan's stockholders.



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### Director Biographies

The following is a brief account of our directors' business experience:

Robert J. Eide has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aegis Capital Corp., a registered broker-dealer, since 1984. Mr. Eide served as a director of Vector Group Ltd. and VGR Holding, Inc., from November 1993 until November 2011. Mr. Eide also served as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services, Inc., an investment banking and brokerage firm from 2001 until September 2011. On March 28, 2018, Mr. Eide, agreed to enter into an Order Instituting Administrative and Cease-And-Desist Proceedings, with the SEC whereby Mr. Eide, without admitting or denying the findings, consented to the entry of an order finding that he was a cause, solely in his capacity as CEO, of Aegis Capital Corp.'s violations of Sections 17(a) and Rule 17a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Board determined that Mr. Eide should continue to serve as a director due to his financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly-traded corporations.

Eric Gatoff has been our Chief Executive Officer since January 2007. Prior to becoming our Chief Executive Officer, he was Vice President and Corporate Counsel from October 2003. Prior to joining us, Mr. Gatoff was a partner at Grubman, Indursky & Schindler, P.C., a law firm specializing in intellectual property, media and entertainment law. Mr. Gatoff is a member of the New York State Bar Association and holds a B.B.A. in Finance from George Washington University and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. The Board determined that Mr. Gatoff should continue to serve as a director due to the knowledge and managerial experience he has attained as serving as our general counsel from 2003 and as our Chief Executive Officer since 2007, as well as his service as a director of the Company.

Brian S. Genson has been President of F1Collectors.com, a company engaged in the motor sport business, since 2006. Mr. Genson has also been president of Pole Position Investments, a company engaged in the motor sport business, since 1989. Mr. Genson serves as a managing director of F1Collectors.com and F1 Action located in Buntingford, England, which is engaged in investing in the motor sport industry. Mr. Genson has been a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services, Inc., an investment banking and brokerage firm, since 2004. Mr. Genson was also responsible for introducing Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Company to the Japanese market. Mr. Genson previously served as a director of Nathan's from 1987 to 1989. The Board determined that Mr. Genson should continue to serve as a director due to his managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly-traded corporations.

Barry Leistner has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Koenig Iron Works, Inc., a company engaged in the fabrication and erection of structural steel, since 1979. Mr. Leistner is also engaged in general construction and real estate development in New York. The Board determined that Mr. Leistner should continue to serve as a director due to his managerial experience, his experience in real estate development and construction, which is relevant to the Company's restaurant operations, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company.

Howard M. Lorber has been our Executive Chairman of the Board since January 2007 and a director since 1987. Mr. Lorber previously served as our Chairman of the Board from 1990 through December 2006 and as our Chief Executive Officer from 1993 until December 2006. Mr. Lorber has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Vector Group Ltd., a holding company, since January 2006 and a director since January 2001 and was President and Chief Operating Officer from January 2001 to December 2005. Mr. Lorber has been Vice Chairman of the Board of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services, Inc., an investment banking and brokerage firm, since July 2006 and was Chairman from May 2001 to July 2006, a director of Clipper Realty Inc., a real estate company, since July 2015, a director of Morgans Hotel Group Co., a hotel company, from March 2015 until November 2016 and Chairman of such entity from May 2015 to November 2016. From November 1994 to December 2005, Mr. Lorber served as President and Chief Operating Officer of New Valley Corporation, where he also served as a director. In 2017, Mr. Lorber was appointed to serve as Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is also a trustee of Long Island University. The Board determined that Mr. Lorber should continue to serve as a director due to the knowledge and managerial experience he has attained serving as our Chief Executive Officer from 1993 through 2006 and as Executive Chairman since 2007, which brings historic knowledge and continuity to the Board, as well as the experience he has attained through his service as an officer and director of other publicly-traded corporations.





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Wayne Norbitz was a consultant to the Company from August 2015 to December 2017 and an employee of the Company from 1975 to August 2015, including our President and Chief Operating Officer from October 1989 to August 2015. He previously held the positions of Director of Operations, Vice President of Operations, Senior Vice President of Operations and Executive Vice President. Prior to joining us, Mr. Norbitz held the position of Director of Operations of Wetson's Corporation. The Board determined that Mr. Norbitz should continue to serve as a director due to the knowledge and managerial experience he has attained previously serving as one of our executive officers in various capacities from October 1989 to August 2015, which brings historic knowledge and continuity to the Board.

A. F. Petrocelli has been the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of United Capital Corp., a company engaged in the ownership and management of real estate and the manufacture and sale of engineered products, since 1981, which ceased to be a public reporting company in 2011. Mr. Petrocelli also served as President of United Capital Corp. from 1981 until February 2018. He was a director of the Boyar Value Fund, Inc., a public mutual fund, from 1997 to 2007. The Board determined that Mr. Petrocelli should continue to serve as a director due to his managerial experience, his experience in the real estate industry, which is relevant to the Company's restaurant operations, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and as a director of other publicly-traded companies.

Charles Raich has been a Retired Founding Partner since December 31, 2014 of Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP, a registered public accounting firm, which he founded in 1972. Prior to that time, he was Founding Partner from January 2013 and Co-Managing Partner from 2010 to January 2013 and prior thereto for more than the past five years, Mr. Raich was the Managing Partner of Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP. His early career included positions at both Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery and Gruntal & Co. Mr. Raich is a graduate of Hofstra University and is a certified public accountant. The Board determined that Mr. Raich should continue to serve as a director due to his financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company.

Board Recommendation

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote on the proxy card "FOR" the election each of the directors listed above.

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### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### Board Leadership

The Executive Chairman of the Board is Howard Lorber. The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles are split, and Eric Gatoff serves as Chief Executive Officer. As the former Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Chairman of the Board provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer with respect to strategic initiatives. The Executive Chairman also approves the agenda for Board meetings and leads the Board in its discussions. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing the Company's strategic and operating objectives and day-to-day decision-making related to such implementation. The Board believes that the separation of the offices of Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is appropriate as it allows Mr. Gatoff to focus primarily on his management responsibilities. Unless invited, none of our management directors (consisting of Messrs. Lorber and Gatoff) participates in sessions of non-management directors. Our non-management directors generally meet twice annually in a formal executive session without management. Typically, our non-management directors also have informal meetings without management in conjunction with our regular Audit or Board meetings. In addition, we have designated a Lead Independent Director (A.F. Petrocelli), who is expected to lead sessions of, and facilitate communications among, our non-employee directors.

The Board currently has three standing committees (Audit, Compensation and Nominating) that are chaired and composed entirely of directors who are independent under NASDAQ rules. Given the role and scope of authority of these committees, and that a majority of the Board is composed of independent directors, the Board believes that its leadership structure, with the Executive Chairman of the Board leading Board discussions, and the Lead Independent Director leading non-management executive sessions, is appropriate.

Our Board of Directors is our Company's ultimate decision-making body except with respect to those matters reserved to the stockholders. Our Board selects our senior management team, which is charged with the conduct of our business. Having selected our senior management team, our Board acts as an advisor and counselor to senior management and oversees its performance.

#### Code of Ethics

Our Board of Directors has adopted a Financial Officer Code of Ethics applicable to the Company's Executive Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and all other members of the Company's Finance Department. This Code of Ethics is posted on the Company's website, within a broader Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, at [www.nathansfamous.com](http://www.nathansfamous.com) in the Investor Relations section. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or a waiver from, the provision of our Code of Ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions and that relates to any element of such provision of our Code of Ethics by posting such information on our website within four business days of the date of such amendment or waiver. In the case of a waiver, the nature of the waiver, the name of the person to whom the waiver was granted and the date of the waiver will also be disclosed.

#### Risk Oversight

As part of its oversight functions, the Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of risk management at the Company. Responsibility for oversight of risk management is delegated from the Board to the Audit Committee. Management has provided the Audit Committee with its assessment of the Company's major risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. The Compensation Committee, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, separately reviewed the compensation program with respect to incentives for risk-taking by employees. In addition, the Compensation Committee adopted the Nathan's Famous, Inc. Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan (the "Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan"), which is not subject to a stockholder vote because it was established under the authority granted to the Compensation Committee under the Nathans Famous, Inc. Code Section 162(m) Bonus Plan (the "Section 162(m) Bonus Plan"), which was approved by our stockholders at our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Compensation Committee has adopted the Nathan's Famous, Inc. Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan (the "Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan"), which is not subject to a stockholder vote because it also was established under the authority granted to the Compensation Committee under the Section 162(m) Bonus Plan.



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### Director Independence

The Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Eide, Genson, Leistner, Petrocelli and Raich are independent in accordance with NASDAQ rules. To determine independence, the Board of Directors adopted and applied the categorical standards of independence included in NASDAQ Listing Rule 5605(a)(2), which include a series of objective tests, such as that the director is not an employee of the company and has not engaged in various types of business dealings with the company.

### Stock Ownership Guidelines

We have established stock ownership guidelines for our directors and executive officers. Under our guidelines, each officer and director is required to retain 33 1/3% of the total number of option shares then-issued upon exercise. In addition, officers and directors are required to retain 33 1/3% of the shares owned on June 1, 2009 (the date that the stock ownership guidelines were adopted), although the Board may determine to waive the requirement that shares be retained under certain circumstances.

### Board of Directors and Committee Meetings

There were seven meetings of the Board of Directors during the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018. All Directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors, other than Robert Eide who attended five of the meetings.

Our Board of Directors currently has three standing committees: the Audit Committee (established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act), the Compensation Committee and the Nominating Committee. Each director who served on these committees during fiscal 2018 met the criteria for independence, as that term is defined by the SEC and NASDAQ Listing Rules. We select independent directors as members of these committees with the expectation that they will be free of relationships that might interfere with their exercise of independent judgment.

### Audit Committee

For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, there were six meetings of the Audit Committee. All of the members of the Audit Committee attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee is involved in:

- the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the independent registered public accounting firm, and where appropriate, the replacement of the independent registered public accounting firm;
- discussions with our independent public accountants with respect to the scope and results of our year-end audit, our internal accounting controls and the professional services furnished to us by the independent auditors; and
- the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting. See “Audit Committee Report.”

In addition, our Audit Committee focuses on the qualitative aspects of our financial reporting to stockholders and on our processes to manage business and financial risk. Our independent registered public accounting firm reports directly and is held accountable to the Audit Committee in connection with the audit of our annual financial statements and related services.

The members of our Audit Committee are Robert Eide (Chairman), Brian Genson and Barry Leistner. A copy of our Audit Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.nathansfamous.com](http://www.nathansfamous.com).

We currently do not have an “audit committee financial expert.” Nevertheless, the Audit Committee has available to it the financial education and experience of Charles Raich, an independent director under NASDAQ listing standards, to perform the functions of an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Raich has the financial education and experience necessary to qualify as an “audit committee financial expert”; however, Mr. Raich has not served on the Audit Committee because, due to his prior association with Raich Ende Malter & Co., LLP, an independent public accounting firm which has received fees from Nathan’s in respect of tax services.

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Compensation Committee

For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, there were four meetings of the Compensation Committee and the Compensation Committee also acted by unanimous written consent. Each of the members of the Compensation Committee attended all of the Compensation Committee meetings. Our Compensation Committee:

- reviews the performance of our executive officers;
- reviews compensation programs for our officers and key employees, including cash bonus levels and grants under our stock option and incentive plans as well as the criteria for the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan and the Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” and “Compensation Committee Report”; and
- reviews director compensation.

Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee has the ability to delegate its authority to subcommittees, although to date it has not done so.

The members of the Compensation Committee are Robert Eide (Chairman), Brian Genson and Barry Leistner. A copy of our Compensation Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.nathansfamous.com](http://www.nathansfamous.com).

Nominating Committee

For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, there was one meeting of the Nominating Committee. Each of the members of the Nominating Committee attended the meeting. Our Nominating Committee is responsible for:

- reviewing suggestions of candidates for director made by directors, stockholders and management;
- making recommendations to the Board regarding the composition of the Board;
- nominating individual candidates for election to the Board; and
- considering nominee recommendations made by stockholders provided that the names of such nominees, accompanied by relevant biographical information, are submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth above under “How and when may I submit a stockholder proposal, including a stockholder nomination for director, for the 2019 Annual Meeting?”

In fulfilling its responsibilities for identifying and evaluating nominees for director, the Nominating Committee takes into account the prior experience of director nominees and its application to their responsibilities as a director of Nathan’s; however, there are no stated minimum qualifications for director nominees.

The Company does not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees, but the Nominating Committee strives to nominate directors with a variety of complementary skills so that, as a group, the Board will possess the appropriate talent, skills, and expertise to oversee the Company’s businesses. In addition to considering a candidate’s background and accomplishments, candidates are reviewed in the context of the current composition of the Board and the evolving needs of our businesses. The Company’s policy is to have at least a majority of directors qualify as “independent” under the listing requirements of NASDAQ.

In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the Nominating Committee intends to identify and evaluate candidates by making requests of Board members and others for recommendations, requesting input from director search firms for identification and evaluation of candidates, meeting from time to time to evaluate biographical information and

background material relating to potential candidates and having members of the Nominating Committee and the Board interview selected candidates. Assuming that appropriate biographical and background material is provided for candidates recommended by stockholders on a timely basis, and that any such nomination accompanied by a written consent of the candidate to being named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected, the Nominating Committee will evaluate director candidates recommended by stockholders by following substantially the same process, and applying substantially the same criteria, as it follows for director candidates submitted by Board members.

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Stockholders also have the right to directly nominate director candidates, without any action or recommendation on the part of the Nominating Committee or the Board, by following the procedures set forth in Nathan's bylaws and described in the response to the question "How and when may I submit a stockholder proposal, including a stockholder nomination for director, for the 2019 Annual Meeting?" above.

The members of the Nominating Committee are A.F. Petrocelli (Chairman), Brian Genson, Robert Eide and Charles Raich. A copy of our Nominating Committee Charter is available on our website at [www.nathansfamous.com](http://www.nathansfamous.com).

In addition, our independent directors met informally in conjunction with each regularly scheduled quarterly Board of Directors meeting and also met in a formal executive session once during our fiscal year ended March 25, 2018.

Director Attendance at Annual Meetings

Our Board of Directors encourages director attendance at our Annual Meetings of Stockholders. Seven of the Company's eight directors attended last year's Annual Meeting.

Policy For Stockholder Communications

Mail can be addressed to directors in care of the Office of the Secretary, Nathan's Famous, Inc., One Jericho Plaza, Second Floor — Wing A, Jericho, New York 11753. At the direction of the Board of Directors, all mail received will be opened and screened for security purposes. The mail will then be logged in. All mail, other than junk mail or obscene items, will be forwarded. Mail addressed to a particular director will be forwarded or delivered to that director. Mail addressed to "Outside Directors" or "Non-Management Directors" will be forwarded or delivered to each of the non-employee directors. Mail addressed to the "Board of Directors" will be forwarded or delivered to the Executive Chairman of the Board.

Certain Relationships and Related Persons Transactions

In July 2007, the Board adopted written Related Person Transaction Policies and Procedures, which were revised in July 2009 (as revised, the "Related Person Policy"). The Related Person Policy covers transactions with the Company where the Related Person (a term that includes executive officers, directors, director nominees, holders of 5% or more of the Company's stock (a "Significant Stockholder") and immediate family members of the foregoing) had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest and the amount involved meets or exceeds the minimum threshold for disclosure in the Company's proxy statement under relevant SEC rules, which is currently \$120,000. Pursuant to the Related Person Policy, all transactions that are subject to the policy must be approved or ratified by our Audit Committee.

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The Audit Committee will determine whether the terms of a covered transaction are fair to the Company and no less favorable to the Company than would be generally available absent the relationship with the Related Person, whether there are business reasons for the transaction, whether the transaction impairs the independence of an outside director and whether the transaction is material, among other considerations. Under the Related Person Policy, the Audit Committee has considered and exempted certain transactions from the application of the Related Person Policy, as follows: (1) Interests arising only from the Related Person's position as a director of another corporation or organization that is a party to the transaction; (2) Interests arising only from the direct or indirect ownership by the Related Person and all other Related Persons in the aggregate of less than a 10% equity interest (other than a general partnership interest) in another entity which is a party to the transaction; (3) Interests arising from both the position and ownership level described in (1) and (2) above; (4) Interests arising solely from the Related Person's position as an executive officer or employee of another entity (whether or not the person is also a director of such entity) that is a participant in the transaction, where (a) the Related Person and all other Related Persons own in the aggregate less than a 10% equity interest in such entity, (b) the Related Person and his or her immediate family members are not involved in the negotiation of the terms of the transaction with the Company and do not receive any special benefits as a result of the transaction and (c) the amount involved in the transaction equals less than the greater of \$200,000 or 5% of the annual consolidated net sales of the recipient; (5) Interests arising solely from the ownership of a class of the Company's equity securities if all holders of that class of equity securities receive the same benefit on a pro rata basis; (6) A transaction that involves compensation to an executive officer if the compensation has been approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board or recommended to the Board for approval by the Compensation Committee of the Board and then approved by the Board; (7) A transaction that involves compensation to a director for services as a director of the Company if such compensation will be reported pursuant to Item 402(k) of Regulation S-K; (8) A transaction that is specifically contemplated by provisions of the certificate of incorporation or bylaws of the Company; (9) Interests arising solely from indebtedness of a Significant Stockholder or an immediate family member of a Significant Stockholder to the Company; (10) A transaction where the rates or charges involved in the transaction are determined by competitive bids; (11) A transaction that involves the rendering of services as a common or contract carrier or public utility at rates or charges fixed in conformity with law or governmental authority; or (12) A transaction that involves services as a bank depository of funds, transfer agent registrar, trustee under a trust indenture, or similar services in accordance with certain SEC rules, including the employment of executive officers on terms approved by the Compensation Committee and the payment of compensation to a director if the compensation is required to be reported in the Company's proxy statement under Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC.

In the event that prior approval is not feasible, the Related Person Policy provides that a transaction may be ratified by the Audit Committee as soon as reasonably practicable following the date of the transaction. On an annual basis, the Audit Committee is required to review all subsequent and previously approved or ratified related-party transactions that remain ongoing to determine whether they should continue.

To identify related-party transactions, each year we require our directors and officers to complete Director and Officer Questionnaires which, among other things, require each of them to identify any transactions with us in which the officer or director or their family members have an interest; we post the Related Person Policy on our website; we will periodically distribute the Related Person Policy to our executive officers, directors and nominees; and we will periodically make internal inquiries regarding Company relationships with known entities that qualify as related parties.



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PROPOSAL 2 — RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MARCUM LLP AS  
AUDITORS FOR FISCAL 2019

Our Audit Committee charter provides that the Audit Committee shall appoint annually a firm of independent registered public accountants to serve as auditors. The Audit Committee has appointed Marcum LLP to act as auditors for our fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

If this proposal is not approved at the annual meeting, our Audit Committee will reconsider the selection of Marcum LLP for the ensuing fiscal year, but may determine that continued retention of Marcum LLP is in our Company's and our stockholders' best interests. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in our Company's and our stockholders' best interests.

We expect representatives of Marcum LLP to be present at the annual meeting. They will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will also be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders. We do not expect a representative of Grant Thornton LLP., our independent auditors for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, to be present at the annual meeting.

Board Recommendation

Our Board of Directors unanimously recommends that our stockholders vote "FOR" ratification of the appointment of Marcum LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019 on the proxy card.

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CHANGE IN ACCOUNTANTS

Effective June 29, 2018, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company approved the engagement of Marcum LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the Company's fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, and dismissed Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The change in the Company's independent registered public accounting firm was made to reduce the fees payable by the Company in connection with the audit of its financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

Grant Thornton LLP's audit reports on the Company's consolidated financial statements as of and for the fiscal years ended March 25, 2018 and March 26, 2017 did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During the fiscal years ended March 25, 2018 and March 26, 2017, and the subsequent interim periods through June 29, 2018, there were (i) no disagreements (as described in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K and the related instructions) between the Company and Grant Thornton LLP on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which, if not resolved to Grant Thornton LLP's satisfaction, would have caused Grant Thornton LLP to make reference thereto in their reports on the financial statements for such years, and (ii) no "reportable events" within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K. The Company provided Grant Thornton LLP with a copy of the disclosures the Company was making in its Current Report on Form 8-K and requested that Grant Thornton LLP furnish a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether or not it agrees with the statements made herein. A copy of Grant Thornton LLP's letter dated July 6, 2018 was filed as Exhibit 16.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 29, 2018, and such letter stated that it agreed with the statements concerning Grant Thornton LLP contained therein.

During the fiscal years ended March 25, 2018 and March 26, 2017, and the subsequent interim periods through June 29, 2018, neither the Company nor anyone acting on its behalf has consulted with Marcum LLP regarding (i) the application of accounting principles to a specific transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's financial statements or the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, and neither a written report or oral advice was provided to the Company that Marcum LLP concluded was an important factor considered by the Company in reaching a decision as to any accounting, auditing, or financial reporting issue, (ii) any matter that was the subject of a disagreement within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K, or (iii) any reportable event within the meaning of Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

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## AUDIT FEES

## Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following table presents fees for professional audit services and other services rendered by Grant Thornton LLP in fiscal 2018 and 2017:

|                       | 2018       | 2017       |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Audit Fees(1)         | \$ 465,000 | \$ 244,000 |
| Audit-Related Fees(2) | 0          | 0          |
| Tax Fees(3)           | 0          | 0          |
| All Other Fees(4)     | 0          | 0          |

(1)

Audit fees represent fees billed and expected for professional services rendered in connection with: (a) audits and reviews of the fiscal 2018 and 2017 consolidated financial statements, in accordance with standards of the PCAOB; (b) consultations on accounting matters reflected in the financial statements; and (c) attestation services with respect to securities offerings and SEC filings. The fiscal 2018 amount includes billing by Grant Thornton LLP of approximately \$120,000 for fees for the professional services rendered for the review of interim financial accounting in connection with the issuance of their comfort letter in conjunction with the Company's Rule 144A offering of \$150 million of 6.625% Senior Secured Notes due 2025.

(2)

Grant Thornton did not render, and accordingly did not bill for, any audit-related services in fiscal 2018 or fiscal 2017.

(3)

Grant Thornton did not render, and accordingly did not bill for, any tax compliance, tax advice or tax planning services in fiscal 2018 or fiscal 2017.

(4)

Grant Thornton did not render, and accordingly did not bill for, any other services in fiscal 2018 or fiscal 2017.

## Audit Committee Pre-Approval

The Committee has determined not to adopt a blanket pre-approval policy but instead to require that the Committee pre-approve the compensation and terms of service for audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm and any changes in terms and compensation resulting from changes in audit scope, company structure or other matters. The Committee has also determined to require pre-approval by the Audit Committee or its Chairman of the compensation and terms of service for any permitted non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm.

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**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Audit Committee assists the Company's Board of Directors in overseeing and monitoring the integrity of the Company's financial reporting process, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements related to financial reporting and the quality of internal and external audit processes. The Audit Committee's roles and responsibilities are set forth in a written charter, which is available on the Company's website [www.nathansfamous.com](http://www.nathansfamous.com) under "Investor Relations — Corporate Governance." Among its duties, the Audit Committee is responsible for recommending to the Company's Board of Directors that the Company's financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. As a basis for that recommendation, the Audit Committee engaged in the following activities. The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with Nathan's management and discussed with Grant Thornton LLP, Nathan's independent registered public accounting firm, the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol 1. AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T. The Audit Committee also received from Grant Thornton the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding Grant Thornton's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with Grant Thornton that firm's independence. The Audit Committee has also reviewed and discussed the fees paid to Grant Thornton during the last fiscal year for audit services, which are set forth above under "Audit Fees."

Management of the Company is responsible for the consolidated financial statements and reporting process, including establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a 15(e)); establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a 15(f)); evaluating the effectiveness of disclosure controls and procedures; evaluating the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; and evaluating any change in internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, internal control over financial reporting. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of these consolidated financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as well as expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

During fiscal 2018, management tested and evaluated the Company's system of internal control over financial reporting in response to the requirements set forth in Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related regulations. The Audit Committee reviewed the report of management contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 25, 2018 filed with the SEC, as well as Grant Thornton's Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. The latter reports relate to Grant Thornton's audit of (i) the consolidated financial statements and (ii) the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

Based on the discussions with Grant Thornton concerning the audit, the independence discussions, and the discussions with the Company's management and Grant Thornton concerning the financial statement review and discussions, and such other matters deemed relevant and appropriate by the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the Company's audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, for filing with the SEC.

The Audit Committee:

Robert J. Eide, Chairman

Brian S. Genson

Barry Leistner

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## SECURITY OWNERSHIP

The following table sets forth as of July 17, 2018, certain information with regard to ownership of our Common Stock by: (i) each beneficial owner of more than 5% of our Common Stock, based on filings made with the SEC and, to the extent received, subsequent completed questionnaires; (ii) each director and executive officer named in the “Summary Compensation Table” and “2018 Director Compensation” table below; and (iii) all of our executive officers and directors as a group.

| Name and Address(1)                                      | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(2) | Percent of Class* |
|--|--|-------------------|
| NEOs and Directors                                       |  |                   |
| Howard M. Lorber   | 988,016(3)                                   | 23.6%             |
| A. F. Petrocelli   | 124,126(4)                                   | 3.0%              |
| Robert J. Eide   | 275,141(5)                                   | 6.6%              |
| Eric Gatoff  | 78,752                                       | 1.9%              |
| Ronald G. DeVos  | 14,809                                       | **                |
| Brian S. Genson  | 33,731(6)                                    | **                |
| Charles Raich  | 45,920(7)                                    | 1.1%              |
| Barry Leistner   | 44,904(8)                                    | 1.1%              |
| Wayne Norbitz  | —  | —                 |
| Scott Harvey   | —  | —                 |
| Leigh Platte   | 200  | **                |
| Directors and executive officers as a group (11 persons) | 1,378,544(9)                                 | 32.4%             |
| Principal Stockholders                                   |  |                   |
| GAMCO Investors, Inc. et al.(10)                         | 462,910                                      | 11.1%             |
| Renaissance Technologies LLC(11)                         | 228,400                                      | 5.5%              |
| Dimensional Fund Advisors LP(12)                         | 210,220                                      | 5.0%              |

\*

Based on 4,187,539 shares outstanding as of July 17, 2018.

\*\*

Less than 1%

(1)

Unless otherwise indicated, the addresses for the executive officers and directors of the Company is: One Jericho Plaza, Jericho, New York 11753. The addresses of the principal stockholders in this table are: GAMCO Investors, Inc., One Corporate Center, Rye, New York 10580, Renaissance Technologies LLC and Renaissance Technologies Holdings Corporation, 800 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022 and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, Building One, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin TX, 78746.

(2)

Except as otherwise indicated, the beneficial owner has sole voting and investment power.

(3)

Includes 20,320 shares and 250,000 shares owned by Lorber Gamma LP and Lorber Alpha II LP, respectively, as to which Mr. Lorber disclaims beneficial ownership.

(4)

Includes options exercisable within 60 days to purchase 16,117 shares.

(5)

Includes (i) 250,000 shares owned by Lorber Alpha II LP, for which Mr. Eide is trustee of the beneficial owners of such entity, (ii) an aggregate of 2,500 shares for which Mr. Eide is the trustee of a trust for the benefit of his children, and (iii) options exercisable within 60 days to purchase 4,030 shares.

(6)

Includes options exercisable within 60 days to purchase 16,117 shares.

(7)

Includes options exercisable within 60 days to purchase 16,117 shares.

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(8)

Includes options exercisable within 60 days to purchase 16,117 shares.

(9)

Consists of 1,310,046 shares beneficially owned by Messrs. Eide, Genson, Lorber, Petrocelli, Raich, Leistner, DeVos, Schedler, Gatoff, and Platte without duplication of shares as to which beneficial ownership is shared by more than one member of this group (see notes 3 and 5, above), and 68,498 shares subject to stock options exercisable within 60 days.

(10)

Based on Schedule 13D/A Amendment No. 11, jointly filed on August 8, 2017, with the SEC by Gabelli Funds, LLC, GAMCO Asset Management Inc., Gabelli Securities, Inc., Teton Advisors, Inc., GGCP, Inc., GAMCO Investors, Inc. and Mario J. Gabelli.

(11)

Based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 14, 2018 by Renaissance Technologies LLC and Renaissance Technologies Holdings Corporation.

(12)

Based on a Schedule 13G filed on February 9, 2018 by Dimensional Fund Advisors LP.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our officers, directors and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of our equity securities to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership on Forms 3, 4 and 5 with the SEC and NASDAQ. These officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Forms 3, 4 and 5 they file with the SEC and NASDAQ.

Based solely on our review of the copies of the forms we have received, we believe that all our officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners complied on a timely basis with all filing requirements applicable to them with respect to transactions during fiscal year 2018.

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## MANAGEMENT

## Officers of the Company

Our current executive officers are:

| Name                | Age | Position with the Company                                     |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| Eric Gatoff         | 49  | Chief Executive Officer                                       |
| Ronald G. DeVos     | 63  | Vice President Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary |
| Howard M. Lorber    | 69  | Executive Chairman of the Board                               |
| Scott Harvey        | 56  | Executive Vice President                                      |
| Leigh Platte        | 59  | Vice President, Food Service                                  |
| Donald P. Schedler* | 65  | Vice President Development, Architecture and Construction     |

\*

Not an NEO.

Ronald G. DeVos has been our Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer since January 1995 and our Secretary since April 1995. Prior to January 1995, he was Controller of a large Wendy's franchisee, from June 1993 to December 1994. Mr. DeVos was Vice President Controller of Paragon Steakhouse Restaurants, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kyotaru Company Ltd., from May 1989 to October 1992, and Controller of Paragon Restaurant Group, Inc., and its predecessors, from October 1984 to May 1989. Mr. DeVos is a member of the Board of the Long Island Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants since 2018. Mr. DeVos was a Vice President and member of the Board of the Long Island Chapter of the Financial Executives International from 2010 through June 2017. Mr. DeVos was the 2011 recipient of the Milton Zipper Financial Executive of the Year and was honored as a CFO of the year by the Long Island Business News in 2013. Mr. DeVos holds an M.B.A. from St. John's University and a B.A. from Queens College.

Scott Harvey has been our Executive Vice President since July 13, 2015. Mr. Harvey was previously employed by Einstein Noah Restaurant Group, Inc., the largest operator of bagel bakeries in the United States. During his tenure from 1995 to June 2015 Mr. Harvey held many different Senior leadership positions to include, Vice President of Manufacturing, Senior Vice President Supply Chain, Senior Vice President Operations-Eastern Region and Senior Vice President National Operations for all company, License and Franchise operations for Einstein Brothers Bagels, Noah's New York Bagels, and Manhattan Bagels. Mr. Harvey holds a B.S. degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management from Johnson & Wales University.

Leigh Platte has been our Vice President, Food Service since June 2014. Prior to June 2014, Mr. Platte was previously employed by ConAgra Foods. During his tenure at ConAgra Foods from 1999 to 2014, he held different management positions to include Director of Marketing, Hebrew National Marketing, Vice President Sales and Marketing for Hebrew National Foodservice and Director Sales for the Emerging Chain Group, which included the broader ConAgra Foods product portfolio. His responsibilities comprised retail and foodservice businesses and included national accounts, distributors, alliances, sports and entertainment sponsorship properties and the customer service group. Mr. Platte holds a B.S. degree in Business Management and Marketing from Ithaca College.

Donald P. Schedler has been our Vice President-Development, Architecture and Construction since January 2005. Mr. Schedler initially joined us in March 1989 as Director of Architecture and Construction and was made Vice President Architecture and Construction in February 1991 before being promoted to his current position. Prior to March 1989, he was a Director of Construction for The Riese Organization, restaurateurs, from January 1988 to February 1989 and an Associate and Project Architect with Frank Guillot Architects, Ltd. from June 1985 to January 1988. Mr. Schedler is a registered architect in the states of Vermont and New York, and holds a B.A. degree in economics from Susquehanna University and a M.A. degree in architecture from Syracuse University.

For the biographies of Messrs. Gatoff and Lorber, please see "Proposal 1 — Election of Directors — Director Biographies.



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### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

#### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

##### Executive Summary

In considering our executive compensation policies and practices, we seek to balance our interest in limiting operating expenses and minimizing stockholder dilution with our interest in using compensation to attract, retain and motivate employees. In reconciling these competing concerns, we strive to act in the long-term best interests of the Company and our stockholders. The elements of our executives' total compensation are base salary, cash incentive awards, stock incentive awards, retirement and other employee benefits and, for certain NEOs, severance protection for certain actual or constructive terminations of employment and other benefits payable upon death or disability.

The Compensation Committee has worked directly with an independent compensation consultant from time to time to assist in certain compensation determinations. The Compensation Committee has in the past retained GK Partners, an independent compensation consulting firm, to advise it with respect to the compensation of certain of its executive officers, most recently, in June 2011. Because the increase in salary for fiscal 2018 was not deemed by the Compensation Committee to be materially different from the prior years' salary and certain NEOs received additional compensation pursuant to the 2018 Management Incentive Plan, the Company did not retain a compensation consultant with respect to fiscal 2018 compensation. The Compensation Committee may continue to retain outside executive compensation consulting firms (which historically have provided no other services to the Company) to provide general compensation expertise.

##### Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

We conducted a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation at our 2017 Annual Meeting, which our stockholders voted should be held every three years. At the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, 97.8% of the votes cast on the advisory vote on executive compensation proposal were in favor of our NEO compensation as disclosed in the 2017 proxy statement. The Compensation Committee reviewed these final vote results and determined that, given the significant level of support, fundamental changes to our executive compensation policies were not necessary. Despite the affirmative vote, however, the Compensation Committee believes that continual review of our executive compensation programs and their alignment to Company and stock price performance is in the best interests of our stockholders.

##### Risk Considerations

The Compensation Committee has considered whether our executive compensation program creates risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company and concluded that it does not. In reaching its conclusion, the Committee considered the Company's strategic goals and operational practices and evaluated the design of its compensation programs to assess whether these programs foster a business environment that might drive inappropriate decision-making or behavior. While a significant portion of certain executives' compensation may be performance-based, historically, the majority of our NEOs' cash compensation typically consists primarily of base salary, which we believe mitigates inappropriate or excessive risk-taking that could harm stockholder value, though in Fiscal 2016, Fiscal 2017 and Fiscal 2018 the bonus or the non-equity incentive plan compensation for Mr. Gatoff exceeded his base compensation. To the extent that executives receive equity incentive awards, historically such awards have been long-term awards that were intended to align executives' interests with those of our stockholders.

##### Executive Compensation Program Objectives and Overview

The Company's current executive compensation programs are intended to achieve three fundamental objectives: (1) attract and retain qualified executives; (2) motivate performance to achieve specific short and long-term strategic and operating objectives of Nathan's; and (3) align executives' interests with the long-term interests of Nathan's stockholders.

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We believe that each element of our executive compensation program helps us to achieve one or more of our compensation objectives. The material elements of our executive compensation program consist of:

- base salary;
- bonus;
- equity based compensation (i.e., stock options and restricted stock);
- retirement benefits (i.e., 401(k));
- perquisites; and
- severance and other benefits payable upon certain termination events.

Base salaries, perquisites, retirement benefits and severance and other termination benefits are all primarily intended to attract and retain qualified executives. These are the elements of our current executive compensation program where the value of the benefit in any given year is not dependent on performance (although base salary amounts and benefits determined by reference to base salary may increase from year to year depending on cost-of-living or performance, among other things). We believe that in order to attract and retain top-caliber executives, we need to provide executives with predictable benefit amounts that reward their continued service. Some of the elements, such as base salaries and perquisites, are generally paid out on a short-term or current basis. Retirement or severance benefits are paid out on a longer-term basis upon retirement or other termination of employment. We believe that this mix of long-term and short-term elements allows us to achieve our dual goals of attracting and retaining executives (with the longer-term benefits geared toward retention and the short-term awards focused on recruitment).

Annual bonuses payable to our NEOs are intended to motivate their performance to achieve specific financial, strategic and operating objectives. Each bonus is in an amount determined by the Compensation Committee. We believe the bonuses paid to our NEOs help us to attract and retain executives. Each executive's annual bonus is paid out on an annual short-term basis and is designed to reward performance for the applicable fiscal year, taking into consideration historical performance and whether or not the executive has taken steps in that period to achieve Nathan's long-term strategic and operating objectives, including objectives that may not be realized until succeeding fiscal periods. In June 2017, the Compensation Committee adopted the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan. From time to time we have granted equity-based compensation in order to align our executives' long-term interests with stockholders' long-term interests. We believe that the way to increase stockholder value is to increase the trading price of our Common Stock. To the extent that we believe that granting equity interests to our NEOs and other executive officers will align their interests with those of our stockholders, we may in the future grant equity interests to our executives.

We also believe equity-based compensation awards may help us retain executives, as well as motivate performance to achieve specific strategies and operating objectives. Equity-based compensation is not necessarily awarded each year. Equity-based compensation is earned on a longer-term basis than cash compensation and is designed to reward the achievement of our strategic and operating objectives for the applicable fiscal year, taking into consideration historical performance, and induce the executives to remain in our employ over the vesting period of the award.

The Compensation Committee's general philosophy is that bonus and equity compensation should be consistent with sound corporate governance principles, as well as competitive compensation practices. The Compensation Committee believes incentive compensation fluctuates with the Company's success in achieving financial and other goals, and that

Nathan's should continue to use long-term compensation such as periodic grants of stock awards to align stockholder and executives' interests.

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Historically, the Company has not established fixed quantitative goals for any of the objectives or metrics evaluated for the purpose of determining the amount of any bonus or equity-based compensation to be awarded. With respect to the fiscal years ended March 25, 2018 and March 31, 2019, the Compensation Committee adopted the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan and the Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan, respectively, as a means of incentivizing its NEOs (other than Mr. Lorber) which include quantitative goals based upon predetermined financial targets which were approved by the Company's stockholders at the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Such plans were also intended to ensure that the Company could rely on the "performance based" exception with respect to the tax deductibility of compensation to an NEO in excess of \$1,000,000. As discussed under "Tax and Accounting Implications" below, pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the "Tax Act"), the "performance based" compensation exemption with respect to the tax deductibility of compensation received by NEOs in excess of \$1,000,000 has been eliminated.

In addition, the importance of the particular objective or metric to a specific executive's compensation depends on the responsibilities of an executive's position. Further, the specific objectives or metrics considered for a particular executive may be afforded greater or lesser weight in any fiscal year, depending on a variety of factors such as the Company's overall results, the emphasis of any particular component of the Company's business during a particular fiscal year, the Company's performance in each area relative to its prior years' performance, the then-current competitive and economic environment, the implementation of strategic plans whose benefits may not be immediate, any extraordinary event, such as the sale or purchase of a company, brand or line of business, which may impact the Company positively or negatively and taking into account that the Company does not want to incentivize inappropriate or excessive risk taking that could harm stockholder value. As a result, an executive's success or failure as it relates to any one of the Company's objectives may determine whether or not that executive is awarded a bonus, as well as the amount of any bonus that is awarded. If, following its evaluation of the foregoing, the Compensation Committee determines that an executive has helped the Company achieve, or make progress toward achieving, one or more of the Company's objectives, a bonus and/or grant of equity-based compensation may be awarded.

The Committee has not engaged in benchmarking to establish the compensation payable to its executive officers in part because the Company's business model has evolved to become more entrepreneurial and is no longer that of a traditional restaurant and franchise business. A large portion of the Company's revenue and operating profit is generated by its Branded Product and retail licensing programs. Consequently, the Compensation Committee does not believe that traditional restaurant and franchise companies are actual peers for the purpose of performing a benchmark analysis and does not currently intend to engage in benchmarking in the future for the purpose of evaluating or establishing the compensation payable to its NEOs.

In fiscal 2007, the Compensation Committee sought the advice of GK Partners regarding the compensation of Eric Gatoff and Howard Lorber, both of whom entered into employment agreements on December 15, 2006, effective January 1, 2007. In June 2011, the Compensation Committee again retained GK Partners. GK Partners evaluated the Company's compensation program to determine whether the Company adequately links pay to performance and concluded that it does. Subsequently, the Compensation Committee increased Mr. Gatoff's annual base compensation to \$375,000 in June 2014 and to \$500,000 in June 2016, based on its view that Mr. Gatoff's compensation and benefits arrangements were within the range of Chief Executive Officer compensation, benefit and perquisite practices then found in other public companies as well as the overall performance of the Company.

Mr. Lorber's employment agreement was amended in December 2012 to increase his base compensation to \$600,000 per annum and provide for the grant of 50,000 shares of restricted stock. On December 6, 2017 Mr. Lorber's employment agreement was further amended by extending the term of the employment agreement from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2022 and increasing his base compensation from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 per annum. In establishing the increase in base salary, the Compensation Committee noted the improvement in the Company's operating performance over the past several years and Mr. Lorber's role in connection with the Company's debt refinancing and the Company's agreement with John Morrell. In addition, it was also noted that unlike the amendment entered into in 2012, Mr. Lorber did not receive restricted stock as part of the new amendment and hence the overall value of the employment contract was similar. The Compensation Committee was also of the view that Mr. Lorber's compensation and benefits arrangements, as set forth in his employment agreement, were within the range of executive compensation, benefit and perquisite practices then found in other public companies.



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The Compensation Committee then evaluated the amount of the short-term components of our executive compensation program for the other NEOs by determining the compensation payable to the other NEOs and other executives relative to that payable to Messrs. Gatoff and Lorber and taking into consideration that the base salary for certain NEOs is established by contract.

### Current Executive Compensation Program Elements

We currently have employment agreements in place for two of our NEOs — Eric Gatoff and Howard M. Lorber — each of which is described in further detail below in the context of this section. There are no employment agreements in effect for Ronald G. DeVos, Scott Harvey and Leigh Platte.

**Eric Gatoff.** On December 15, 2006, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Eric Gatoff pursuant to which Mr. Gatoff was appointed as Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2007. Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Gatoff agreed to serve as Chief Executive Officer effective from January 1, 2007, until December 31, 2008, which period shall extend for additional one-year periods unless either party delivers notice of non-renewal no less than 180 days prior to the end of the term then in effect. No such non renewal notice has been delivered to date.

**Howard M. Lorber.** On December 15, 2006, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Howard M. Lorber (the “Lorber Agreement”) pursuant to which Mr. Lorber was appointed as Executive Chairman of the Board of the Company effective January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2012. On November 1, 2012, the employment agreement with Mr. Lorber was extended to December 31, 2017 and on December 6, 2017, the employment agreement with Mr. Lorber was further extended to December 31, 2022.

### Base Salaries

Salary is one of the main components of cash compensation and fits into our overall compensation objectives by providing a base for attracting and retaining significant contributors to the Company and by establishing a stable level of compensation upon which our executives may rely. Our goal is to pay to our executives a base salary that is sufficient to attract and retain them. The Compensation Committee has determined that structuring the Company’s compensation program to place a significant emphasis on base salaries, which are fixed, mitigates the potential for inappropriate or excessive risk-taking by executive officers.

For the two NEOs with employment agreements, base salaries are determined in accordance with the terms of such agreements, as amended. The base salaries reflected in the employment agreements for Messrs. Gatoff and Lorber were initially established by the Compensation Committee. The base salaries of Messrs. DeVos, Harvey and Platte are reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee in consultation with our Executive Chairman and our Chief Executive Officer, taking into consideration their role and responsibility within our Company, as well as their respective experience and prior performance. In addition, the base salaries of all of our NEOs are reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee, which may make adjustments for cost-of-living increases and to reward performance.

The base salary that was paid to each NEO in fiscal 2018 is the amount reported for such officer in the designated column of the Summary Compensation Table.

### Annual Bonuses

In determining the amount of any annual bonus payable to each of our NEOs, the Compensation Committee historically has evaluated such NEO’s performance measured against Nathan’s’ achievement of its financial and operating objectives.

Nathan’s financial objectives include:

- increasing each of revenues, profits from continuing operations, pre-tax cash flow, net income and earnings per share;
- managing cash balances; and
- controlling corporate general and administrative expenses.



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There are also operating objectives that are specific to the Company's individual revenue centers (i.e., Company-owned restaurants, franchising, the Branded Product Program and retail licensing), all of which are designed to increase revenue and profit, as follows:

- the level of sales at and cash contribution from Company-owned restaurants;
- the number of new franchised and Branded Menu locations;
- the amount of franchise fees and royalties earned from franchised and Branded Menu locations;
- the level of sales and tonnage of products sold through the Branded Product Program;
- the number of new Branded Product locations;
- controlling the cost of goods sold through the Branded Product Program;
- the amount of license royalties earned through the retail licensing program; and
- the ability to control revenue-center specific overhead expenses.

Pursuant to Mr. Gatoff's employment agreement, as amended, the amount of his bonus has historically been established by the Compensation Committee after considering the recommendation of the Executive Chairman of the Board based on Mr. Gatoff's performance measured against the Company's financial, strategic and operating objectives, including objectives that may not be realized until future periods, as described above. For fiscal 2018, in lieu of a bonus, Mr. Gatoff's cash incentive compensation was based on the criteria established in the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan, and for fiscal 2019, it will be based on the criteria established in the Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan.

Mr. Lorber's current employment agreement does not provide for a contractually-required bonus. Nevertheless, since Mr. Lorber is eligible for participation in the Company's executive bonus program, the Compensation Committee may award bonuses to Mr. Lorber from time to time as it deems appropriate.

For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, in lieu of a bonus, the amount of additional cash compensation payable to Messrs. DeVos, Harvey and Platte was based on the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan, and for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019, the amount of their additional cash compensation will be based on the Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan.

Annual Incentive Plans

The Company's NEOs other than Mr. Lorber were eligible to earn annual cash incentive awards under the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan.

The annual incentive performance criteria for fiscal 2018 varied among the participants after considering the nature of their responsibilities. For Mr. Gatoff, 75% of his compensation was based on Modified EBITDA as described in the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan, net of restaurant and franchising revenue contributions, and 25% of Mr. Gatoff's incentive cash award will be based on Company-Owned Operating Profit and Franchising Revenue. For Mr. DeVos, the criteria for fiscal 2018 was Modified EBITDA as defined in the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan. For Mr. Harvey, 35% of his incentive compensation was based on Company-Owned Restaurant Operating Profit



and 65% is based on Franchising Revenue. For Mr. Platte, 100% of his incentive compensation was based on Foodservice Operating Profit.

Under the terms of the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan for fiscal 2018, Messrs. Gatoff, DeVos, Harvey and Platte were eligible to receive a target bonus of 150%, 100%, 40%, and 50% of their respective base salaries.

Accordingly, for Messrs. Gatoff, DeVos, Harvey and Platte the target bonus was \$750,000, \$200,000, \$130,000 and \$107,500, respectively, and the maximum bonus that they could each receive under the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan was \$1,125,000, \$250,000, \$195,000 and \$161,250, respectively.

The Compensation Committee may exercise negative discretion with respect to any award to reduce any amount that would otherwise be payable under the annual incentive program granted under the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan.

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The fiscal 2018 performance necessary for Messrs. Gatoff, DeVos, Harvey and Platte to receive annual incentive awards at the target level were set at levels which were believed to be rigorous, but reasonably achievable, based on internal corporate plans.

Bonus amounts for achieving performance criteria in between the amounts listed above are determined by linear interpolation between the higher and lower amounts. The actual performance-based incentive payments made to the selected participants for the year ended March 25, 2018 are set forth in the column labeled “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” in the Summary Compensation Table.

The Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan has similar performance criteria as the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan.

### Equity-Based Compensation

The Compensation Committee has periodically granted equity awards under Nathan’s’ stock incentive and stock option plans. The Compensation Committee does not use constant criteria in the granting of equity compensation. The Compensation Committee makes a subjective determination of the effectiveness of each NEO and the extent of his contributions to our success, taking into consideration each NEO’s responsibilities, his performance during prior years and his expected future contribution to Nathan’s’ performance and, based on that determination, may reward an executive through an award of equity compensation. Grants of equity awards are also designed to link an increase in stockholder value to compensation. Through the use of stock awards, an increase in stock price will result in an increase in value for the grantee, which ties an increase in stockholder value to our executives’ compensation.

Historically, the form of stock awards available for grant was limited to stock options or restricted stock. However, under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan, employees may receive grants of stock options, restricted stock, or restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights and other stock-based awards. At March 25, 2018, an aggregate of 219,584 shares were available for grants of options or stock appreciation rights or 188,933 shares were available for grants of restricted stock or restricted stock units under the Nathan’s 2010 Stock Incentive Plan. Restricted stock and restricted stock units will be subject to such restrictions as the Board or Compensation Committee may impose. Under the terms of the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan, the term of any stock options may be no more than five years. The term of an option is determined at the time of grant. The purchase price of the shares of Common Stock subject to each option granted is not less than 100% of the fair market value of our Common Stock at the date of grant.

Our 2010 Stock Incentive Plan provides that the Compensation Committee may adjust the number of shares under outstanding awards and for which future awards may be granted in the event of reorganization, stock split, reverse split, stock dividend, cash dividend, exchange or combination of shares, merger or any other change in capitalization. The participants in these plans may include officers, directors and employees of, or consultants to, Nathan’s and its subsidiaries or affiliates. See “Equity Plan Information.”

In reviewing the form of stock compensation granted to any or all eligible participant(s), the Compensation Committee has historically considered a variety of important administrative and technical factors, including, but not limited to: (1) the overall availability of shares under the stock compensation plan; (2) the additional stockholder dilution effects of shares granted under the plan; (3) the number of stock options and restricted shares currently outstanding under the current plans and all previous plans (individually and in the aggregate); (4) the number of options or restricted shares previously vested and/or exercised (individually and in the aggregate); (5) the overall compensation expense and current accounting impact to Nathan’s of any past or future grants; and (6) the applicable Company and employee tax implications of any such grant. The Compensation Committee intends to consider the same administrative and technical factors in determining the form of stock compensation (options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock or restricted stock units) to be used for future grants.

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### Retirement Benefits and Deferred Compensation Opportunities

#### 401(k) Savings Plan

We sponsor a retirement plan intended to be qualified under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Our NEOs participate in this program on the same terms as our other employees. All non union employees over age 21 who have been employed by us for at least one year are eligible to participate in the plan. Employees may contribute to the plan on a tax-deferred basis up to 20% of their total annual salary, but in no event more than the maximum permitted by the Code (\$24,500 in calendar 2018), including \$6,000 catch up contributions for employees 50 and over). Company contributions are discretionary. For the plan year ended December 31, 2017, we elected to make matching contributions at the rate of \$.25 per dollar contributed by each employee on up to 3% of the employee’s total salary, vesting at the cumulative rate of 20% per year of service starting one year after commencement of service and, accordingly, after six years of an employee’s service with us, matching contributions are fully vested. As of March 25, 2018, approximately 50 employees had elected to participate in the plan. For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, we contributed approximately \$41,000 to the 401(k) plan, of which \$2,025 was a matching contribution for Mr. Gatoff, \$2,025 was a matching contribution for Mr. DeVos, \$2,025 was a matching contribution for Mr. Harvey and \$904 was a matching contribution for Mr. Platte.

Deferred compensation, through both employer and employee contributions to the Nathan’s 401(k) plan, is a tax-advantaged means of providing the NEOs with additional compensation that supplements their base salaries and bonus opportunities.

#### Perquisites

In addition to base salaries and annual bonus opportunities, Nathan’s provides the NEOs with certain perquisites. We believe that certain perquisites are often a tax-advantaged way to provide the NEOs with additional annual compensation that supplements their base salaries and bonus opportunities. When determining each NEO’s base salary, either by contract or otherwise, we take into consideration the value of each NEO’s perquisites. Perquisites did not constitute a material portion of the compensation paid to our NEOs for fiscal 2018. We provide our NEOs with limited perquisites and personal benefits that we and the Compensation Committee believe are consistent with our executive compensation philosophy and objectives.

The Compensation Committee believes the perquisites provided to our NEOs for fiscal 2018 — which included various insurance coverages and auto and gas allowances, as reported in the “All Other Compensation” column of the Summary Compensation Table below, and are further described in the “All Other Compensation” table following the Summary Compensation Table — are reasonable and consistent with our past practices.

#### Severance and Other Benefits Upon Termination of Employment

The Company’s policy is to provide certain NEOs with employment agreements with certain payments in the event of the termination of their employment prior to the end of their current employment term due to death, disability or other than “for cause” (as defined in their respective employment agreements). Nathan’s selected such events because they are standard termination triggers in employment contracts. Nathan’s determined that its failure to provide such standard termination provisions would adversely affect its ability to attract and retain those NEOs and achieve its compensation objectives.

Please see the “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control” section below for a description of the potential payments that may be made to the NEOs in connection with their termination of employment on a change in control.

#### Stock Ownership Guidelines

In June 2009, the Board of Directors adopted a Stock Retention Plan. Pursuant to the Stock Retention Plan, at the time that any officer or director exercises a stock option, he will be required to retain 33 1/3% of the total number of shares underlying options then-issued. In addition, officers and directors are required to retain 33 1/3% of the shares owned on the date of adoption of the Stock Retention Plan. Notwithstanding the terms of the Stock Retention Plan, the Board may determine to waive the requirement that shares be retained under certain circumstances.

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**Tax and Accounting Implications**

Section 162(m) of the Code limits the deductibility by Nathan's of cash compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 paid to the Chief Executive Officer and the four highest compensated executive officers during any taxable year, unless such compensation meets certain requirements. Historically, base compensation and bonuses paid to executive officers was generally within the \$1,000,000 Section 162(m) threshold and was, therefore, also deductible by Nathan's. The compensation of Messrs. Lorber, DeVos, Harvey and Platte did not exceed the Section 162(m) threshold for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018.

As a result of the adoption of the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Award Plan, it was the expectation of the Company that incentive awards granted under such plan qualify as "performance-based" compensation under Section 162(m). As a participant in the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Award Plan, it is anticipated that Mr. Gatoff's compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 would be tax deductible. However, due to the elimination by the Tax Act of the exception to the limit for "qualifying performance-based compensation," it is possible that Mr. Gatoff's Fiscal 2018 compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 will not be tax deductible. Similarly, any NEO compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 in Fiscal 2019 may not be tax deductible even with the adoption of the Fiscal 2019 Management Incentive Plan.

Stock incentives granted under Nathan's' existing plans were intended to comply with the rules under Section 162(m) for treatment as performance-based compensation. However, due to the Tax Act Nathan's may no longer be allowed to deduct compensation related to options granted under its stock incentive plan.

The Lorber Agreement has contained an excise tax gross-up provision since 2006, the time that Company first entered into that agreement. The Compensation Committee's current policy is that executives should be responsible for the taxes payable by them with respect to their compensation. However, the Lorber Agreement has contained an excise tax gross-up provision since 2006, the time the Company first entered into that agreement, and accordingly, the Compensation Committee deemed it appropriate to continue such provision when it approved the amendment to Mr. Lorber's employment contract. In addition, in unusual circumstances where the Compensation Committee believes that accommodations have to be made to recruit or retain an executive to become or remain employed by the Company, as the case may be, reimbursement for taxes payable may be included in contracts; but even in those circumstances, the "gross ups" will be limited to payments triggered by both a change in control and termination of employment and will be subject to a three-year sunset provision.

**Compensation Committee Report**

Nathan's' Compensation Committee has certain duties and powers as described in its charter. The Compensation Committee is currently composed of the non-employee directors named at the end of this report, each of whom is independent as defined by the NASDAQ Listing Rule 5605(a)(2). The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the disclosure contained in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth herein. Based upon this review and our discussions, the Nathan's Compensation Committee recommended to its Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section be included in this proxy statement and incorporated by reference into the Nathan's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Compensation Committee of**

the Board of Directors

Robert J. Eide, Chairman

Brian S. Genson

Barry Leistner

SEC filings sometimes "incorporate information by reference." This means the Company is referring you to information that has previously been filed with the SEC, and that this information should be considered as part of the filing you are reading. However, unless the Company specifically states otherwise in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether made before or after the date hereof, this Compensation Committee Report shall not constitute soliciting material, shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference or otherwise be considered filed under the Securities Act or the Securities Exchange Act, irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

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Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, Messrs. Eide, Genson and Leistner served on the Compensation Committee. No member of the Compensation Committee is or has been a former or current officer or employee of the Company or had any relationships requiring disclosure by the Company under the SEC's rules requiring disclosure of certain relationships and related-party transactions.

Compensation of NEOs

The Summary Compensation Table should be read in connection with the tables and narrative descriptions that follow. The Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal 2018 Year-End table and information under the heading "Option Exercises and Stock Vested in Fiscal 2018" provide further information on the NEOs' potential realizable value and actual value realized with respect to their equity awards.

The discussion of the potential payments due upon a termination of employment or change in control, below, is intended to further explain the potential future payments that are, or may become, payable to our NEOs.

Other than the 401(k) Savings Plan, the Company has not established a plan that provides for payments or other benefits at, following or in connection with the retirement of any employees.

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## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

| Name and<br>Principal<br>Position   | Year(1) | Salary(1)<br>(\$) | Bonus<br>(\$) | Stock Option<br>Award(2) |      | Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Change<br>in<br>Pension<br>Value<br>and<br>Nonqualified<br>Deferred<br>Compensation<br>Earnings<br>(\$) | All Other<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Total<br>Compensation(2)<br>(\$) |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------|---|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|   |         |                   |               | (\$)                     | (\$) |   |   |                                   |                                  |
| Eric Gatoff<br>Chief<br>Executive<br>Officer  | 2018    | \$ 500,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 618,921                                      | —   | \$ 45,663                         | \$ 1,164,584                     |
|   | 2017    | \$ 483,895        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 664,807                                      | —   | \$ 47,340                         | \$ 1,196,042                     |
| Ronald G.<br>DeVos<br>Vice<br>President –<br>Finance and<br>Chief<br>Financial<br>Officer | 2016    | \$ 375,000        | \$ 600,000    | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 42,085                         | \$ 1,017,085                     |
| Howard M.<br>Lorber<br>Executive<br>Chairman of<br>the Board                              | 2018    | \$ 200,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 189,797                                      | —   | \$ 45,681                         | \$ 435,478                       |
|   | 2017    | \$ 200,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 185,224                                      | —   | \$ 42,289                         | \$ 427,513                       |
| Scott Harvey<br>Executive<br>Vice<br>President(4)   | 2016    | \$ 200,000        | \$ 175,000    | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 40,611                         | \$ 415,611                       |
| Leigh Platte<br>Vice<br>President –<br>Food Service                                       | 2018    | \$ 700,000        | —             | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 16,426                         | \$ 716,426                       |
|   | 2017    | \$ 600,000        | —             | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 16,416                         | \$ 616,416                       |
| Eric Gatoff<br>Chief<br>Executive<br>Officer  | 2016    | \$ 600,000        | —             | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 15,166                         | \$ 615,166                       |
|   | 2018    | \$ 325,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 43,143                                       | —   | \$ 41,960                         | \$ 410,103                       |
| Scott Harvey<br>Executive<br>Vice<br>President  | 2017    | \$ 325,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 99,700                                       | —   | \$ 38,674                         | \$ 463,374                       |
|   | 2016    | \$ 231,250        | \$ 100,000    | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 104,993                        | \$ 446,243                       |
| Leigh Platte<br>Vice<br>President –<br>Food Service                                       | 2018    | \$ 215,000        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 88,521                                       | —   | \$ 30,150                         | \$ 333,671                       |
|   | 2017    | \$ 212,538        | —             | —                        | —    | \$ 111,832                                      | —   | \$ 38,839                         | \$ 363,209                       |
| Eric Gatoff<br>Chief<br>Executive<br>Officer  | 2016    | \$ 195,000        | \$ 80,000     | —                        | —    | —   | —   | \$ 28,695                         | \$ 303,695                       |

(1)

Our fiscal year ends on the last Sunday in March, which results in a 52 or 53 week year. The fiscal years ended March 25, 2018, March 26, 2017, and March 27, 2016 were on the basis of a 52 week period. Salaries reflect the number of weeks in the reporting period.

(2)

The amounts set forth in this column represent the dollar amount of compensation paid or accrued by each of our NEOs which is not reported in any of the columns of this Summary Compensation Table to the left of this column. Please see the All Other Compensation Table below for a more detailed explanation of the compensation earned by each NEO which comprises the aggregate amounts disclosed in this column.

(3)

These amounts reflect performance-based cash awards under the Fiscal 2017 Management Incentive Plan in respect of services performed for the fiscal year ended March 26, 2017 and the Fiscal 2018 Management Incentive Plan in respect of services performed for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018.

(4)

Mr. Harvey joined the Company in July 2015. All other compensation includes \$87,982 of moving expenses.

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The Company did not grant any stock options or restricted stock to NEOs during fiscal year 2018. Accordingly this proxy statement does not include the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table.

## All Other Compensation Table

| Name             | Company Matched 401(k) Contributions (\$)(1) | Insurance Premiums (\$)(2) | Mobile Telephone Payments (\$) | Auto Allowance/Expense Reimbursement (\$) | Total All Other Compensation (\$) |
|------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Eric Gatoff      | \$ 2,025                                     | \$ 23,744                  | \$ 2,193                       | \$ 17,701                                 | \$ 45,663                         |
| Ronald G. DeVos  | \$ 2,025                                     | \$ 25,499                  | \$ 1,170                       | \$ 16,987                                 | \$ 45,681                         |
| Howard M. Lorber | \$ 0   | \$ 1,426                   | \$ 0                           | \$ 15,000                                 | \$ 16,426                         |
| Scott Harvey     | \$ 2,025                                     | \$ 24,516                  | \$ 2,451                       | \$ 12,968                                 | \$ 41,960                         |
| Leigh Platte     | \$ 904                                       | \$ 17,574                  | \$ 872                         | \$ 10,800                                 | \$ 30,150                         |

(1)

The amounts set forth in this column represent the dollar amount of Company contributions to each NEO under our 401(k) Plan in fiscal year 2018. Additional information regarding our 401(k) Plan is set forth in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of this proxy statement.

(2)

The amounts in this column represent Company contributions for premiums for group life, medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance for each of the NEOs during fiscal year 2018. Also includes health care deductibles paid on behalf of NEOs.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL 2018 YEAR-END

| Name   | Option Awards   |   |                            | Stock Awards              |   |  | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Rights That have not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That have not Vested (\$) |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|---|
|  | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Exercised Options (#) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date(1) | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That have Not Vested (\$) |   |   |
| Eric Gatoff<br>Chief Executive Officer                   | 0   | 0   | \$ —                       | —                         | 5,000   | \$ 360,500(1)  | —   | —   |
| Ronald G. DeVos<br>Vice President – Finance<br>and Chief | 0   | 0   | \$ —                       | —                         | —   | \$ —   | —   | —   |



Financial Officer

|  |   |   |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Howard M. Lorber<br>Executive Chairman of<br>the Board | 0 | 0 | \$ | — | — | — | \$ | — | — | — |
| Scott Harvey<br>Executive Vice President               | 0 | 0 | \$ | — | — | — | \$ | — | — | — |
| Leigh Platte,<br>Vice President, Food<br>Service       | 0 | 0 | \$ | — | — | — | \$ | — | — | — |

(1)  
Excludes the amounts of special dividends which are payable to the holder of the restricted stock upon vesting.

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## OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN FISCAL 2018

| Name  | Options Awarded                           |                                 | Stock Awarded                            |                                |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
|   | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) |
| Eric Gatoff<br>Chief Executive Officer                                  | —   | —                               | 5,000                                    | \$ 471,000(1)                  |
| Ronald G. DeVos<br>Vice President – Finance and Chief Financial Officer | —   | —                               | —  | —                              |
| Howard M. Lorber<br>Executive Chairman of the Board                     | —   | —                               | —  | —                              |
| Scott Harvey<br>Executive Vice President                                | —   | —                               | —  | —                              |
| Leigh Platte,<br>Vice President Food Service                            | —   | —                               | —  | —                              |

(1)

Includes \$150,000 which is the amount of a special dividend payable upon vesting of the restricted stock held by Mr. Gatoff.

## Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

Neither the Company nor any NEO made any contribution, distribution or withdrawal as relates to the deferral of compensation on a basis that is not tax-qualified.

## Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control

## Severance Provisions of Employment Agreements and Estimation of Benefits

The employment agreements with each of Messrs. Gatoff and Lorber provide that on the termination of his agreement, the NEO is entitled to certain payments as follows:

Eric Gatoff

- Termination by the Company without Cause (as defined in the agreement): salary for the remainder of the contract term
- Termination by the Company for Cause (as defined in the agreement): salary, reimbursable expenses and benefits through the date of termination
- Death: salary and bonus for balance of contract term with the bonus being equal to the amount of bonus paid or payable for the preceding fiscal year, plus reimbursable expenses and benefits through the end of the term
- Disability: lump sum equal to his then base salary and bonus with the bonus being equal to the amount of bonus paid or payable for the preceding fiscal year

- Change-in-control: if agreement is terminated within one year (by the Company without cause or by the executive for any reason), entitled to lump sum cash payment equal to annual salary plus bonus (paid or payable for the most recently-completed fiscal year)

Howard M. Lorber

- In the event of any termination other than for Cause (as defined in the agreement), Mr. Lorber is entitled to receive, in addition to the other benefits specified below: salary through the date of termination, unused vacation from prior years, annual bonus for the current fiscal year prorated through the date of termination, any bonus previously awarded but not yet paid, any deferred compensation and other benefits that have vested through the date of termination

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- Termination by the Company without Cause or by Mr. Lorber for Good Reason (as defined in the agreement): salary and bonus for the remainder of the contract term, which bonus shall be equal to the average of the annual bonuses awarded to him during the three fiscal years preceding the fiscal year of termination, continued participation in benefit plans and perquisites until the end of the term

- Termination by the Company for Cause: salary through the date of termination, unused vacation and any bonus previously awarded but not yet paid

- Death or disability: annual salary and annual bonuses for a three-year period, which bonus shall be equal to the average of the annual bonuses awarded to him during the three fiscal years preceding the fiscal year of termination

- Due to expiration of the agreement or, if earlier, upon termination (i) by mutual agreement, (ii) by Retirement (as defined in the agreement), or (iii) due to a Change in Control, Mr. Lorber becomes a consultant to the Company for a three-year term, during which he will receive compensation of \$200,000 per year

- Change-in-control: if agreement is terminated within one year (by the Company without Cause or by the executive for any reason other than Cause, retirement, death or disability), entitled to lump sum cash payment equal to the greater of (A) his annual salary and annual bonuses for the remainder of the employment term (including a prorated bonus for any partial fiscal year), which bonus shall be equal to the average of the annual bonuses awarded to him during the three fiscal years preceding the fiscal year of termination, or (B) 2.99 times his annual salary and annual bonus for the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year of termination, as well as a lump sum cash payment equal to the difference between the exercise price of any exercisable options having an exercise price of less than the then current market price of our Common Stock and such then current market price, continued participation in benefit plans and perquisites until the end of the term and a tax gross-up payment to cover any excise tax due

Estimation of Benefits

The following tables were prepared as though each NEO's employment was terminated on March 25, 2018 (the last business day of fiscal 2018) using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock as of Friday March 23, 2018 (\$72.50) and the respective NEO's salary then in effect. The amounts under the columns which reflect a Change in Control assume that a change in control occurred on March 25, 2018. However, the executives' employment was not terminated on March 25, 2018 and a change in control did not occur on that date. There can be no assurance that a termination of employment, a change in control or both would produce the same or similar results as those described if either or both of them occur on any other date or at any other price, or if any assumption is not correct in fact. Stock options that become vested due to a change in control are valued based on their "spread" (i.e., the difference between the stock's fair market value and the exercise price). The value of restricted stock is based on the market price of the Company's Common Stock as of Friday March 23, 2018.

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Eric Gatoff

|   | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason | Death        | Termination<br>by Company<br>of Named<br>Executive<br>Officer due<br>to Disability | Termination<br>by Company<br>for Cause or<br>Voluntary<br>Termination<br>by Named<br>Executive<br>Officer<br>Without<br>Good Reason | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason<br>upon a<br>Change in<br>Control |
|---|--|--------------|--|---|--|
| Cash Severance*                         | \$ 390,385   | \$ 1,009,306 | \$ 1,009,306   | \$ 15,385   | \$ 1,134,306   |
| Value of Accelerated Unvested<br>Equity | —  | —            | —  | —   | \$ 360,500   |
| Benefits Continuation                   | —  | \$ 34,247    | —  | —   | —  |

\*

Includes accrued vacation pay of \$15,385 as of March 25, 2018.

\*\*

Represents cost of benefits for the nine-month period through the end of the current employment term.

Ronald DeVos

|   | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason | Death     | Termination<br>by Company<br>of Named<br>Executive<br>Officer due<br>to Disability | Termination<br>by Company<br>for Cause or<br>Voluntary<br>Termination<br>by Named<br>Executive<br>Officer<br>Without<br>Good Reason | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason<br>upon a<br>Change in<br>Control |
|---|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| Cash Severance*                         | \$ 19,231  | \$ 19,231 | \$ 19,231  | \$ 19,231   | \$ 19,231  |
| Value of Accelerated Unvested<br>Equity | —  | —         | —  | —   | —  |

\*

Consists of accrued vacation pay as of March 25, 2018.

Howard Lorber

|  | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by | Death | Termination<br>by Company<br>of Named<br>Executive | Termination<br>by<br>Company<br>for Cause or | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by |
|--|---|-------|--|--|---|
|--|---|-------|--|--|---|

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|   | Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason |              | Officer due<br>to Disability | Voluntary<br>Termination<br>by Named<br>Executive<br>Officer<br>Without<br>Good<br>Reason | Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason<br>upon a<br>Change in<br>Control |
|---|---|--------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Cash Severance                          | \$ 5,350,000                                      | \$ 3,000,000 | \$ 3,000,000                 | —   | \$ 2,990,000  |
| Value of Accelerated Unvested<br>Equity | —   | —            | —                            | —   | \$ —  |
| Benefits Continuation                   | \$ 78,024*  | \$ 49,278**  | \$ 49,278**                  | —   | \$ 127,302***   |
| Excise Tax and Gross-Up                 | \$ —  | —            | —                            | —   | \$ —  |

\*  
Represents cost of benefits through the end of the current employment term.

\*\*  
Represents cost of benefits for a three-year period.

\*\*\*  
Represents cost of benefits through the end of the current employment term and a three-year consulting period.

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Scott Harvey

|   | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason | Death     | Termination<br>by Company<br>of Named<br>Executive<br>Officer due<br>to Disability | Termination<br>by Company<br>for Cause or<br>Voluntary<br>Termination<br>by Named<br>Executive<br>Officer<br>Without<br>Good Reason | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason<br>upon a<br>Change in<br>Control |
|---|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| Cash Severance*                         | \$ 12,500  | \$ 12,500 | \$ 12,500  | \$ 12,500   | \$ 12,500  |
| Value of Accelerated Unvested<br>Equity | —  | —         | —  | —   | —  |
| Benefits Continuation                   | —  | —         | —  | —   | —  |

\*

Consists of accrued vacation pay as of March 25, 2018.

Leigh Platte

|   | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason | Death     | Termination<br>by Company<br>of Named<br>Executive<br>Officer due<br>to Disability | Termination<br>by Company<br>for Cause or<br>Voluntary<br>Termination<br>by Named<br>Executive<br>Officer<br>Without<br>Good Reason | Termination<br>by Company<br>without<br>Cause or by<br>Named<br>Executive<br>Officer with<br>Good Reason<br>upon a<br>Change in<br>Control |
|---|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| Cash Severance*                         | \$ 11,577  | \$ 11,577 | \$ 11,577  | \$ 11,577   | \$ 11,577  |
| Value of Accelerated Unvested<br>Equity | —  | —         | —  | —   | —  |

\*

Consists of accrued vacation pay as of March 25, 2018.

## Risk Considerations in our Compensation Programs

We believe that risks arising from our compensation policies and practices for our employees are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. As discussed above in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, our Compensation Committee reviewed our policies and practices for executive officers. The Compensation Discussion and Analysis further identifies the features of our executive compensation program that are designed to mitigate the potential for inappropriate or excessive risk-taking by executive officers. Management also provided an assessment to the Compensation Committee regarding our compensation policies and practices for employees other than our executive officers and noted several features of our compensation program for employees that reduce the likelihood of excessive risk-taking: pay is structured to include both fixed (salary) and variable compensation (bonus

and equity), with a primary emphasis on fixed compensation; any increases to base salary are typically related to cost-of-living adjustments; only a small number of employees receive bonuses and, with the exception of the Named Executive Officers (excluding the Executive Chairman), such bonuses are generally not a significant component of an employee's total compensation; long-term incentives are granted as equity that vests over multiple years; and the existence of our corporate-wide ethics and compliance program.

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## Equity Plan Information

The following table sets forth information regarding our equity compensation plans as of March 25, 2018.

| Plan Category  | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and warrants (a) | Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options and warrants (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column a) (c) |
|--|---|---|---|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders     | 48,352  | \$ 33.438   | 219,584*  |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | —   | —   | —   |
| Total  | 48,352  | \$ 33.438   | 219,584*  |

The following table sets forth information regarding our equity plans as of March 25, 2018:

| Name of Plan              | Shares Issuable for Exercisable Options | Average Exercise Prices of Outstanding Options | Shares Available for Grant |
|---------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 2010 Stock Incentive Plan | 48,352                                  | \$ 33.438                                      | 219,584*                   |

\*

Does not include additional shares that may become issuable under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan (which at the inception of the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan was up to a maximum 100,000 additional options or 31,250 restricted stock or restricted stock units) in the event that option grants under the 2002 Stock Incentive Plan that were outstanding as of July 19, 2010 subsequently expire unexercised, or are otherwise forfeited.

## Non-Employee Director Compensation

Directors who are not our employees receive an annual fee of \$20,000 and a fee of \$1,000 for each Board of Directors or committee meeting attended. In addition, members of committees of the Board of Directors also receive an annual fee of \$2,000 for each committee on which they serve. Until December 31, 2017, Mr. Norbitz did not receive compensation for his service as a director and he was compensated through a consulting agreement with the Company.

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## 2018 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

| Name               | Fees<br>Earned or<br>Paid in<br>Cash<br>(\$) | Stock<br>Awards<br>(%) | Option<br>Awards<br>(\$) | Non-Equity<br>Incentive<br>Plan<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Change in<br>Pension<br>Value<br>and<br>Nonqualified<br>Deferred<br>Compensation<br>Earnings<br>(\$) | All Other<br>Compensation<br>(\$) | Total<br>(\$) |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Robert J. Eide     | \$ 41,000                                    | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | —                                 | \$ 41,000     |
| Brian S.<br>Genson | \$ 46,000                                    | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | —                                 | \$ 46,000     |
| Barry Leistner     | \$ 42,000                                    | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | —                                 | \$ 42,000     |
| A.F. Petrocelli    | \$ 32,000                                    | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | —                                 | \$ 32,000     |
| Charles Raich      | \$ 32,000                                    | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | —                                 | \$ 32,000     |
| Wayne Norbitz      | \$ 6,000                                     | —                      | —                        | —   | —  | \$ 76,767                         | \$ 82,767     |

The table below shows the aggregate number of outstanding stock options, both vested and unvested, for each of the non-employee directors as of March 25, 2018.

| Name            | Outstanding<br>Stock Options |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Robert J. Eide  | 4,030                        |
| Brian S. Genson | 16,117                       |
| Barry Leistner  | 16,117                       |
| A.F. Petrocelli | 16,117                       |
| Charles Raich   | 16,117                       |
| Wayne Norbitz   | 0                            |

## CEO PAY RATIO

We are providing the following information about the relationship of the median annual total compensation of our employees and the annualized total compensation of our chief executive officer. For the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, our last completed fiscal year:

- the median of the annual total compensation of all employees of our Company (other than our chief executive officer) was \$18,111; and
- the annualized total compensation of our chief executive officer was \$1,164,534.

Based on this information, we reasonably estimate that the ratio of our chief executive officer's annual total compensation to the annual total compensation of our median employee was 64.3:1 for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018. Our pay ratio estimate has been calculated in a manner consistent with Item 402(u) of Regulation S-K using the data and assumptions summarized below.

To identify our median employee, we first determined our employee population as of March 25, 2018, or the "Determination Date." We had 186 employees, representing all full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary employees as of the Determination Date. This number does not include any independent contractors or "leased" workers, as permitted by the applicable SEC rules.

Once we identified our median employee, we then determined that employee's total compensation, including any perquisites and other benefits, in the same manner that we determine the total compensation of our Named Executive Officers for purposes of the Summary Compensation Table disclosed above.

The SEC rules for identifying the median employee and calculating the pay ratio based on that employee's annual total compensation allow companies to adopt a variety of methodologies, to apply certain exclusions, and to make reasonable estimates and assumptions that reflect their compensation practices. As such, the pay ratio reported by other companies may not be comparable to the pay ratio reported above, as other companies may have different employment and compensation practices and may utilize different methodologies, exclusions, estimates, and assumptions in calculating their own pay ratios.

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ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of our Annual Report of Stockholders for the fiscal year ended March 25, 2018, has been provided to all stockholders as of July 17, 2018. Stockholders are referred to the report for financial and other information about us, but such report is not incorporated in this proxy statement and is not a part of the proxy soliciting material.

We will provide without charge to any stockholder, as of the record date, copies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, upon written request delivered to Ronald G. DeVos, Secretary, at the Company's offices at One Jericho Plaza, Second Floor — Wing A, Jericho, New York 11753.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Ronald G. DeVos

Secretary

July 19, 2018

Jericho, New York

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ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC. September 12, 2018 NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS: The Notice of Meeting, Proxy Statement and Proxy Card are available at <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=113414&p=proxy> Please sign, date and mail your proxy card in the envelope provided as soon as possible. Signature of Stockholder Date: Signature of Stockholder Date: Note: Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person. To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method. 1. Election of the following nominees, as set forth in the proxy statement: O Robert J. Eide O Eric Gatoff O Brian S. Genson O Barry Leistner O Howard M. Lorber O Wayne Norbitz O A.F. Petrocelli O Charles Raich 2. Ratification of the appointment of Marcum LLP as auditors for fiscal 2019. Upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting. PLEASE DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. FOR ALL NOMINEES WITHHOLD AUTHORITY FOR ALL NOMINEES FOR ALL EXCEPT (See instructions below) INSTRUCTIONS: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "FOR ALL EXCEPT" and fill in the circle next to each nominee you wish to withhold, as shown here: NOMINEES: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE NOMINEES LISTED BELOW IN PROPOSAL 1 AND "FOR" PROPOSAL 2. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK AND VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE x Please detach along perforated line and mail in the ----- e n v e l o p e p r o v i d e d . ----- 20830000000000000000 4 091218 FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN GO GREEN e-Consent makes it easy to go paperless. With e-Consent, you can quickly access your proxy material, statements and other eligible documents online, while reducing costs, clutter and paper waste. Enroll today via [www.astfinancial.com](http://www.astfinancial.com) to enjoy online access.

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0 14475 NATHAN'S FAMOUS, INC. 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS The undersigned appoints Howard M. Lorber and Eric Gatoff, or either of them, attorneys and Proxies with full power of substitution in each of them, in the name and stead of the undersigned to vote as Proxy all the stock of the undersigned in Nathan's Famous, Inc., a Delaware corporation, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders scheduled to be held on September 12, 2018 and any adjournments thereof. THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED. IF NO DIRECTION IS INDICATED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL OF THE NOMINEES LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE FOR ELECTION AS DIRECTORS IN PROPOSAL 1, FOR PROPOSAL 2 AND IN THE DISCRETION OF THE PERSONS DESIGNATED ABOVE WITH RESPECT TO ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING. This Proxy will be valid until the completion of the Annual Meeting. IMPORTANT: PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND MAIL THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY! (Continued and to be signed on the reverse side) 1.1

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