

SCHNITZER STEEL INDUSTRIES INC

Form DEF 14A

December 19, 2012

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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

Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) 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:

SCHNITZER STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.

December 19, 2012

Dear Shareholder:

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of your Company, which will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 8:00 AM., Pacific time, at the Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97205.

The formal notice of the meeting appears on the following page and describes the matters to be acted upon. Time will be provided during the meeting for discussion, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions about your Company. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on December 4, 2012 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment of the meeting.

Again this year, we will utilize the Securities and Exchange Commission rules allowing issuers to furnish proxy materials over the Internet. We are mailing a printed copy of this proxy statement and a proxy card to certain of our shareholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting on or about December 19, 2012. All other shareholders will receive a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice"), which are being mailed on or about December 19, 2012. If you received a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice. Please read the proxy statement for more information on this alternative, which we believe allows us to provide shareholders with the information they need while lowering the costs and reducing the environmental impact of delivering printed copies of the proxy statement.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting in person, you can ensure that your shares are represented by promptly voting and submitting your proxy. Instructions have been provided for each of the alternative voting methods in the accompanying proxy statement.

Sincerely,

Tamara L. Lundgren

President and Chief Executive Officer

SCHNITZER STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.

3200 NW Yeon Ave., Portland, OR 97210

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD JANUARY 30, 2013

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97205, on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 8:00 AM., Pacific time, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect three directors to serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, and until their successors have been elected and qualified, as listed in the accompanying proxy statement;
- (2) To vote on an advisory resolution on executive compensation; and
- (3) To transact such other business (which does not include nominations of directors) as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on December 4, 2012 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. For shares held through a broker or nominee, you may vote by submitting voting instructions to your broker or nominee.

Please submit a proxy through the Internet, by voting by phone or, if this proxy statement was mailed to you, by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it promptly in the enclosed reply envelope. If you are able to attend the meeting, you may, if you wish, revoke the proxy and vote personally on all matters brought before the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Richard C. Josephson

Secretary

Portland, Oregon

December 19, 2012

SCHNITZER STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., an Oregon corporation (the "Company"), to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the time and place and for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting (the "Annual Meeting"). We are mailing a printed copy of this proxy statement and a proxy card to certain of our shareholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting on or about December 19, 2012. All other shareholders will receive a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice"), which are being mailed on or about December 19, 2012. If you received a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, not including a proxy card, you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THESE PROXY MATERIALS AND VOTING

Why am I being provided with these materials?

We are providing you with this proxy statement because the Board is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on January 30, 2013 or any adjournments thereof. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting, and we request that you vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. You do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. If you have received a printed copy of these materials by mail, you may simply complete, sign and return your proxy card or follow the instructions below to vote your shares by proxy over the telephone or through the Internet. If you did not receive a printed copy of these materials by mail and are accessing them on the Internet, you may simply follow the instructions below to vote your shares by proxy through the Internet. For shares held through a broker or nominee, you may vote by submitting voting instructions to your broker or nominee.

What if I received a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials?

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each shareholder of record we may furnish proxy materials to our shareholders over the Internet. If you received a Notice by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials. Instead, the Notice will instruct you as to how you may access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials. The Notice will also instruct you as to how you may submit your proxy over the Internet. If you received a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials you should follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the Notice.

What am I voting on?

The only matters scheduled for a vote are the election of the three nominated directors listed herein and the advisory vote on executive compensation described in this proxy statement.

How does the Board recommend that I vote my shares?

The Board recommends that you vote FOR each of the nominees to the Board and FOR the advisory vote on executive compensation.

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Shareholders at the close of business on December 4, 2012 (the "Record Date") will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock will vote together as a single class on all matters at the Annual Meeting. Each share of common stock (whether Class A or Class B) is entitled to one vote with respect to each matter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. You have one vote for each share of common stock held by you as of the Record Date, including shares:

Registered directly in your name with our transfer agent (also referred to as a "shareholder of record");

Held for you in an account with a broker, bank, or other nominee (shares held in "street name") – street name holders generally cannot vote their shares directly and instead must instruct the broker, bank or nominee how to vote their shares.

What if my shares are not registered directly in my name but are held in street name?

If at the close of business on December 4, 2012 your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name," and the Notice or other proxy materials, as applicable, are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the shareholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct that organization on how to vote the shares in your account. If that organization is not given specific direction by you, your shares held in the name of that organization may not be voted and will not be considered as present and entitled to vote with respect to the election of directors or the advisory vote related to executive compensation.

If I am a shareholder of record, how do I cast my vote?

If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. We will give you a ballot when you arrive. If you do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the Annual Meeting, you may vote by proxy.

Specifically, you may vote:

By Internet – If you have Internet access, you may submit your proxy by going to www.proxyvote.com and by following the instructions on how to complete an electronic proxy card. You will need the 12-digit number included on your Notice or your proxy card in order to vote by Internet.

By Telephone – If you have access to a touch-tone telephone, you may submit your proxy by dialing (800) 560-1965 and by following the recorded instructions. You will need the 12-digit number included on your Notice or your proxy card in order to vote by telephone.

By Mail – You may vote by mail by requesting a proxy card from us, indicating your vote by completing, signing and dating the card where indicated and by mailing or otherwise returning the card in the envelope that will be provided to you. You should sign your name exactly as it appears on the proxy card. If you are signing in a representative capacity (for example, as guardian, executor, trustee, custodian, attorney or officer of a corporation), indicate your name and title or capacity.

We provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares on-line, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies.

If I am a beneficial owner of Company shares, how do I cast my vote?

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and you would like to vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from the record owner. To request the requisite proxy form, follow the instructions provided by your broker or contact your broker.

If you do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the Annual Meeting, you may vote by proxy. If you received a printed copy of these proxy materials by mail, you should have also received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from the organization that is the record owner of your shares rather than from us. To vote by proxy, you may complete and mail that proxy card or vote by telephone or over the Internet as instructed by that organization in the proxy card. If you received a Notice by mail, you should have received the Notice from the organization that is the record owner of your shares rather than from us. To vote by proxy, you should follow the instructions included in the Notice to view the proxy statement and transmit your voting instructions. Internet and telephone voting facilities will close at 11:59 pm (Central time) on January 29, 2013 for the voting of shares.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If you are a shareholder of record and return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted "For" election of all three nominees for director and "For" the advisory resolution on executive compensation. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares may not be voted and will not be considered as present and entitled to vote with respect to the election of the three nominees for director or the advisory vote related to executive compensation. If any matter which is considered routine is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on the proxy card) will vote your shares using his

or her best judgment. Please note that brokers may no longer vote your shares with respect to the election of nominees for director in the absence of your specific instructions as to how to vote. Please return your proxy card so that your vote can be counted.

What constitutes a quorum?

Holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock will vote together as a single class on all matters voted on at the Annual Meeting, and each share is entitled to one vote. A majority of the total outstanding shares of Class A and Class B common stock must be present or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Shares voted by proxy on any matter, including as an abstention, are counted as present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum. Shares represented by "broker non-votes" (as defined below) with respect to all matters voted on at the meeting are not considered present at the meeting and therefore are not counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

How many votes are required to approve each proposal?

The election of directors will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast by the shares entitled to vote in the election at the meeting, assuming a quorum is present. A plurality vote requirement means that the three director nominees with the greatest number of votes cast, even if less than a majority, will be elected. There is no cumulative voting. The advisory vote on executive compensation (Proposal No. 2) will be approved if the votes cast favoring the proposal exceed the votes cast opposing the proposal. While the vote on executive compensation (Proposal No. 2) is advisory in nature and non-binding, the Board will review the voting results and expects to take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

How are votes counted?

With respect to the election of directors, you may vote "FOR" or "WITHHOLD" with respect to each nominee. Votes that are withheld will be excluded entirely from the vote with respect to the nominee from which they are withheld. Votes that are withheld will not have any effect on the outcome of the election of directors.

You may vote "FOR", "AGAINST" or "ABSTAIN" with respect to the advisory vote on executive compensation (Proposal No. 2). For Proposal No. 2, abstentions will not have any effect on the outcome of the vote.

What is a "broker non-vote" and how does it affect voting on each item?

A broker non-vote occurs when shares held by a broker are not voted with respect to a proposal because (1) the broker has not received voting instructions from the shareholder who beneficially owns the shares and (2) the broker lacks discretionary authority to vote the shares. Each of the proposals contained in this proxy statement is considered a non-discretionary matter and brokers therefore lack discretionary authority to vote shares on any matter at this meeting. Broker non-votes, like other shares that are not voted at the meeting, have no effect on the outcome of the vote on any matter.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the meeting. You may revoke your proxy in any one of the following four ways:

• You may submit another properly completed proxy card with a later date that is received no later than January 29, 2013.

• You may vote again on the Internet or by telephone before the closing of those voting facilities at 11:59 pm (Central time) on January 29, 2013 (only your latest Internet or telephone proxy submitted prior to the Annual Meeting will be counted).

• You may send a written notice that you are revoking your proxy to the Company's Secretary at Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 10047, Portland, Oregon 97296-0047, Attention: Richard C. Josephson, Secretary, or hand-deliver it to the Secretary at or before the taking of the vote at the Annual Meeting.

• You may attend the Annual Meeting, revoke your proxy and vote in person. Simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

• Remember that if you are a beneficial owner of Company shares holding shares in a street name, you may submit new voting instructions by contacting your bank, broker or other nominee. You may also change your vote or revoke your

proxy in person at the Annual Meeting if you obtain a valid proxy from the organization that is the record owner of your shares (such as your broker).

VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The record date for determining shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting was December 4, 2012. At the close of business on December 4, 2012, a total of 26,401,095 shares of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, were outstanding and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. The outstanding common stock consisted of 25,681,272 shares of Class A common stock (Class A) and 719,823 shares of Class B common stock (Class B). Each share of common stock (whether Class A or Class B) is entitled to one vote with respect to each matter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of August 31, 2012 (unless otherwise noted in the footnotes to the table) by (i) persons known to us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our common stock, (ii) each of our current directors, (iii) each nominee for director, (iv) each of our executive officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table (each a "named executive officer" and collectively the "named executive officers"), and (v) all of our current directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise noted in the footnotes to the table, the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all outstanding shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them. Except as noted below, the address of each shareholder in the table is c/o Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 10047, Portland, Oregon 97296-0047. Each Class B share is convertible into one Class A share, and there are no meaningful distinctions between the rights of holders of Class A shares and Class B shares. Accordingly, the following table reports beneficial ownership of common stock in the aggregate and does not distinguish between Class A shares and Class B shares.

| Name of Beneficial Owner or Number of Persons in Group | Common Stock Beneficially Owned | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Royce & Associates LLC | 3,646,548 (1) | 13.8% |
| T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc. | 2,102,625 (2) | 8.0% |
| Advisory Research, Inc. | 2,053,248 (3) | 7.8% |
| Artisan Partners Limited Partnership | 1,885,300 (4) | 7.2% |
| State Street Corporation | 1,533,574 (5) | 5.8% |
| David J. Anderson | — (6) | |
| John D. Carter | 264,466 (7) | 1.0% |
| William A. Furman | 98,679 (8) | * |
| Wayland R. Hicks | 3,600 (6) | * |
| David L. Jahnke | — | |
| Judith A. Johansen | — (9) | |
| William D. Larsson | 1,000 (9) | |
| Scott Lewis | 59,852 (8)(16) | * |
| Kenneth M. Novack | 313,058 (10) | 1.2% |
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 136,687 (11) | * |
| Richard D. Peach | 8,779 | * |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 22,514 (12) | * |
| Richard C. Josephson | 30,329 (13) | * |
| Thomas D. Klauer, Jr. | 21,542 (14) | * |
| All current directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons) | 977,784 (15) | 3.7% |

*Less than 1%

(1) Beneficial ownership as of September 30, 2012 as reported by Royce & Associates, LLC, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10151 in a Form 13F filed by the shareholder.

(2) Beneficial ownership as of September 30, 2012 as reported by T. Rowe Price Associates, Inc., 100 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 in a Form 13F filed by the shareholder.

(3) Beneficial ownership as of September 30, 2012 as reported by Advisory Research, Inc., 8325 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 63105 in a Form 13F filed by the shareholder.

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- (4) Beneficial ownership as of September 30, 2012 as reported by Artisan Partners Limited Partnership, 875 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 800, Milwaukee, WI 53202 in a Form 13F filed by the shareholder.
- (5) Beneficial ownership as of September 30, 2012 as reported by State Street Corporation, One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111 in a Form 13F filed by the shareholder.
- (6) Excludes 9,429 shares covered by deferred stock units ("DSUs") or credited to an account under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "Director DCP").
- (7) Includes 114,020 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (8) Includes 9,000 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012. Excludes 15,908 shares covered by DSUs or credited to an account under the Director DCP.
- (9) Excludes 15,908 shares covered by DSUs or credited to an account under the Director DCP.
- (10) Includes 30,250 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012. Excludes 18,759 shares covered by DSUs or credited to an account under the Director DCP.
- (11) Includes 25,160 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (12) Includes 4,404 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (13) Includes 10,127 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (14) Includes 8,982 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (15) Includes 211,530 shares subject to options that became exercisable prior to October 31, 2012.
- (16) Mr. Lewis's line of credit at a bank is secured by a pledge of the assets held in his securities account maintained by the bank, which includes 50,852 shares of our Class A common stock.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors, executive officers and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our outstanding common stock to file with the SEC reports of changes in ownership of our common stock held by such persons. Executive officers, directors and greater than 10% shareholders are also required to furnish us copies of all forms they file under this regulation. To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and representations that no other reports were required, during fiscal 2012 all of our executive officers, directors and 10% shareholders complied with all applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements.

CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

Thomas D. Klauer, Jr., President of our Auto Parts Business, is the sole shareholder of a corporation that is the 25% minority partner in a partnership in which we are the 75% partner and which operates five self-service stores in Northern California. Mr. Klauer's 25% share of the profits of this partnership totaled \$1,552,404 in fiscal 2012. We and a company owned by Mr. Klauer jointly own the real property at one of these stores, which is leased to the partnership. In fiscal 2012, Mr. Klauer's share of the rent paid by the partnership was \$265,786. The term of this lease expires in December 2015, and the partnership has the option to renew the lease, upon its expiration, for multiple five-year periods. Rent under the lease is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Also in fiscal 2009, Mr. Klauer, through a company of which he is the sole shareholder, acquired ownership of a contiguous parcel of real property, a portion of which is leased to the partnership. The term of this lease expires in December 2015, and the partnership has the option to renew the lease, upon its expiration, for multiple five-year periods. Rent under the lease is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. The rent paid by the partnership to Mr. Klauer's company in fiscal 2012 for this parcel was \$257,886. In addition, in July 2011, we leased a parcel of land in San Jose, California from a company of which Mr. Klauer is the sole shareholder. The lease expired on July 31, 2012. The rent paid to Mr. Klauer's company in fiscal 2012 for this parcel was \$78,000.

Gary Schnitzer, who served as Executive Vice President of the Company until his retirement in March 2012, is the brother-in-law of director Kenneth M. Novack. Gregory Schnitzer, an employee of the Company, is the son of Gary

Schnitzer. In fiscal 2012, Gary Schnitzer and Gregory Schnitzer earned total compensation of \$238,540 and \$312,541, respectively.

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Members of the Schnitzer family, including directors Kenneth M. Novack and Scott Lewis, former executive officer Gary Schnitzer, and members of their respective immediate families, own all of the outstanding stock of MMGL Corp. (formerly Schnitzer Investment Corp.) ("MMGL"), which is engaged in the real estate business and was a subsidiary of the Company prior to 1989. The Company and MMGL are both potentially responsible parties with respect to Portland Harbor, which has been designated as a Superfund site since December 2000. The Company and MMGL have worked together in response to Portland Harbor matters, and prior to 2009 we paid all of the legal and consultant fees for the joint defense, in part due to our environmental indemnity obligation to MMGL with respect to the Portland scrap operations property which is adjacent to the Portland Harbor. In 2009, we agreed with MMGL to an equitable cost sharing arrangement with respect to defense costs under which MMGL pays 50% of the legal and consultant costs, net of insurance recoveries. The amounts receivable from (payable to) MMGL vary from period to period because of the timing of incurring legal and consulting fees, payments for cost reimbursements and insurance recoveries. Amounts receivable from MMGL under this agreement were \$442,540 at August 31, 2012.

The Audit Committee charter requires the Audit Committee to review any transaction or proposed transaction with a related person, or in which a related person has a direct or indirect interest, and determine whether to ratify or approve the transaction, with ratification or approval to occur only if the Audit Committee determines that the transaction is fair to the Company or that approval or ratification of the transaction is in the interest of the Company. The Audit Committee has reviewed and approved or ratified each of the foregoing transactions.

PROPOSAL NO. 1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

We are asking shareholders to elect the three individuals nominated by the Board. Two are current directors and one, David L. Jahnke, has been nominated to the position currently held by Scott Lewis. Mr. Lewis, a member of the Schnitzer family, has been a director since 1998. This change continues a trend which started in 2005 to increase the number of independent directors on the Board.

The Board currently consists of 9 members divided into three classes pursuant to our 2006 Restated Articles of Incorporation and Restated Bylaws. One class of directors is elected each year for a three-year term. The term of Class I directors expires at the 2013 annual meeting; the term of Class II directors expires at the 2014 annual meeting and the term of Class III directors expires at the 2015 annual meeting. Generally, the terms of directors continue until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified.

Action will be taken at the 2013 annual meeting to elect three Class I directors to serve until the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders. Scott Lewis, one of the three current Class I directors, has not been re-nominated for election as a director, and his term as a director will end at the 2013 annual meeting. The nominees for election at the 2013 annual meeting are William A. Furman and William D. Larsson, the other two current Class I directors, and David L. Jahnke. The Board has determined that Mr. Furman, Mr. Larsson and Mr. Jahnke all qualify as independent directors under our Corporate Governance Guidelines, SEC rules and NASDAQ requirements. If any nominee is unable to stand for election, the persons named in the proxy will vote the proxy for a substitute nominee in accordance with the recommendation of the Board. We are not aware of any nominee who is or will be unable to stand for reelection. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors. Proxies received from shareholders of record, unless directed otherwise, will be voted FOR the election of each of the three nominees. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the results of the vote.

Set forth below is the name, age, position with the Company, present principal occupation or employment, five-year employment history and qualifications for service as a director of each of the nominees, as well as the Class II and Class III directors who are continuing to serve.

| Name, Year First Became Director and Director Class | Business Experience and Qualifications | Age as of January 30, 2013 |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Class I Director Nominees | | |

William A. Furman 1993 Director of the Company since September 1993 and a member of the Company's 68 Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees. Since

1981, he has been President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of The Greenbrier Companies, Inc., a publicly-held company engaged in manufacturing, marketing and leasing railcars and other equipment. In addition to his experience as a CEO, Mr. Furman provides expertise in general manufacturing, international business, mergers and acquisitions, logistics, executive compensation, and government and community relations.

| Name, Year First Became Director and Director Class | Business Experience and Qualifications | Age as of January 30, 2013 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
|--|--|----------------------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----|
| William D. Larsson 2006 | <p>Director of the Company since March 2006. Mr. Larsson is Lead Director and Chairman of the Company's Audit Committee. From 2000 until 2009, Mr. Larsson was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Precision Castparts Corp., a leading supplier of precision cast and forged industrial products. Mr. Larsson is a director of Clearwater Paper Corporation where he serves as Chairman of its Nominating and Governance Committee and a member of its Audit Committee. In addition to his experience as a CFO, Mr. Larsson provides expertise in general manufacturing, international business, mergers and acquisitions, executive compensation, strategic analysis, and growth management and organizational integration.</p> | 67 |
|-------------------------|--|----|

| | | |
|-----------------|--|----|
| David L. Jahnke | <p>Nominee for director. Mr. Jahnke worked for KPMG, the international accounting firm, from 1975 until 2010. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Global Lead Partner for a major KPMG client and was located in KPMG's Zurich, Switzerland office. Prior to that time he held positions of increasing responsibility in KPMG, including Office Managing Partner and Audit Partner in Charge of the Minneapolis office from 1999 to 2004. Mr. Jahnke is a Certified Public Accountant in Minnesota and a director of First Interstate Bank System, Inc. where he serves on its Audit and Governance and Nominating Committees. He is also a director of Swiss Re America Holding Corporation where he serves as Chairman of its Audit Committee and is a member of its Executive Committee. Mr. Jahnke brings experience and expertise in accounting and financial reporting, complex financial transactions and international business.</p> | 59 |
|-----------------|--|----|

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES NAMED ABOVE.

| Name, Year First Became Director and Director Class | Business Experience and Qualifications | Age as of January 30, 2013 |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
|---|--|----------------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|----|
| Wayland R. Hicks 2009 | <p>Director of the Company since April 2009 and a member of our Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees. Mr. Hicks served as Director and Vice Chairman of United Rentals, Inc., a construction equipment rental company, from 1998 until March 2009. At United Rentals, Inc., he also served as Chief Executive Officer from December 2003 until June 2007 and Chief Operating Officer from 1997 until December 2003. Mr. Hicks served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Indigo N.V., a manufacturer of commercial and industrial printers, from 1996 to 1997, and as Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nextel Communications Corp. from 1994 to 1995. From 1967 to 1994, he held various executive positions with Xerox Corporation. Mr. Hicks is a director of Perdue Farms Incorporated. In addition to his experience as a CEO, Mr. Hicks provides expertise in operations, general manufacturing, international business, mergers and acquisitions, logistics, executive compensation, and strategic planning and analysis.</p> | 70 |
|-----------------------|--|----|

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| Name, Year First Became Director and Director Class | Business Experience and Qualifications | Age as of January 30, 2013 |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Judith A. Johansen 2006 | <p>Director of the Company since January 2006. Ms. Johansen is chairman of the Company's Compensation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. Ms. Johansen is President of Marylhurst University in Lake Oswego, OR, a position she assumed in July 2008. Ms. Johansen was previously employed by PacifiCorp, an electric utility, as Executive Vice President of Regulation and External Affairs from December 2000 to December 2001 and was President and Chief Executive Officer from December 2001 through March 2006.</p> <p>Ms. Johansen is a director of Cascade BanCorp, IDACORP Inc. and Idaho Power Company, Kaiser Permanente Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan and Roseburg Forest Products Group. In addition to her experience as a CEO, Ms. Johansen provides expertise in the commodities markets, human resources, executive compensation, government and community relations, change management and environmental issues.</p> | 54 |
| Tamara L. Lundgren 2008 | <p>President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Company since December 2008. Ms. Lundgren joined the Company in September 2005 as Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, became Executive Vice President, Strategy & Investments and President of Shared Services in April 2006 and served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from November 2006 to December 2008. Prior to joining the Company, Ms. Lundgren was a managing director in investment banking at JPMorgan Chase, which she joined in 2001. From 1996 until 2001, Ms. Lundgren was a managing director of Deutsche Bank AG in New York and London. Prior to joining Deutsche Bank, Ms. Lundgren was a partner at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson, LLP in Washington, D.C. Ms. Lundgren is a director of Ryder System, Inc. and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Portland Branch.</p> | 55 |
| Class III Directors | | |
| David J. Anderson 2009 | <p>Director of the Company since April 2009 and Chairman of the Company's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a member of our Audit Committee. Mr. Anderson served as Executive Director and Co-Vice Chairman of Sauer-Danfoss Inc., a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture and sale of engineered hydraulic, electric and electronic systems and components, from July 2008 through January 2009. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of Sauer-Danfoss Inc. from July 2002 until January 2009 and a director of Sauer-Danfoss Inc. from July 2002 until July 2008. Mr. Anderson served as Executive Vice President – Strategic Business Development of Sauer-Danfoss Inc. from May 2000 until July 2002. From 1984 to May 2000, he held various senior management positions with Sauer-Danfoss Inc. and Sauer-Danfoss (US) Company. From 1970 to 1984, Mr. Anderson held various executive positions in business development, sales, marketing and applications engineering with manufacturing and distribution businesses in the fluid power industry. Mr. Anderson is a director of Modine Manufacturing Company and serves on its Audit and Corporate Governance and Nominating committees and is Board Chair of MTS Systems Corporation and serves on its Audit Committee. He has also served on the boards of the National Fluid Power Association and the National</p> | 65 |

Fluid Power Association's Technology and Education Foundation, chairing each in 2008 and 2009. In addition to his experience as a CEO, Mr. Anderson provides expertise in general manufacturing, international business, strategic planning, growth management, operational integration and operations.

| Name, Year First Became Director and Director Class | Business Experience and Qualifications | Age as of January 30, 2013 |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
|---|--|----------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----|
| John D. Carter 2005 | <p>Director of the Company since May 2005 and Chairman of the Board since December 2008. Mr. Carter was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from May 2005 to December 2008. From 2002 to May 2005, Mr. Carter was engaged in a consulting practice focused primarily on strategic planning in transportation and energy for national and international businesses, as well as owning other small business ventures. From 1982 to 2002, Mr. Carter served in a variety of senior management capacities at Bechtel Group, Inc., an engineering and construction company, including as Executive Vice President and Director, as well as President of Bechtel Enterprises, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary, and other operating groups. He retired from Bechtel at the end of 2002. Prior to his Bechtel tenure, Mr. Carter was a partner in a San Francisco law firm. He is a director of Northwest Natural Gas Company, FLIR Systems, Inc., and Kuni Automotive. In addition to his prior service as the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Carter brings extensive international business experience and provides expertise in strategic planning and analysis, mergers and acquisitions, operations, environmental affairs, and government relations.</p> | 66 |
|---------------------|---|----|

| | | |
|------------------------|--|----|
| Kenneth M. Novack 1991 | <p>Director of the Company since 1991 and Chairman from May 2005 until December 2008. Mr. Novack is the President of MMGL Corp. Mr. Novack was Chief Executive Officer of MMGL from January 2002 until January 2006, Chairman of the Board of MMGL from 2004 to 2006, and President of MMGL from 1991 until 2002. Mr. Novack served as Chairman of the Board of Liberty Shipping Group from 1991 until 2006 and Chairman of the Board of Lasco Shipping Co. from 2000 to 2003. He is a director of Genesis Financial Solutions, Inc. and a director and Chairman of the Board of Avinger, Inc., a developer and manufacturer of medical devices. In addition to his prior service as an executive officer and former Chairman of the Board of the Company, which provided him extensive experience in the scrap metal industry, Mr. Novack provides expertise in logistics, particularly shipping, international business, commodities, mergers and acquisitions, investor and media relations, and strategic planning and analysis. Mr. Novack is a member of the Schnitzer family.</p> | 67 |
|------------------------|--|----|

Corporate Governance

Our Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the "N&CG Committee"), each of which has a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, copies of which are posted on our website at www.schnitzersteel.com. The Board of Directors has also adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines which are posted on our website.

Director Independence. The Board of Directors has determined that David J. Anderson, William A. Furman, Wayland R. Hicks, Judith A. Johansen and William D. Larsson are, and that David L. Jahnke, the director nominee, will be, "independent directors" as defined by our Corporate Governance Guidelines and NASDAQ listing requirements. Accordingly, a majority of the directors have been determined to be independent directors. The independent directors hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent directors are present.

The independent directors serve on the following committees:

1 = Member C = Chair

| Director | Board Committees |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| | Audit Compensation Nominating & |

| | | | Corporate Governance |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| David J. Anderson | 1 | | C |
| William A. Furman | | 1 | 1 |
| Wayland R. Hicks | | 1 | 1 |
| Judith A. Johansen | 1 | C | |
| William D. Larsson | C | | |

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During fiscal 2012, the Board of Directors held six meetings, the Audit Committee held nine meetings, the Compensation Committee held eleven meetings, and the N&CG Committee held four meetings. Each director other than Kenneth M. Novack attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and committees of the Board on which he or she served that were held during the period for which he or she served. Mr Novack attended four of the six meetings of the Board of Directors held during fiscal 2012, and his absences were the result of either medical issues or family emergency. We encourage all directors to attend each annual meeting of shareholders, and all directors then in office attended the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Board Leadership. The current Board leadership structure separates the role of Chairman and CEO. These roles have been separate since May 2005 and the Board and the N&CG Committee have determined that the current structure continues to be appropriate as it enables Ms. Lundgren to focus on the complexities and challenges of the role as our chief executive officer while enabling Mr. Carter to continue to provide leadership at the Board level. The Board periodically assesses its leadership structure in light of the Company's needs and circumstances.

The Board also has a lead director, who is an independent director. Mr. Larsson has been the lead director since the position was created in November 2008. The lead director's responsibilities include: facilitating effective communication between the Board and management; consulting with the Chairman and CEO; discussing annually with the Chairman the CEO's performance, development and compensation; and presiding at meetings of the Board when the Chairman is not present, including executive sessions of the non-management and the independent Directors. The lead director generally attends all meetings of the Board's committees.

Functions of Board Committees. The principal functions of the Audit Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.schnitzersteel.com and include the following: overseeing our accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of our financial statements; appointing, approving the compensation of, and overseeing the independent auditors; reviewing and approving all audit and non-audit services performed by the independent auditors; reviewing the scope and discussing the results of the audit with the independent auditors; reviewing management's assessment of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting; overseeing the Company's compliance program; overseeing the Company's internal audit function; and reviewing and approving, as appropriate, all transactions of the Company with related persons (see "Certain Transactions"). The Board has determined that each member of the Audit Committee meets all additional independence and financial literacy requirements for Audit Committee membership under the SEC and NASDAQ rules, and has also determined that each of Messrs Anderson and Larsson and Ms. Johansen is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined in regulations adopted by the SEC. The principal functions of the Compensation Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.schnitzersteel.com and include the following: overseeing the administration of the Company's executive and director compensation plans and equity-based plans; overseeing and evaluating the performance of the Executive Chairman and the CEO and determining the Executive Chairman's and the CEO's compensation; administering and interpreting executive compensation plans, the Company's stock plans and all other equity-based plans from time to time adopted by the Company, including our 1993 Stock Incentive Plan ("SIP"); determining the compensation of the other executive officers; in consultation with the N&CG Committee, reviewing and recommending to the Board for approval compensation for members of the Board, including compensation paid to committee members and committee chairs; and overseeing the preparation of executive compensation disclosures included in the Company's proxy statement in accordance with the SEC rules and regulations. For a description of the Committee's activities regarding executive compensation, refer to the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The Board has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee meets the independence standards under Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The principal functions of the N&CG Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.schnitzersteel.com and include the following: identifying, selecting and recommending to the Board individuals proposed to be (i) nominated for election as directors by the shareholders or (ii) elected as directors by the Board to fill vacancies; working with the Chairman of the Board and the Lead Director, seeking to ensure that the Board's committee structure, committee assignments and committee chair assignments are appropriate and effective; developing and recommending to the Board for approval, and reviewing from time to time, a set of corporate governance guidelines for the Company, which includes a process for the evaluation of the Board, its committees and management; developing and maintaining director education opportunities; and monitoring compliance with the

corporate governance guidelines adopted by the Board.

Assessment of Director Qualifications. The N&CG Committee uses a Board composition matrix to inventory the expertise, skills and experience of each director to ensure that the overall Board maintains a balance of knowledge and experience. The Committee carefully reviews all director candidates, including current directors, based on the current and anticipated composition of the Board, our current and anticipated strategy and operating requirements, and the long-term interests of shareholders. While the Board and the N&CG Committee do not have a formal policy on diversity, in conducting this review and assessment, the N&CG Committee strives to achieve diversity on the Board by considering education, experience, length of service on the Board and such other factors as it deems appropriate. The N&CG Committee and the Board define diversity broadly to include the background,

professional experience, skills and viewpoints necessary to achieve a balance and mix of perspectives. In addition, the N&CG Committee annually conducts a self-assessment of the Board, each Board committee and each director to evaluate, among other things, the Board's diversity.

Director Nominations. The N&CG Committee identifies potential director candidates through a variety of means, including recommendations from members of the N&CG Committee or the Board, suggestions from Company management, and shareholder recommendations. The N&CG Committee also may, in its discretion, engage director search firms to identify candidates. David Jahnke, a nominee for election as a Class I director, was recommended as a candidate by a search firm engaged by the N&CG Committee, which also performed reference and background checks as part of its engagement. Shareholders may recommend director candidates for consideration by the N&CG Committee by submitting a written recommendation to the N&CG Committee, c/o Richard C. Josephson, Secretary, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 10047, Portland, Oregon 97296-0047. The recommendation should include the candidate's name, age, qualifications (including principal occupation and employment history), and written consent to be named as a nominee in our proxy statement and to serve as a director, if elected. All recommendations for nomination received by the Secretary that satisfy our bylaw requirements relating to such director nominations will be presented to the N&CG Committee for its consideration. In assessing potential candidates, the N&CG Committee considers the composition of the Board as a whole and the character, background and professional experience of each potential candidate. In its evaluation of potential candidates, the N&CG Committee applies the criteria set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines and considers the following factors: qualification as an "independent director;" character, integrity and mature judgment; accomplishments and reputation in the business community; knowledge of our industry or other industries relevant to our business; specific skills, such as financial expertise, needed by the Board; inquisitive and objective perspective; commitment and ability to devote time and effort to Board responsibilities; and diversity of viewpoints and experience. In considering recommendations regarding the re-nomination of incumbent directors, the N&CG Committee also takes into account the performance of such persons as directors, including the number of meetings attended and the level and quality of participation, as well as the value of continuity and knowledge of the Company gained through Board service. The N&CG Committee meets to discuss and consider the qualifications of each potential new director candidate, whether recommended by shareholders or identified by other means, and determines by majority vote whether to recommend such candidate to the Board of Directors. The final decision to either elect a candidate to fill a vacancy between annual meetings or include a candidate on the slate of nominees proposed at an annual meeting is made by the Board of Directors. In considering the current directors, including the three director nominees proposed for election at the Annual Meeting, the N&CG Committee and the Board specifically considered the background, experiences and qualifications described in their biographies appearing under "Election of Directors" in this proxy statement.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight. We have a comprehensive enterprise risk management process in which management is responsible for managing the Company's risks and the Board and its committees provide oversight of these efforts. We have a Chief Risk Officer who reports to our Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), is responsible for the risk management program and provides quarterly reviews to the Board. Risks are identified, assessed and managed on an ongoing basis and communicated to management during management meetings or otherwise as appropriate. Existing and potential material risks are addressed during periodic executive management meetings, resulting in both Board and Board committee discussion and public disclosure, as appropriate.

The Board is responsible for overseeing management in the execution of its risk management responsibilities and for assessing the Company's approach to risk management. The Board administers this risk oversight function either through the full Board or through its standing committees. The full Board reviews enterprise-wide strategic risks and certain other risk areas on a regular basis. An overall review of risk is inherent in the Board's consideration of our long-term strategies and in the transactions and other matters presented to the Board for approval, including capital expenditures and material acquisitions. The Audit Committee oversees financial risks (including risks associated with accounting, financial reporting, disclosure and internal controls over financial reporting), our compliance programs and legal risks. The Compensation Committee considers risks related to the attraction and retention of management talent and the design of the Company's compensation programs and arrangements. The N&CG Committee considers risks related to corporate governance practices and leadership succession.

Assessment of Compensation Risk. In fiscal 2010, Management and the Compensation Committee conducted an assessment of the risks associated with our compensation programs and determined that they do not create risks which are reasonably likely to have a material adverse impact on us. In conducting the evaluation the Committee, with the assistance of Pearl Meyer & Partners ("PM&P"), its compensation consultant, reviewed our compensation structure and noted numerous ways in which risk is effectively managed or mitigated, including: the balance of corporate and business unit weighting in incentive plans, the balanced mix between short-term and long-term incentives, caps on incentives, use of multiple performance measures, discretion on individual awards, a portfolio of long-term incentives, use of stock ownership guidelines and the existence of an anti-hedging policy for Company stock. In addition, the Committee analyzed the overall enterprise risks and how compensation programs impacted individual behavior that could exacerbate these enterprise risks.

Additionally, we obtained advice from Towers Watson, the Company's compensation consultant, in designing our incentive plans (executive and broad-based) to determine if any practices might encourage excessive risk taking on the part of senior executives. Several of the features of and practices related to our incentive plans (executive and broad-based) mitigate risk, including the use of multiple measures in our annual and long-term incentive plans, Committee discretion in payment of incentives in the executive plans, use of multiple types of long-term incentives, payment caps, significant stock ownership guidelines and our anti-hedging policy for Company stock. In light of these analyses, the Committee believes that the architecture of our compensation programs (executive and broad-based) provide multiple, effective safeguards to protect against undue risk.

Anti-Hedging Policy for Company Stock. Our stock trading policy, applicable to our directors and employees, prohibits engaging in any short sale of our stock, establishing or using a margin account with a broker-dealer for the purpose of buying or selling our stock or using it as collateral therefor, or buying or selling puts, calls, prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars, exchange funds or other instruments or derivatives designed to hedge the value of our stock.

Communication with Directors. Shareholders desiring to communicate directly with the Board of Directors, or with any individual director, may do so in writing addressed to the intended recipient or recipients c/o Richard C. Josephson, Secretary, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 10047, Portland, Oregon 97296-0047. All such communications will be reviewed and forwarded to the designated recipient or recipients in a timely manner.

Director Compensation

The following table sets forth certain information concerning compensation paid to directors other than Ms. Lundgren during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012 (unless otherwise noted in the footnotes to the table).

| Name | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)(1) | Stock Awards (\$)(2) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(3) | All Other Compensation (\$)(4) | Total (\$) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| David J. Anderson | 72,995 | 120,000 | — | — | 192,995 |
| Robert S. Ball(5) | 37,005 | — | — | — | 37,005 |
| John D. Carter | 900,000 | — | 157,453 | 64,303 | 1,121,756 |
| William A. Furman | 70,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 190,000 |
| Wayland R. Hicks | 70,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 190,000 |
| Judith A. Johansen | 80,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 200,000 |
| William D. Larsson | 115,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 235,000 |
| Scott Lewis | 70,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 190,000 |
| Kenneth M. Novack | 70,000 | 120,000 | — | — | 190,000 |
| Jean S. Reynolds(5) | 35,000 | — | — | — | 35,000 |

Includes amounts deferred at the election of a director under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, which is described below. For Mr. Carter, represents base salary paid pursuant to his employment (1) agreement as the Chairman of the Board (as described below) and, as described below, a \$250,000 cash bonus awarded by the Compensation Committee in respect of his fiscal 2012 performance in lieu of RSUs valued at \$750,000 to which he was entitled under his employment agreement and waived.

(2) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of awards computed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Classification ("ASC") Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. These amounts reflect the grant date fair value and may not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the directors. Stock awards consist of DSUs valued using the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on the grant date. On January 25, 2012, the date of the Company's 2012 Annual Meeting, each director then in office other than Mr. Carter and Ms. Lundgren was automatically granted DSUs for 2,600.217 shares. The grant date fair value of this DSU grant to each director was \$120,000 (or \$46.15 per share) which was equal to the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the grant date. These DSUs vest on January 29, 2013 (the day before the 2013 annual

meeting), subject to continued Board service. The DSUs become fully vested on the earlier death or disability of a director or a change in control of the Company (as defined in the DSU award agreement). After the DSUs have become vested, directors will be credited with additional whole or fractional shares to reflect dividends that would have been paid on the stock subject to the DSUs. The Company will issue Class A common stock to a director pursuant to vested DSUs in a lump sum in January of the year following the year the director ceases to be a director of the Company, subject to the right of the director to elect an installment payment program under the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors.

At August 31, 2012, each non-employee director held unvested DSUs for 2,600.217 shares, and non-employee directors held outstanding options to purchase the following number of shares of Class A common stock: 9,000 each by Messrs. Furman and Lewis; and 30,250 by Mr. Novack.

At August 31, 2012, Mr. Carter held (i) unvested RSUs for a total of 24,123 shares which will vest in 2013 or upon his earlier termination of employment and (ii) outstanding vested stock options to purchase 22,020 shares at \$34.46 per share and 92,000 shares at \$25.11 per share which expire in 2015 or one year after termination of his employment, if earlier. On June 1, 2012, Mr. Carter acquired 4,705 shares with a value of \$120,824 on vesting of previously granted RSUs.

Represents changes in the actuarial present value of accumulated benefits under the Company's Pension Retirement (3) Plan and the Company's Supplemental Executive Retirement Bonus Plan. At August 31, 2012, the actuarial present value of Mr. Carter's accumulated benefits under these plans was \$433,359.

Includes Company matching contributions of \$10,000 to Mr. Carter's account under the 401(k) Plan, \$20,739 in (4) premiums paid for medical plans, \$3,564 in premiums paid for life, disability and other insurance, and a \$30,000 automobile allowance.

(5) Mr. Ball and Ms. Reynolds ceased to be directors of the Company on January 25, 2012.

The annual fee for non-employee directors is \$70,000 (\$105,000 for Mr. Larsson as Lead Director). We do not pay fees for attendance at Board and committee meetings. The annual cash retainer for the Chairs of the Audit and Compensation Committees is \$10,000 and for the Chair of the N&CG Committee is \$5,000.

In 2004, directors began participating in the Company's SIP, and in 2004 and 2005 non-employee directors received stock option grants. Since August 2006, non-employee directors have been awarded DSUs instead of stock options.

One DSU gives the director the right to receive one share of Class A common stock at a future date (as described in footnote 2 above). At each annual meeting of shareholders, each non-employee director receives DSUs for a number of shares equal to \$120,000 divided by the closing market price of the Class A common stock on the grant date.

Non-employee directors may elect to defer all or part of their compensation under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, which was adopted by the Board in 2006. Directors' cash fees are credited to a cash account or a stock account, as selected by the director. Payments from the cash account are paid in cash, and payments from the stock account are paid in Class A common stock. The cash account is credited with quarterly interest equal to the average interest rate paid by us under our senior revolving credit agreement (or if there are no borrowings in a quarter, at the prime rate) plus two percent. The stock account is credited with additional whole or partial shares reflecting dividends that would have been paid on the shares. Deferred amounts are paid in a single payment or in equal annual installment payments for up to 15 years commencing in January following the date the director ceases to be a director. DSUs are credited to the directors' stock accounts under the plan when the DSUs become vested, and the awards are administered under the plan. A director may elect to receive stock under a DSU in equal annual installment payments for up to 15 years commencing in January following the date the director ceases to be a director.

Mr. Carter served as the Company's CEO until December 2008, when he was succeeded in that position by our current CEO, Ms. Lundgren. At that time, Mr. Carter entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with the Company to serve as our Chairman of the Board. Mr. Carter's employment agreement was further amended and restated in June 2011 to govern the terms and conditions of his employment as the Chairman through December 1, 2014. However, Mr. Carter subsequently decided to retire as an employee of the Company effective December 28, 2012 while continuing as a non-employee Chairman of the Board. His employment agreement was further amended in November 2012 to address matters related to his retirement and to specify his compensation for services as non-employee Chairman through December 31, 2014. As amended in June 2011 and in effect during fiscal 2012, Mr. Carter's employment agreement provided for (i) an annual base salary of \$650,000, subject to annual review and increase, but not decrease, by the Committee and (ii) an RSU award following the end of each Company fiscal year having an aggregate grant date fair value of not less than \$750,000 and, unless the Compensation Committee determined otherwise, not more than \$900,000, with the actual award to be determined by the Compensation Committee in its discretion. The agreement provided that the RSUs would vest on the earlier of two years from the grant date or any termination of Mr. Carter's employment other than termination for cause. In August 2012, Mr. Carter requested, and the Compensation Committee agreed, to waive his right to be awarded RSUs in the range noted above

and to the substitution of a \$250,000 cash bonus for the RSU award that would have been issued in October 2012 under his employment agreement. The November 2012 amendment requested by Mr. Carter reduced his cash compensation, eliminated his RSU awards and provided that (a) commencing December 29, 2012, Mr. Carter will receive an annual fee of \$500,000, payable quarterly in arrears, for service as non-employee Chairman and be ineligible for other compensation paid to non-employee directors, (b) he will receive continuation of health insurance benefits for 60 months following his retirement, and (c) his outstanding stock options were amended to postpone termination by treating continued board service as if it were continued employment.

If Mr. Carter's employment had terminated on August 31, 2012 and his employment agreement as amended in November 2012 had been in effect at that time, he would have been entitled to continuation of health insurance benefits for 60 months and life and accident insurance benefits for 24 months at an aggregate cost of \$267,000 based on current rates, and he would have become vested in RSUs for 24,123 shares with a value of \$666,277.

If Mr. Carter's employment had been terminated by the Company without cause or by Mr. Carter for good reason on August 31, 2012, Mr. Carter would have been entitled to a cash severance benefit equal to three times the sum of his base salary and the minimum annual RSU grant value under his employment agreement, or a total of \$4,200,000.

Under the November 2012 amendment to his employment agreement this provision will no longer be effective following Mr. Carter's retirement, currently expected to be December 28, 2012.

We have entered into indemnity agreements with each director pursuant to which we agree to indemnify such director in connection with any claims or proceedings involving the director by reason of serving as a director of the Company, as provided in the agreement.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides a detailed description of our executive compensation philosophy and programs, the decisions that the Compensation Committee (the "Committee") has made under those programs and the factors considered in those decisions. The Compensation Discussion and Analysis focuses on the compensation of our named executive officers for fiscal 2012, who were:

| Name | Title |
|------------------------|--|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | President and Chief Executive officer |
| Richard D. Peach | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Patrick L. Christopher | Senior Vice President and President, Metals Recycling Business |
| Richard C. Josephson | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary |
| Thomas D. Klauer | Senior Vice President and President, Auto Parts Business |

How Executive Pay is Tied to Company Performance

Our executive compensation programs are designed to reward executive officers for driving our business strategy and creating shareholder value by paying for performance consistent with an acceptable risk profile. The foundation of our compensation philosophy is to:

- Promote creation of shareholder value;
- Attract and retain qualified high performing executive officers;
- Motivate high levels of performance; and
- Be competitive in the market for talent.

Our executive compensation program emphasizes delivering compensation at a competitive market level which will allow us to reward performance with appropriate compensation and allow executive officers who demonstrate consistent performance over a multi-year period to earn compensation above the executive's annual target when we achieve above-targeted long-term performance and, conversely, to provide less than the annual target compensation when performance does not meet expectations. Our executive compensation program is designed to have sufficient flexibility to reward the achievement of the goals for each of our business units, but to do so within the overall objectives for performance of the Company as a whole. Individual executive compensation may be above or below the annual target level based on the Company's performance, the individual's performance, contribution to the organization, experience, expertise and skills, economic and market conditions and other relevant factors.

Business Performance

In fiscal 2012, we delivered full-year revenues of \$3.3 billion and adjusted diluted earnings per share (for the definition of adjusted diluted earnings per share and a reconciliation of this measure to diluted earnings per share, see "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" on pages 39 and 40 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012) of \$1.11, excluding the fourth quarter restructuring charge of \$0.12 per share. We generated \$245 million of operating cash flows which allowed us to successfully continue to pursue our balanced capital allocation strategy. We invested \$85 million in capital expenditures and acquisitions, we repurchased 1.1 million shares, or 4% of our outstanding Class A common stock, and we increased our annual dividend to \$0.75 per share while reducing our debt by more than \$100 million by fiscal year end.

Our Metals Recycling Business ("MRB") shipped 5.1 million ferrous tons and 629 million nonferrous pounds while continuing to execute our strategy for growth, which included achieving higher nonferrous yields, delivering enhanced operational synergies and expanding our geographic platform.

Our Auto Parts Business ("APB") focused on maximizing throughput across its 51 locations, generating an 11% operating margin on an aggregate of 339 thousand cars purchased.

Our Steel Manufacturing Business ("SMB") increased volumes 2%, which drove a full-year utilization rate of 58%. Although we demonstrated solid execution of our strategy and maintained stable volumes amid declining market conditions, our financial performance was below the expectations used to set the targets for fiscal 2012 in our executive compensation program.

Because our executive compensation program is designed to pay for performance, actual compensation in fiscal 2012 was lower than the fiscal 2012 target levels and fiscal 2011 actual compensation, which aligned with the Company's financial performance during the period as reflected by the following:

In its April 2012 salary review, the Committee did not increase the base salaries of the CEO or any of the other named executive officers.

Due to the Company's lower fiscal 2012 financial performance, our annual incentive plan would have paid out below target for the CEO and the other named executive officers except Mr. Christopher. Consistent with our compensation objective to reward consistent performance over a multi-year period, the CEO and the other named executive officers waived all, or in the case of Mr. Christopher 25%, of their annual cash bonuses and instead received a premium-priced (also known as "out-of-the-money") option grant with a two-year vesting period and a five-year term which was priced at 120% of the market price of our Class A Common Stock on the grant date and, in the case of the CEO, also included an RSU grant which will vest on the fifth anniversary of the grant date.

Payouts under the 2010 to 2012 performance-based long term incentive program also reflected the Company's fiscal 2012 performance, as the payout factors for the fiscal 2012 EPS and ROCE metrics were zero.

In November 2011 the Committee granted time-based RSUs in lieu of performance share awards in light of the market uncertainties, including the escalation of the European financial crisis, which made establishing multi-year performance targets for fiscal 2012-2014 extremely difficult. In making this decision, the Committee considered our compensation objectives to align our executives' interests with the interests of shareholders and to attract and retain qualified high performing executive officers.

The Executive Compensation Process

Role of the Compensation Committee. The Committee is responsible for:

- Developing and making recommendations to the Board with respect to our compensation policies and programs;
- Determining the levels of all compensation to be paid to our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers (including annual base salary and incentive compensation, equity incentives and benefit plans); and
- Granting stock options, performance shares, RSUs, and other awards under and administering our SIP.

The Committee cannot delegate this authority. The Committee regularly reports its activities to the Board.

The Committee is comprised of three directors, each of whom has been determined by the Board to be independent under our Corporate Governance Guidelines and applicable SEC and NASDAQ rules. Currently, the members of the Committee are Judith A. Johansen, Chair, William A. Furman and Wayland R. Hicks. The Committee operates pursuant to a written charter (available on the Company's website at http://www.schnitzersteel.com/documents/compensation_committee_charter_apr_12.pdf) which is reviewed by the Committee on an annual basis and approved by the Board. The Committee meets at least quarterly and more frequently as circumstances require.

Use of Compensation Consultants. The Committee has authority to retain compensation consultants to assist it in the evaluation of executive officer and employee compensation and benefit programs. The Committee directly retained Pearl Meyer & Partners ("PM&P") as its compensation consultant for fiscal 2012. In fiscal 2012, PM&P performed, among others, the following services for the Committee:

- Attended Committee meetings by telephone;
- Reviewed peer group for long-term incentive design;
- Discussed executive compensation trends with the Committee and reviewed materials supplied to the Committee by management and Towers Watson, the Company's compensation consultant;
- Discussed with the Committee shareholder reactions to the recommendations of Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") and Glass Lewis on the Company's advisory vote on executive compensation.
- Reviewed our director compensation practices and prepared a director pay analysis;
- Reviewed and discussed with the Committee Towers Watson's long-term incentive plan analysis;

Reviewed and provided comments on named executive officers' compensation;
Reviewed and provided comments for the Committee's consideration on the proposed waivers by the CEO and certain other executive officers of their fiscal 2012 annual cash bonus and the grant of premium priced (also referred to as "out-of-the-money") options and RSUs in lieu of fiscal 2012 bonuses;
Reviewed and provided comments on the Compensation Discussion and Analysis in the proxy statement for the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders; and
Provided market information on pay levels, practices and plan design for selected executive positions.
PM&P and its affiliates did not perform any additional services for the Company or any of its affiliates in fiscal 2012. We retain Towers Watson as the Company's separate compensation consultant to advise management. During fiscal 2012, Towers Watson assisted management with the following matters:
Provided information on peer group financial and market performance;
Provided advice on the proposed waivers by the CEO and certain other executive officers of their fiscal 2012 annual cash bonuses and the grant of premium priced (also referred to as "out-of-the-money") options and RSUs in lieu of fiscal 2012 bonuses; and
Reviewed and provided advice on our long-term incentive plan design and grant guidelines, evaluated our aggregate share use and economic dilution compared to market practice and reviewed proposed equity grants for eligible participants.

While Towers Watson acts as management's compensation consultant and assists management in formulating its recommendation of compensation for our executive officers, the Committee separately engaged PM&P as its compensation consultant to avoid any conflict of interest.

The Committee's independent compensation consultant provides information and data to the Committee from their surveys, proprietary data bases and other sources, which the Committee utilizes along with information provided by management and obtained from other sources. In making its decisions, the Committee reviews such information and data provided to it by its independent compensation consultant and management and also draws on expertise and information from within the Company, including from the human resources, legal and finance groups. The Committee considers executive and director compensation matters at its quarterly meetings and at special meetings as needed based on our annual compensation schedule.

CEO's Role in the Compensation-Setting Process. The CEO, with the assistance of Towers Watson, makes recommendations to the Committee regarding compensation for the other executive officers. The CEO participates in Committee meetings at the Committee's request to provide background information regarding our strategic objectives and to evaluate the performance of and compensation recommendations for the other executive officers. The Committee utilizes the information provided by the CEO along with other information from within the Company, input from its compensation consultant and the knowledge and experience of the Committee members in making compensation decisions. The Chair of the Committee, with input from the Chairman, recommends the CEO's compensation to the Committee in executive session, not attended by the CEO.

Annual Evaluation. The Committee annually evaluates the performance of the executive officers with the input of the CEO and, in executive session, evaluates the performance of the CEO and determines the annual incentive bonuses for all of the executive officers for the prior fiscal year. The Committee also approves the executive officers' performance objectives for the current fiscal year, reviews and, if appropriate, adjusts their base salaries and annual incentive plan targets, and considers and approves Long Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP") grants.

Performance Objectives. The Committee approved performance objectives for fiscal 2012 based, in part, on an active dialogue with the CEO and the Chairman regarding strategic objectives and performance targets. The Committee evaluates the appropriateness of the financial measures used in incentive plans and the degree of difficulty in achieving specific performance targets.

Competitive Market Overview. While the Committee does not believe that it is appropriate to establish compensation levels based solely on benchmarking, it believes that information regarding pay practices at peer companies is useful in two respects. First, the Committee recognizes that our compensation practices must be competitive in the marketplace, and reviewing market pay practices provides a framework for assessing competitiveness. Second, marketplace information is one of the many factors that the Committee considers in assessing the reasonableness of compensation. Although the Committee considers compensation levels for executive

officers of other companies, it does not mechanically apply the data but rather engages in a rigorous quantitative

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and qualitative review and weighing of the competitive information with other Company and individual performance factors, such as our specific business strategy, financial situation, and performance, in making its compensation determinations.

Because we operate three distinct but related businesses, we have no direct market peers. Accordingly, determining market comparisons requires review of companies in the metals recycling, auto parts and steel manufacturing businesses, as well as broader industrial and financial markets from which we attract executive talent. In addition, we seek specialized and top caliber executive officers from the broad national and international business executive pools. Proxy data from relevant companies, as well as input from both the Company's and the Committee's compensation consultants, are utilized. While total compensation is periodically compared to the competitive market, in setting compensation for the named executive officers other than the CEO the Committee generally does not target a specific level (such as median) but rather reviews competitive information to determine the general level of reasonableness. For fiscal 2012, the Committee continued to reference data provided by both Towers Watson and PM&P in fiscal 2011, which Towers Watson and PM&P advised the Committee was unchanged in 2012. Towers Watson provided information in 2011 from its 2010 general industry compensation database for companies with revenues between \$1 billion and \$6 billion. PM&P provided data in 2011 on CEO compensation from the following companies: AK Steel Holding Corp., Allegheny Technologies Inc., Carpenter Technology Corp., Commercial Metals, LKQ Corp., Nucor Corp., Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co., Sims Metal Management Ltd., Steel Dynamics Inc., and Worthington Industries. This was the peer group utilized by PM&P in fiscal 2011. Because we have no direct market peers for the reasons discussed above, companies were selected from among our direct competitors and other similar companies in each of our business segments in forming the peer groups.

2012 Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

We regularly meet with shareholders and solicit their feedback on a variety of topics, including our executive compensation practices. Prior to our 2012 annual meeting, we had substantive discussions with many of our larger institutional holders regarding our performance-based compensation structure. Due to the high volatility of our stock price which does not necessarily align with operational and financial performance during the fiscal year, we utilize metric-driven performance criteria which provide for incentive payouts commensurate with our strategic goals, but not necessarily with total shareholder returns during the performance period. In fiscal 2011, we achieved 50% revenue growth, 48% operating income growth, and 48% diluted earnings per share growth from continuing operations and successfully executed on our strategy to expand our platform in each of our key regions, closing 10 acquisitions while making significant investments in technology. We also generated strong operating cash flows of \$140 million, which enabled us to reduce our leverage while repurchasing \$10 million of our Class A Common stock. This strong performance in fiscal 2011 led to correspondingly strong incentive payouts during fiscal 2011. While shareholders voted in favor of the advisory vote on executive compensation submitted to shareholders at our 2012 annual meeting and generally reacted positively to our compensation philosophy and structure, in light of the voting results we continued detailed discussions with our institutional shareholders on our executive pay practices. As a result of our discussions with shareholders, we made a number of changes during fiscal 2012 to more strongly emphasize our pay-for-performance philosophy and reflect our commitment to compensation best practices, and our Compensation Committee addressed a number of shareholder concerns during fiscal 2012, including:

- CEO performance-based equity awards. We ensured that half of the CEO's annual long term incentive grants were performance-based.

We aligned executive compensation with future performance and reduced cash compensation. Each of the named executive officers waived all (or, in the case of Mr. Christopher, a portion) of their short-term cash incentive awards for fiscal 2012, which generally would have paid out significantly below target, in exchange for a premium-priced (also known as "out-of-the-money") option grant with a two-year vesting period and a five-year term which was priced at 120% of the market price of our Class A Common Stock on the grant date and, in the case of the CEO, also included an RSU grant with a five-year term. The awards to the CEO and each named executive officer had a grant date fair value equal to the target bonus. These grants further incentivize management to successfully execute on the restructuring initiatives undertaken in August 2012 and to optimize operational performance going forward.

Elements of Compensation

Our executive compensation program consists of the following:

Base Salary

Annual Incentive Programs (variable)

Long Term Incentive Program (variable)

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Stock Options
Restricted Stock Units
Performance Shares
Executive Benefits
Retirement Benefits
Change in Control Agreements
Indemnity Agreements
Other Benefits

Purpose of Each Component. The portion of total compensation delivered in the form of base salary and benefits is intended to provide a competitive foundation and fixed rate of pay for the work being performed and associated level of responsibility commensurate with each executive's position and contributions to the Company. Base salary is used to establish target payouts under the annual incentive programs. A substantial portion of the compensation opportunity beyond base salary is at risk and must be earned based upon achievement of annual and long-term performance goals, which represent performance expectations of the Board and management. The annual incentive programs are designed to drive the achievement of annual goals such as operating goals, financial goals and individual performance goals and take into account business segment performance, Company performance and individual performance. In setting compensation, the Committee focuses on total compensation opportunity for the executive and not on a specific percentage of total compensation for any particular element. In making compensation decisions, the Committee generally reviews tally sheets prepared by the Company's compensation consultant which calculate each executive officer's total compensation opportunity.

The LTIP, which is established under the SIP and presently provides for grants of stock options, RSUs and performance shares, is designed to encourage executive officers to focus on long-term shareholder value creation. Stock options and RSUs are used to reward absolute share price appreciation over the long term, while the performance shares are used to incent executive officers to achieve long-term financial goals. The proportion of compensation designed to be delivered in base salary versus variable pay depends on the executive officer's position and the opportunity for that position to influence performance outcomes, and the relative levels of compensation are based on differences in the levels and scope of responsibilities of the executive officers. Generally, the more senior the level of the executive officer, the greater the amount of pay opportunity that is variable.

The relationship between fixed and variable pay in our compensation program is illustrated by the following charts, which show the relative portions of base salary, target annual incentive and target value of LTIP equity awards that together comprised the fiscal 2012 target total direct compensation of our CEO and our other named executive officers and the relative portions of base salary, actual annual incentive and actual grant date value of the equity awards (stock options, RSUs and performance shares) that together comprised the fiscal 2012 actual total direct compensation of our CEO and other named executive officers:

Chief Executive Officer -- Total Direct Compensation - Fiscal 2012

Named Executive Officers other than CEO -- Total Direct Compensation - Fiscal 2012

Details of Each Component of Compensation

Realized Compensation

The table below supplements the "Summary Compensation Table" and shows the compensation actually realized in fiscal 2012 for the CEO. The primary difference between this supplemental table and the "Summary Compensation Table" is the method used to value LTIP performance shares, stock options and RSU awards. SEC rules require that the grant date fair value of all LTIP performance shares, stock options and RSU awards be reported in the "Summary Compensation Table" for the year that they were granted. As a result, a significant portion of the total compensation reported in the "Summary Compensation Table" is in the form of grant date fair value of LTIP performance shares, stock options and RSU awards, which are designed to align our management incentives with long-term shareholder value. These awards have not vested and the ultimate value is therefore uncertain (and the value may end up being significantly less or none). In contrast, the supplemental table below includes only LTIP performance shares, stock options and RSU awards that vested during or were based on performance in fiscal 2012 and the value of those awards as of the applicable vesting date. There is no assurance that the CEO will actually realize the value attributed to these awards in this supplemental table, since the ultimate value of the stock options will depend on whether and when the stock options are exercised and the underlying shares are liquidated, and the ultimate value of the LTIP performance shares and RSU awards will depend on when the released shares are liquidated.

| Compensation Component | Period Earned | Amount Realized | Performance Results |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Plan Triggered Payout | | | |
| Base Salary | FY12 | \$1,000,000 | The CEO did not receive an increase in fiscal 2012. The payout for the CEO was calculated at below target for fiscal 2012, and the CEO waived a cash payout (\$960,000) in exchange for a premium-priced (also known as an "out-of-the-money") stock option and an RSU grant. The aggregate grant date fair value of the option and RSU grant was equal to 98% of her target bonus of \$1,500,000. This approach was taken to incentivize the CEO with an award that would generally provide value only to the extent that the Company achieved superior stock price performance over the term of the option. |
| Annual Incentive | FY12 | — | This represents the vesting of LTIP performance shares awarded in fiscal 2010. While EPS and ROCE performance in fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2011 exceeded targets, the fiscal 2012 performance did not reach threshold levels. Therefore, one-third of the award had a payout factor of zero. The amount reflects the average of the payout factors over the three year performance period which ended at the end of fiscal 2012. |
| Performance-Based Stock Vested | FY10-FY12 | 825,108 | This represents the vesting of 20% of each of the time-based RSU awards granted in fiscal 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and 100% of the RSU award granted in April 2010. The Company uses restricted stock to retain top talent and further align the interests of management with those shareholders. The grants generally vest 20% per year over five years. |
| Time-Based Restricted Stock Units Vested | FY12 | 1,706,467 | This represents the final portion that vested in fiscal 2012 of the one-time signing bonus of \$900,000 to defray costs associated with arranging housing in Portland received under the CEO's amended employment agreement executed in 2008. |
| Sign-on Bonus | FY12 | 75,000 | |
| Total | | \$3,606,575 | |

Executive Triggered
Exercise

Stock Option Exercises

—

The CEO did not exercise any stock options in fiscal 2012.

Total

\$3,606,575

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Components of Compensation

Base Salary. Base salaries paid to executive officers are intended to attract and retain highly talented individuals. The Committee reviews executive officers' base salaries on an annual basis, and base salary adjustments generally become effective in the spring of each year. Base salaries for executive officers are set on the basis of their individual performance and relevant business skills, scope of duties and sustained contributions to our success, as well as competitive information as to similar positions in other relevant companies, taking into consideration relative company size and geographic location.

In its April 2012 salary review, the Committee did not increase the base salaries of any of the named executive officers due to the Company's performance to date for the fiscal year, overall market conditions and the Committee's belief that their salaries were still reasonable in light of market survey data. Mr. Christopher's base salary had been increased from \$442,700 to \$550,000 in March 2012 when he was promoted to Senior Vice President and President, Metals Recycling Business. This salary level was recommended by the CEO based on an analysis of salary levels for comparable positions in the scrap metal industry and the historical salary levels of his predecessor.

Annual Incentive Programs. The Committee approves annual performance-based compensation under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement and, for the other named executive officers, under the Annual Incentive Compensation Plan ("AICP"). A target bonus, expressed as a percentage of either base salary as of the end of the fiscal year or base salary paid during the fiscal year, is established for each named executive officer. Ms. Lundgren's fiscal 2012 target bonus percentage was established in the June 2011 amendment to her employment agreement (see "Employment Agreements"). For other executive officers, the Committee annually reviews the target bonus percentages and approves any adjustments, which generally take effect immediately and apply on a pro-rated basis to bonuses payable for the current fiscal year. Other than Mr. Christopher (discussed below) there were no adjustments to named executive officer target bonus percentages in fiscal 2012.

Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs. On August 28, 2012, the Committee approved a modification to our fiscal 2012 annual incentive programs for the named executive officers with the general intent that premium-priced (also referred to as "out-of-the-money") five-year stock options would be granted in lieu of fiscal 2012 bonus, with the aggregate grant date fair value of the options being equal to 100% of each officer's fiscal 2012 target bonus amount. The Committee recognized at the time of this decision that our fiscal 2012 financial performance would result in bonus payouts below target, but wanted to incentivize senior management with awards that would provide value only to the extent that we achieved superior stock price performance over the next five years and thereby further align the interests of management and shareholders in creating long-term value. Accordingly, Ms. Lundgren, Mr. Peach, Mr. Klauer and Mr. Josephson all waived their rights to any annual cash bonus payments for fiscal 2012, and in exchange therefor the Committee (1) granted Mr. Peach, Mr. Klauer and Mr. Josephson each a premium priced (also known as "out-of-the-money") non-statutory stock option with an aggregate grant date fair value equal to each such executive officer's fiscal 2012 target bonus amount and (2) granted Ms. Lundgren a similar option for 150,000 shares, which is the maximum option grant per employee per calendar year permitted under the SIP, and, to make up 80% of the difference between the grant date fair value of that option and her fiscal 2012 target bonus, an RSU award for 2,763 shares. As discussed below, Mr. Christopher's fiscal 2012 AICP bonus goals established in connection with his promotion in March 2012 were based solely on the design, implementation and achievement of a cost reduction program for MRB. He was asked to waive, and did waive, 25% of his fiscal 2012 bonus in exchange for an option with a grant date fair value equal to the waived bonus amount. The exercise price of all of the options granted under this modification was set at \$34.75 per share, which was 120% of the closing price of our Class A Common Stock on the grant date. The options have a term of five years and become exercisable for 100% of the shares covered thereby on the second anniversary of the grant date. The options will become 100% exercisable upon a change in control of the Company or if the option holder's employment is terminated as a result of death or disability, but not retirement. The RSUs granted to Ms. Lundgren will vest and the underlying shares will be issued to her subject to her continued employment through August 28, 2017, subject to possible accelerated vesting upon a change in control, death or disability, but not retirement.

The following paragraphs describe the terms of our fiscal 2012 annual incentive programs as originally approved, as well as the level of achievement of performance goals and bonus payouts that would have been made if not for the waiver of those bonuses and substitution of options and RSUs. In accordance with SEC rules, the amounts that would

have been paid under the annual incentive programs if not for the waivers are listed in the "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" column of the "Summary Compensation Table" and the incremental grant date fair value of the options and RSUs granted over the amounts that would have been paid are listed in the "Option Awards" and "Stock Awards" columns of the "Summary Compensation Table."

Annual Performance Bonus Program for Ms. Lundgren. The employment agreement between the Company and Ms. Lundgren provides for an annual bonus program consisting of two parts: a bonus based on achievement of Company financial performance targets and a bonus based on achievement of management objectives. The total target bonus opportunity under both components for each fiscal year is stated in her employment agreement to be 150% of her base salary as of the fiscal year end, with half of the total target bonus allocated to each part.

For the Company financial performance part of Ms. Lundgren's bonus program in fiscal 2012, the Committee utilized two objective performance targets relating to the Company. Half of this part of the bonus was based on our "Adjusted EPS" for fiscal 2012, defined as our reported diluted earnings per share for fiscal 2012 before extraordinary items and the cumulative effects of changes in accounting principles, adjusted to eliminate the impact of four items – costs relating to government investigations into the Company's past payment practices in Asia ("Investigation Expenses"); charges in fiscal 2012 for the impairment of goodwill or other intangible assets ("Impairments"); any profits or losses of discontinued operations and any gains or losses from the disposition of a business or a material amount of assets ("Discontinued Ops"); and changes in environmental liabilities recorded in fiscal 2012 in connection with the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (the "Site"), investigation and remediation costs and natural resource damage claims and the fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Site (net of any insurance or other reimbursements) ("Portland Harbor Items"). The other half of this part of the bonus was driven by our growth strategy and based on the return on capital employed ("ROCE") of our Metals Recycling and Auto Parts Businesses for fiscal 2012, consisting of the sum of the adjusted operating income ("AOI") of MRB and the AOI of APB for fiscal 2012 divided by the sum of the Average Capital Employed ("ACE") of MRB and the ACE of APB for fiscal 2012. AOI for each business segment for fiscal 2012 was defined as the business segment's operating income for fiscal 2012, adjusted to eliminate the impact of Investigation Expenses, Impairments, Discontinued Ops and Portland Harbor Items, and then reduced by our overall effective tax rate for fiscal 2012. ACE for each business segment for fiscal 2012 was generally defined as the average during the year of the business' assets less its liabilities other than debt and excluding intercompany payables and receivables. Unlike the AICP, the Committee does not retain discretion to adjust Adjusted EPS or ROCE for any items other than Investigation Expenses, Impairments, Discontinued Ops and Portland Harbor Items. The Adjusted EPS performance goals were \$2.93 per share for a 0.5x payout, \$3.87 per share for a 1x target payout, \$4.81 per share for a 2x payout, and \$5.03 per share for a 3x payout which is the maximum bonus payout under each part of the program as provided by Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement. Payout for Adjusted EPS performance below the \$2.93 per share and between each payout level is calculated using a linear calculation. We consider ROCE performance goals to be confidential financial information, the disclosure of which would result in competitive harm to us because it would reveal information about our growth profile and the anticipated effects of acquisitions, none of which is otherwise made public. The Adjusted EPS and ROCE target goals were set based on our budget and outlook for fiscal 2012 and were set at levels that the Committee considered challenging but achievable based on conditions at the time, including the divisional fiscal 2012 budgets, most recent forecasts and expected impacts of growth initiatives, capital projects and operational improvements undertaken in fiscal 2011 and planned for fiscal 2012, and the cyclical nature of our business. We reported EPS for fiscal 2012 of \$0.99 per share and Adjusted EPS of \$1.00 per share after adjustments to eliminate the impacts in fiscal 2012 of Investigation Expenses and Portland Harbor Items. If Ms. Lundgren had not waived her bonus, the payout multiple for this part of the bonus program would have been 0.22x, representing the average of the 0.17x potential payout resulting from achievement of the Adjusted EPS metric and the 0.28x potential payout resulting from achievement of the ROCE metric. This would have resulted in a cash bonus of \$165,000 for Ms. Lundgren under this portion of the program if not for the bonus waiver discussed above. The second part of Ms. Lundgren's annual bonus program is based on the achievement of management objectives established by the Committee each year. The Committee established three management objectives for fiscal 2012, with one-third of the target bonus for this part of the program based on each objective. As in prior years, improvement in our workplace safety was a management objective, reflecting our ongoing focus in this area. Also consistent with prior years, the remaining two objectives focused on improving margins and growing volumes. The first management objective was based on OSHA safety metrics (reductions from fiscal 2011 in Total Incident Rate, Lost Time Rate and Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Rate), with performance goals for each metric of a 5% reduction for a 0.5x payout, a 10% reduction for a 1x payout, a 15% reduction for a 2x payout and a 20% reduction for a 3x maximum payout. If Ms. Lundgren had not waived her bonus, the Company's strong performance in fiscal 2012 with respect to the safety metrics would have resulted in an average 2.79x payout factor for this objective. The second management objective was based on our pre-tax operating margins (consolidated operating income adjusted to exclude Investigation Expenses, Impairments, Discontinued Ops and Portland Harbor Items, divided by consolidated revenues) with performance goals of a 3.5% operating margin for a 0.5x payout, a 4.7% operating margin for a 1x payout, a 5.8% operating margin for a 2x payout and a 6.1% operating margin for a maximum 3x

payout. If Ms. Lundgren had not waived her bonus, the actual adjusted operating margin of 1.61% for fiscal 2012 would have resulted in a 0.23x payout factor for this objective.

The third management objective focused on volume growth, measured by increases from fiscal 2011 levels: in ferrous sales volumes of 0.7%, 1.4%, 2.1% and 2.8% for a 0.5x payout, a 1x payout, a 2x payout and 3x maximum payout, respectively; in nonferrous sales volumes of 6.8%, 13.5%, 14.9% and 16.2% for a 0.5x payout, a 1x payout, a 2x payout and a 3x maximum payout, respectively; and in cars purchased of 2.0%, 4.0%, 4.4% and 4.8% for a 0.5x payout, a 1x payout, a 2x payout and a 3x maximum payout, respectively. Ferrous sales volumes were weighted 50% for this component, nonferrous sales volumes were weighted 25% for this component and cars purchased was weighted 25% for this component. If Ms. Lundgren had not waived her bonus, the actual

decrease of 4.0% for ferrous volume, increase of 10.6% for nonferrous volume and decrease of 3.9% for cars purchased would have resulted in a 0.20x payout factor for this objective.

If Ms. Lundgren had not waived her bonus, the overall payout multiple for the management objectives part of the bonus program would have been 1.06x. This would have resulted in a cash bonus of \$795,000 for Ms. Lundgren under this portion of the program if not for the bonus waiver discussed above under "Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs". Accordingly, but for the waiver, Ms. Lundgren would have been paid a total cash bonus of \$960,000 for fiscal 2012. This amount is listed in the "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" column of the "Summary Compensation Table."

AICP for Other Executive Officers. The AICP is a program established for our executive officers other than the CEO which recognizes overall Company performance, divisional performance relevant to the applicable executive officer and achievement by the executive officer of annual individual performance goals. Target bonuses based on a percentage of actual base salary paid during the fiscal year are established for each executive officer under the AICP. Target bonus percentages for Mr. Peach, Mr. Klauer and Mr. Josephson remained unchanged in fiscal 2012 at 80%, 65% and 65%, respectively. In connection with his promotion in March 2012, Mr. Christopher's target bonus percentage was set at 100% of his new salary level on a one-time basis for fiscal 2012 to recognize his promotion and incentivize him to achieve his individual performance goals, and will be normalized to 75% of salary paid for fiscal 2013. Differences in target bonus percentages among the named executive officers reflect their varying levels of responsibility, expertise, experiences, development within roles and positions within the industry.

For fiscal 2012, the Committee established a series of performance targets based on economic profit (net operating profit after taxes at an assumed 34% effective rate minus divisional capital charge) for each of our business segments (weighted at 50%), our EPS (weighted at 25%) and the achievement of individual goals (focused on safety, management objectives, organizational initiatives and/or operational and financial improvements, among others) (weighted at 25%), corresponding to award payouts of 0.5x at threshold, 1x at target and 2x at stretch. Payouts below the threshold level and additional payouts above the stretch level were at the discretion of the Committee, taking into account the recommendation of management and guided by results using a linear calculation. The Committee also had discretion to adjust fiscal year earnings and economic profit to appropriately reflect non-recurring or extraordinary items. Awards under the AICP are paid in cash following the end of the fiscal year. A participant generally must be employed by the Company on the payment date to receive an award payout, although adjusted awards will be paid if employment terminates earlier on account of death, disability, retirement or involuntary termination without cause. For fiscal 2012, the EPS performance goals were \$2.93 per share for a 0.5x payout threshold, \$3.87 per share for a 1x target payout, and \$4.81 per share for a 2x stretch payout, corresponding to the Adjusted EPS goals for Ms. Lundgren, with the same adjustments to EPS provided for in her bonus program. For Mr. Peach and Mr. Josephson, the economic profit performance measure was based on the weighted average of the economic profit payout multiples of the three business segments, with the weighting based on relative revenues, and for Mr. Klauer the economic profit performance measure was based on the performance of APB. As discussed below, Mr. Christopher's AICP goals for fiscal 2012 as revised in connection with his promotion did not include the foregoing financial performance metrics. We consider economic profit performance measures to be confidential financial information, the disclosure of which would result in competitive harm to us, as it would reveal to our competitors information about our growth profile, the internal capital charge allocations, the effects of planned and anticipated acquisitions, and other divisional-specific data, none of which is otherwise made public. The levels of operating income assumed for each business segment in developing the threshold, target and stretch levels for EPS as disclosed above were the same levels of operating income assumed in developing the economic profit goals for each business at the same levels, so the level of difficulty in achieving the respective economic profit goals for each business was generally consistent with the level of difficulty of achieving the EPS goals. In addition, the economic profit metrics were set at levels that the Committee considered challenging but achievable based on conditions at the time, including the divisional fiscal 2012 budgets, most recent forecasts and expected impacts of growth initiatives, capital projects and operational improvements undertaken in fiscal 2011 and planned for fiscal 2012, and the cyclical nature of our business.

Individual goals for Messrs Peach, Josephson and Klauer were established by the Committee in April 2012. The individual goals for Mr. Peach and Mr. Josephson included the same safety improvement goals as Ms. Lundgren (weighted at 20%), and Mr. Klauer's individual goals included the same safety improvement goals applied to APB

only (weighted at 60%). Mr. Peach and Mr. Klauer each had an individual goal based on reduction in fiscal 2012 selling, general and administrative ("SG&A") expenses as compared to our forecast at the time the targets were set, with Mr. Peach's goal based on an 11.6% SG&A reduction for the Company overall and Mr. Klauer's goal based on a 2.9% SG&A and production cost reduction for APB. These goals were established in April 2012, before our restructuring initiatives were announced and implemented in August 2012. Other individual goals for Mr. Peach, Mr. Josephson and Mr. Klauer were subjective goals based on completion of individual projects focused on management objectives, organizational initiatives and operational improvements, the level of attainment of which was not objectively measurable.

We achieved Adjusted EPS of \$1.00 per share in fiscal 2012, which was below the threshold payout level for the EPS metric. Similarly, our fiscal 2012 performance for each business segment was below the applicable threshold payout level for the economic

profit metric. If Mr. Peach had not waived his bonus, his individual goals payout multiple would have been 1.13x, which was the weighted average of his potential payout multiples of 1.67x for safety improvements, 1.0x for SG&A reductions, and 1.0x for his subjective goals. If Mr. Josephson had not waived his bonus, his individual goals payout multiple would have been 1.13x, which was the weighted average of his potential payout multiples of 1.67x for safety improvements and 1.0x for his subjective goals. If Mr. Klauer had not waived his bonus, his individual goals payout multiple would have been 1.6x, which was the weighted average of his potential payout multiples of 2.0x for safety improvements, 1.0x for SG&A reductions, and 1.0x for his subjective goals. If Messrs. Peach, Josephson and Klauer had not waived their bonuses, the aggregate AICP payout multiples would have been 0.28x for Mr. Peach, 0.28x for Mr. Josephson and 0.40x for Mr. Klauer. The bonuses they would have received if not for the bonus waivers discussed above under "Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs" are listed in the "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" column in the "Summary Compensation Table."

When Mr. Christopher was promoted to Senior Vice President and President, MRB in March 2012, his existing AICP goals (including the EPS and economic profit goals) were replaced for fiscal 2012 with two individual goals based on (i) developing and commencing an SG&A cost reduction plan for MRB (weighted at 27% and payable in April 2012) and (ii) implementing a plan to achieve a 5% reduction in SG&A expenses for MRB (weighted at 73%). The revised AICP goals were designed to strongly focus Mr. Christopher on the importance of achieving the MRB SG&A savings, which represented the bulk of the Company's SG&A savings and were critical to achieving the full benefits of the Company-wide SG&A reduction program implemented in the second quarter of fiscal 2012 (as distinguished from the restructuring initiatives announced in August 2012). Mr. Christopher was paid \$150,000 of the bonus in April 2012 as a result of developing and commencing the implementation of the SG&A cost reduction program. The MRB SG&A reduction goal was met, so Mr. Christopher earned an additional bonus payout of \$400,000 under his second performance goal; however, after giving effect to his waiver of 25% of his target bonus in exchange for stock options as discussed above under "Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs", he received a cash payout of \$262,500. The full bonus that he would have been paid if not for the waiver is listed in the "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" column of the "Summary Compensation Table."

Long Term Incentive Program. All of the executive officers participate in the LTIP. Since 2005, our LTIP has consisted of two components: stock options or RSUs (time-vested awards) and performance shares. Annual LTIP award values are split equally between the two components, with the number of RSUs and the target number of performance shares calculated based on the closing market price of our common stock on the determination date, and the number of stock options calculated based on the Black-Scholes value of the options on the determination date. LTIP awards are made pursuant to our Policy on Employee Equity Awards, which was adopted by the Board in April 2007 and sets forth the process for granting equity awards. LTIP awards to executive officers are generally made based on grant guidelines expressed as a percentage of salary. Grant guidelines for executive officers other than the CEO are developed each year based on a review of (a) prior year grant guidelines, (b) market-based LTIP grant levels, as assessed by both the Committee's and management's consultants, and (c) CEO recommendations, taking into account performance and internal pay equity considerations, including the relative scope of the business responsibilities of each officer, the markets in which their business segment operates, and their individual performance. Grant guidelines for the CEO are developed each year by the Committee based on a review of prior year grant guidelines, market-based LTIP grant levels and an exercise of its discretion, taking into account executive performance. The aggregate grants are also reviewed by the Company's and the Committee's consultants in terms of impact on annual dilution to shareholders.

Our historical practice has been to determine annual LTIP award levels in the fourth fiscal quarter of each year and make the awards under the option or RSU component at that time, with the awards under the performance share component delayed until the first quarter of the next fiscal year after performance goals for the ensuing three-year performance cycle have been determined. We modified this historical practice for fiscal 2012. In November 2011, the Committee determined that market uncertainties, including the escalation of the European financial crisis, made establishing multi-year performance targets for fiscal 2012-2014 performance share awards extremely difficult and decided to grant RSUs at that time for the shares that would have been granted as target performance share awards under our past practice. In July 2012, the Committee determined annual LTIP award levels in accordance with past

practice, but granted performance share awards with a two-year performance period covering fiscal 2013-2014 (as described under "Performance Shares" below) for the first half of the annual LTIP awards and granted RSUs for the second half of the annual awards in November 2012.

The LTIP award level approved in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 for Ms. Lundgren was 300% of base salary, which was the same percentage of salary as in fiscal 2011. The grant levels for the other named executive officers as a percentage of base salary were 127% for Mr. Christopher, 150% for Mr. Peach, 128% for Mr. Klauer and 78% for Mr. Josephson, which placed the officers at the levels deemed by the Committee to be appropriate and reasonable in light of their respective performance, expertise, experience, development within roles and responsibilities. In designing the long-term incentive program the Committee sought to make awards within a broad range on either side of the market median to individualize the award to the level of responsibility and performance of the recipient. The grant date fair values of LTIP awards made to each of our named executive officers are disclosed in the "Stock Awards" column of the "Summary Compensation Table".

Stock Options and RSUs. Until fiscal 2006, the stock option program was our principal long-term incentive plan for executive officers. The objectives of stock options and RSUs are to align executive and shareholder long-term interests by creating a strong and direct link between executive compensation and shareholder return and to create incentives for executive officers to remain with the Company for the long term. Awarded options (other than the out-of-the-money options granted to certain executive officers (including all of the named executive officers) in lieu of annual bonuses in fiscal 2012) have an exercise price equal to the market price of our common stock on the grant date, vest over five years, and typically have a term of 10 years. Awarded RSUs generally vest over five years. Since fiscal 2007, we have granted RSUs under the LTIP instead of stock options to executive officers and other key employees to increase the equity ownership of senior management and provide a time-based retention incentive that the Committee believes better meets its compensation and retention objectives. As discussed above under "Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs," out-of-the-money stock options were granted to named executive officers in fiscal 2012 in exchange for the waived annual bonuses. All RSU awards under the LTIP were made pursuant to our standard form of restricted stock unit award agreement. See "All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units" in the "Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2012" table.

Performance Shares. Beginning in fiscal 2006, we broadened our equity compensation program to include performance-based long-term incentive awards payable in our common stock. These performance share awards are designed to focus our executive officers on the achievement of long-term objective performance goals established by the Committee and vest only to the extent those performance goals are met. Our historical practice has been to make performance share awards in the first quarter of each fiscal year covering three-year performance periods. As discussed above, in fiscal 2012 our performance share awards were delayed until the fourth quarter and, accordingly, the performance period was shortened to consist of a two-year performance period covering fiscal 2013 and 2014. For the performance share awards granted in July 2012, the Committee selected new performance metrics to improve the diversity of performance measures in our incentive programs. The new performance metrics are year-over-year improvement in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") for fiscal 2013 and 2014 (weighted at 50%) and year-over-year improvement in return on equity (net income attributable to SSI divided by average shareholders' equity) ("ROE") for the same two fiscal years (weighted at 50%). These measures were selected because they are relevant to our business, understandable to the participants in the LTIP program and commonly used by investors to evaluate business performance. EBITDA and ROE for each fiscal year will be adjusted to eliminate the impacts of restructuring charges, Impairments, Discontinued Ops, and Portland Harbor Items, and EBITDA will also be adjusted to eliminate any charges taken to reduce inventory values to net realizable value. The awards also provide below target payouts for performance below prior fiscal year performance but above specified threshold performance and provide that payouts could be reduced based on the level of operating income (adjusted to eliminate the same items as adjusted for in calculating EBITDA). In general, these awards were designed to provide scaled payouts ranging from 0.5x of target payout for threshold performance to 2x maximum payout based on EBITDA and ROE performances for fiscal 2013 and 2014, which could be reduced based on the level of operating income (adjusted to eliminate the same items as adjusted for in calculating EBITDA). These performance targets were set at levels the Committee considered challenging but reasonably achievable based on the Company's financial results in the last two quarters of fiscal 2012, the current and expectations of future market conditions, global macroeconomic factors, the cyclical nature of our business and industry, and our view of future performance at the time of the Committee's action. As in prior years with similar metrics under our LTIP performance share program, we consider the EBITDA targets for uncompleted years of the performance period and the ROE targets for all years of the performance period to be confidential financial information, the disclosure of which would result in competitive harm to us because they would reveal information about our growth profile and the effects of anticipated capital expenditures and corporate acquisitions, none of which is otherwise made public. Disclosure of this information would also impair our ability to make acquisitions because it would place us at a competitive disadvantage by providing competitors sensitive information about our transaction pricing and acquisition strategy.

A participant generally must be employed by us on the October 31 following the end of the performance period to receive an award payout, although adjusted awards, pro-rated based on the period of employment during the performance period, will be paid if employment terminates earlier on account of death, disability, retirement, termination without cause after the first year of the performance period, or a sale of the Company. Awards will be paid

in Class A common stock as soon as practicable after the October 31 following the end of the performance period. In fiscal 2012, we added a provision under which violation of certain non-competition covenants during the first year following termination of employment will trigger an obligation to repay any award paid out in the preceding year. See the "Stock Awards" column in the "Summary Compensation Table" and "Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards" column in the "Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2012" table.

The three-year performance period for the performance share awards made in fiscal 2010 ended on August 31, 2012. These awards used annual EPS for the fiscal years 2010-2012 (weighted at 50%) and the annual ROCE percentage for the same three fiscal years (weighted at 50%) as metrics, in each case adjusted to eliminate the impact of Investigation Expenses, Impairments, Discontinued Ops and expense or income relating to the derivative accounting treatment of the natural gas contract for SMB. For executive officers in the MRB and APB divisions, ROCE was based on the combined ROCE of those divisions; for executive officers in the

SMB division, on the ROCE for that division; and for corporate-level executive officers, on the weighted average ROCE payout multiple for the three operating divisions. The adjusted EPS goals for fiscal 2010, fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012 were \$1.86, \$2.05 and \$2.48, respectively, at the 0.5x threshold level, \$2.28, \$2.56 and \$3.10, respectively, at the 1.0x target level, and \$2.81, \$3.20 and \$3.88, respectively, at the 2.0x maximum level. The MRB/APB ROCE goal for each year was 8% at the 0.5x threshold level, 10% at the 1.0x target level, and 12% at the 2.0x maximum level. The SMB ROCE goals for fiscal 2010, fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012 were (4%), 0% and 2.5%, respectively, at the 0.5x threshold level, 0%, 2.5% and 4%, respectively, at the 1.0x target level, and 2.5%, 4% and 6%, respectively, at the 2.0x maximum level.

We achieved adjusted EPS of \$2.72 in fiscal 2010, \$4.24 in fiscal 2011 and \$0.96 in fiscal 2012, resulting in EPS payout multiples of 1.82x, 2.0x and 0.0x, respectively, and an average EPS payout multiple of 1.27x. We achieved MRB/APB ROCE of 11.9% in fiscal 2010, 12.3% in fiscal 2011 and 4.5% in fiscal 2012, resulting in MRB/APB ROCE payout multiples of 1.97x, 2.0x and 0.0x, respectively, and an average MRB/APB ROCE payout multiple of 1.32x. We achieved SMB ROCE of (5.4%) in fiscal 2010, 0.9% in fiscal 2011 and (1%) in fiscal 2012, resulting in SMB ROCE payout multiples of 0.0x, 0.69x and 0.0x, respectively, an average SMB ROCE payout multiple of 0.23x, and a weighted average ROCE payout multiple of 1.22x for corporate-level executive officers. Based on these results, the combined performance share payouts for this performance period were 1.245x for corporate-level officers (Ms. Lundgren, Mr. Peach and Mr. Josephson) and 1.295x for MRB and APB executives (Mr. Christopher and Mr. Klauer).

Except in the case of certain qualified terminations, participants were required to remain in our employ until October 31, 2012 to receive their performance share payouts. Each named executive officer was employed by us on October 31, 2012, and the number of shares issued to each named executive officer under these awards is shown in the "Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal 2012 Year-End" table.

Executive Benefits. Our executive benefits are intended, along with base salary, to provide a competitive fixed pay foundation for the work being performed by the executive. Named executive officers are eligible to participate in benefit plans available to non-executive employees and to receive additional benefits as described below as part of the compensation package we believe is necessary to attract and retain the desired level of executive talent.

Retirement Plans. We maintain 401(k) plans and a Pension Retirement Plan (the "Pension Plan") for our employees, including the named executive officers. The Pension Plan was "frozen" as of June 30, 2006, and no additional benefits will be accrued for participants after that date.

We also maintain a Supplemental Executive Retirement Bonus Plan ("SERBP") in which Ms. Lundgren participates. We have not added any participants to the SERBP since 2005. See "Pension Benefits at Fiscal 2012 Year End" for descriptions of the Pension Plan and the SERBP and information regarding benefits payable to the named executive officers under the Pension Retirement Plan and the SERBP.

Change in Control Agreements. To ensure that we offer competitive compensation to our executive officers, and to attract and retain top executive talent, we offer severance benefits under change in control agreements as part of our executive compensation packages. The purpose of these agreements is to ensure that we will have the continued attention and dedication of our senior executives during a potential change of control. The Committee believes these agreements are in the best interest of shareholders by providing certainty as to what executives would receive in a change of control, enabling them to remain focused on the business during a period of uncertainty. In April 2008, the Committee approved change in control severance agreements for the named executive officers other than Ms. Lundgren. In October 2008, the Committee approved an amended change in control agreement with Ms. Lundgren, which amended and restated her change in control agreement entered into in March 2006. The specific terms of the change in control agreements and the potential benefits payable under the agreements are discussed under "Compensation of Executive Officers – Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control" below. At the times the agreements currently in effect were approved, the Committee received advice from PM&P, and the Company received advice from Towers Watson, that the terms were competitive and consistent with market practices.

Indemnity Agreements. We have entered into indemnity agreements with each named executive officer pursuant to which we agree to indemnify such officer in connection with claims or proceedings involving the officer (by reason of serving as a director or officer of the Company or its subsidiaries), as provided in the agreement.

Other Benefits. Executive officers receive a monthly automobile allowance and use of a Company-provided credit card for fuel purchases. Both amounts are taxable to the executive as compensation income. Certain executive officers (including each named executive officer) also participate in a supplemental executive medical benefits plan which provides full coverage of certain medical and dental expenses (including deductibles and co-payments) not covered by our basic medical and dental plans.

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Employment Agreements

We entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Lundgren in connection with her initial employment. In October 2008, we entered into an amended and restated employment agreement with Ms. Lundgren, which became effective on December 1, 2008 in connection with her becoming President and CEO, and which superseded the prior agreement. That agreement was further amended in June 2011.

Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement governs the terms and conditions of her employment as CEO through December 1, 2015, provided that on December 1, 2013, and on each December 1 thereafter, the employment agreement automatically extends for an additional one-year period unless we or Ms. Lundgren elects not to extend the term. Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement provides for (i) an annual base salary of \$1,000,000, subject to annual review and increase, but not decrease, by the Committee (see the discussion under "Base Salary"), (ii) a one-time signing bonus of \$900,000 to defray costs associated with Ms. Lundgren arranging housing in Portland and associated expenses, subject to repayment for termination by Ms. Lundgren without good reason, provided that any such repayment is subject to reduction for each of the initial 36 months during which she remains employed by us, and (iii) an annual cash bonus as described under "Annual Performance Bonus Program for Ms. Lundgren." Under the June 2011 amendment, (i) Ms. Lundgren's annual base salary was increased from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 effective May 1, 2011 and (ii) her target bonus under the annual bonus program was increased from 100% to 150% of year-end base salary and the maximum bonus payment under the financial performance portion of the annual bonus program was reduced from 7x target to 3x target, resulting in a decrease in her overall maximum annual bonus from 5x target to 3x target, effective with the Company's 2012 fiscal year to better align the bonus structure with current market practice.

In the event that Ms. Lundgren's employment is terminated by us without cause, including our decision not to extend the term of the employment agreement, or by Ms. Lundgren for good reason and not under circumstances that would give rise to severance payments to Ms. Lundgren under her change in control agreement, Ms. Lundgren would be entitled to receive severance and other benefits as described under "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control." These benefits were negotiated as part of her original employment agreement in 2005.

We entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Christopher in connection with his promotion to Senior Vice President and President, Metals Recycling Business, in March 2012. The agreement governs the terms and conditions of Mr. Christopher's employment through March 13, 2015 and provides for (i) an annual base salary of \$550,000, subject to annual review and increase by the Committee in connection with our normal compensation review and bonus cycle for executive officers (see the discussion under "Base Salary"), (ii) participation in the AICP with a target bonus percentage of not less than 75% (see discussion under "AICP for Other Executive Officers") and (iii) equity grants as determined by the Committee. Mr. Christopher's employment under the agreement is "at will." Mr. Christopher's employment agreement also provides that for one year following the termination of his employment for any reason at any time (including after March 13, 2015), he will not compete with us in the metals recycling business within 75 miles of any of MRB's facilities and he will not solicit our customers or employees. As consideration for these covenants, we agreed that if we terminated his employment without cause or he resigned with good reason, we would continue his base salary for the one-year restriction period and pay him a bonus at the end of that period equal to the average of his last three AICP bonuses. See "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control."

Officer Stock Ownership Policy

To promote the long term alignment of the interests of our officers and shareholders, we adopted the Officer Stock Ownership Policy. The policy requires each of our officers to accumulate ownership of Class A common stock with a value equal to the following multiples of base salary: CEO: 5x; Executive Vice Presidents: 3x; Senior Vice Presidents: 2x; and Vice Presidents: 1x. To reduce the impact of stock price fluctuations on the officers' ongoing obligation to achieve and maintain compliance with this policy, shares purchased in the open market are valued at cost, shares acquired under RSUs or LTIP performance share awards are valued at the market price on vesting, and shares acquired under stock options are valued at the market price at the time of exercise of the option, and these values remain constant. Until the requisite level of ownership is achieved, officers are required to retain at least 50% of the shares (net of shares withheld to cover taxes or sold to cover the option exercise price and taxes) received under RSUs, stock options and performance share awards. The policy also requires officers who have achieved compliance to thereafter maintain at least the minimum ownership level and to retain 50% of the net shares thereafter received

under RSUs, stock options and performance share awards for at least three years. While only Ms. Lundgren has achieved the minimum ownership required, each of the named executive officers was otherwise in compliance with the policy as of August 31, 2012.

Tax Deductibility of Executive Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally limits to \$1,000,000 per person the amount that we may deduct for compensation paid in any year to any of the named executive officers (other than the CFO, whose pay is excluded pursuant to

Internal Revenue Service Notice 2007-49). The policy of the Committee is to structure executive compensation to maximize the deductibility of compensation where feasible consistent with our overall compensation objectives. The Committee has structured some of our compensation programs to qualify as performance-based compensation not subject to the \$1,000,000 cap on deductibility. Other compensation programs may not qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) because they involve individual or non-objective performance measures or the Committee retains discretion in applying the performance criteria. Our LTIP performance share awards are intended to qualify as performance-based compensation not subject to the \$1,000,000 cap on deductibility. Under IRS regulations, the \$1,000,000 cap on deductibility will not apply to compensation received through the exercise of a nonqualified stock option that meets certain requirements, and it was our policy when granting options to meet the requirements of Section 162(m) so that the option exercise compensation is deductible by us. To address deductibility of bonus compensation under Section 162(m), the Board adopted, and in 2010 the shareholders re-approved and amended, the Executive Annual Bonus Plan pursuant to which bonus compensation may qualify as performance-based compensation not subject to the \$1,000,000 cap on deductibility. The AICP bonus paid to Mr. Christopher and the salaries and compensation received on vesting of RSUs for all named executive officers did not qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m), with the result that a portion of the compensation paid to Ms. Lundgren and Mr. Christopher for fiscal 2012 will not be deductible by us. Section 162(m) did not limit deductibility of compensation paid to any other named executive officer for fiscal 2012.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee has:

- Reviewed and discussed the above section titled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" with management; and
- Based on the review and discussion above, recommended to the Board that the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section be included in this proxy statement.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Judith A. Johansen, Chair

William A. Furman

Wayland R. Hicks

COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain information concerning compensation of the named executive officers during the fiscal years ended August 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$)(1) | Stock Awards (\$)(2) | Option Awards (\$)(3) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(4) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(5) | All Other Compensation (\$)(6) | Total (\$) |
|--|------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 2012 | 1,000,000 | 75,000 | 2,816,650 | 433,275 | 960,000 | 275,069 | 34,492 | 5,594,486 |
| President and Chief Executive Officer | 2011 | 930,769 | 300,000 | 4,190,614 | | 1,520,000 | 86,973 | 34,241 | 7,062,597 |
| | 2010 | 830,769 | 300,000 | 3,842,136 | | 1,638,000 | 90,820 | 35,118 | 6,736,843 |
| Richard D. Peach | 2012 | 570,000 | — | 663,335 | 328,311 | 127,680 | — | 39,566 | 1,728,892 |
| Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2011 | 549,750 | — | 623,086 | | 438,353 | — | 38,794 | 1,649,983 |
| | 2010 | 519,846 | — | 479,792 | | 528,075 | — | 39,531 | 1,567,244 |
| Patrick L. Christopher(7) | 2012 | 488,096 | — | 494,788 | - | 550,000 | 8,364 | 58,093 | 1,599,341 |
| Senior Vice President and President, Metals Recycling Business | | | | | | | | | |
| Richard C. Josephson | 2012 | 515,000 | — | 365,489 | 241,018 | 93,730 | 4,551 | 45,837 | 1,265,625 |
| Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary | 2011 | 503,591 | — | 394,089 | | 288,054 | 3,023 | 45,471 | 1,234,228 |
| | 2010 | 488,468 | — | 320,593 | | 320,557 | 1,311 | 46,107 | 1,177,036 |
| Thomas D. Klauer | 2012 | 470,000 | — | 494,414 | 183,299 | 122,200 | — | 41,434 | 1,311,347 |
| Senior Vice President and President, Auto Parts Business | 2011 | 457,723 | — | 516,691 | | 438,041 | — | 38,311 | 1,450,766 |
| | 2010 | 436,446 | — | 378,506 | | 447,356 | — | 39,325 | 1,301,633 |

(1) Amounts for Ms. Lundgren represent the portion of the \$900,000 sign on bonus to defray costs associated with arranging housing in Portland received under her amended employment agreement that vested in each fiscal year.

(2) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock awards granted during each of the years computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. These amounts reflect the grant date fair value and may not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the named executive officers. Stock awards consist of RSUs and LTIP performance shares, in each case valued using the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on the grant date. For Ms. Lundgren the amount reported for 2012 includes an RSU award of 2,763 shares which vests on the fifth anniversary of the grant date relating to the waived bonus. For LTIP performance shares, the grant date fair value is calculated based on the target number of shares which, as of the grant date, was the estimated number of shares to

be issued. If the maximum number of shares issuable under LTIP performance share awards had been used in this calculation in lieu of the target number of shares, the amounts in the table for fiscal 2012 would have been \$4,316,641 for Ms. Lundgren, \$1,090,827 for Mr. Peach, \$844,783 for Mr. Christopher, \$565,483 for Mr. Josephson and \$794,391 for Mr. Klauer. The assumptions made in determining the grant date fair values of stock awards under FASB ASC Topic 718 are disclosed in Note 17 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2012.

Represents the excess of (a) the grant date fair value of options granted in August 2012 in exchange for waivers of annual bonus payments over (b) the annual bonus payments that would have been paid if not for the bonus waivers. These premium-priced (also known as "out-of-the-money") options have a term of five years and become exercisable for 100% of the shares covered by the options on the second anniversary of the grant date. The exercise price of these options was set at \$34.75, which was 120% of the closing market price of the Company's Class A (3) common stock on the grant date. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Annual Incentive Programs - Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs." The grant date fair value of the options was computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. The assumptions made in determining the grant date fair values of options under FASB ASC Topic 718 are disclosed in Note 17 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2012.

Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation in fiscal 2012 consists of amounts paid under the AICP to Mr. (4) Christopher and amounts that were earned based on the achievement of performance goals, but waived, by named executive officers under

the AICP or annual bonus program under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement in exchange for premium-priced (also known as "out-of-the-money") options which have a term of five years and become exercisable for 100% of the shares covered by the options on the second anniversary of the grant date. The exercise price of these options was set at \$34.75, which was 120% of the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the grant date. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Annual Incentive Programs - Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs."

Represents changes in the actuarial present value of accumulated benefits under the Pension Retirement Plan and (5) the SERBP for each of the years presented using the same pension plan measurement date used for financial statement reporting purposes.

Includes for fiscal 2012 Company contributions of \$10,000 to the account of each named executive officer under the 401(k) Plan (including matching contributions, annual contributions and transition contributions relating to the frozen Pension Plan). Includes for fiscal 2012 premiums paid for medical plans in the following amounts:

Ms. Lundgren, \$8,902; Mr. Peach, \$14,809; Mr. Christopher, \$24,041; Mr. Josephson, \$21,066; and Mr. Klauer, (6) \$7,087. Includes for fiscal 2012 premiums paid for life, disability and other insurance in the following amounts: Ms. Lundgren, \$5,844; Mr. Peach, \$3,564; Mr. Christopher, \$3,564; Mr. Josephson, \$3,564; and Mr. Klauer, \$3,427. Includes for fiscal 2012 automobile allowance and fuel purchase fringe benefits in the following amounts: Ms. Lundgren, \$9,746; Mr. Peach, \$11,193; Mr. Christopher, \$20,488; Mr. Josephson, \$11,207; and Mr. Klauer, \$20,920. The incremental costs of these benefits are calculated based on the actual incremental costs to us.

(7) Mr. Christopher was promoted to Senior Vice President and President, Metals Recycling Business in March 2012. Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2012

| Name | Grant Date | Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1) | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2) | | | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)(3) | All Other Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)(4) | Exercise Price of Stock Awards (\$/sh)(5) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards and Options (\$)(6) |
|------------------------|------------|--|-------------|--------------|--|------------|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | | | | |
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 8/30/2012 | | | | | | | 2,763 | | | 75,375 |
| | 8/28/2012 | | | | | | | | 150,000 | 34.75 | 1,393,275 |
| | 7/24/2012 | | | | 28,550 | 57,099 | 114,198 | | | | 1,499,991 |
| | 11/21/2011 | | | | | | | 28,179 | | | 1,241,285 |
| Richard D. Peach | | — | 1,500,000 | 4,500,000 | | | | | | | |
| | 8/28/2012 | | | | | | | | 49,092 | 34.75 | 455,991 |
| | 7/24/2012 | | | | 8,137 | 16,273 | 32,546 | | | | 427,492 |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 11/21/2011 | | | | | | | 5,354 | | | 235,844 |
| | | 171,000 | 456,000 | 912,000 | | | | | | | |
| | 8/28/2012 | | | | | | | | 14,803 | 34.75 | 137,498 |
| Richard C. Josephson | 7/24/2012 | | | | 6,662 | 13,323 | 26,646 | | | | 349,995 |
| | 11/21/2011 | | | | | | | 3,287 | | | 144,792 |
| | | 150,000 | 550,000 | 550,000 | | | | | | | |
| Richard C. Josephson | 8/28/2012 | | | | | | | | 36,039 | 34.75 | 334,748 |
| | 7/24/2012 | | | | 3,807 | 7,613 | 15,226 | | | | 199,994 |
| | 11/21/2011 | | | | | | | 3,757 | | | 165,496 |
| | | 125,531 | 334,750 | 669,500 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| | 8/28/2012 | | | | | 32,890 | 34.75 | 305,499 |
| Thomas D. | 7/24/2012 | 5,710 | 11,419 | 22,838 | | | | 299,977 |
| Klauer | 11/21/2011 | | | | 4,414 | | | 194,437 |
| | | 114,563 | 305,500 | 611,000 | | | | |

(1) All amounts reported in these columns represent the potential bonuses payable for performance in fiscal 2012 under the Company's AICP or annual bonus program under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement. The Committee annually approves target bonus levels as a percentage of either base salary as of the end of the fiscal year (for Ms. Lundgren and, in 2012, for Mr. Christopher) or base salary actually paid during the fiscal year (for other officers). The total target bonus percentages for the named executive officers were as follows: Ms. Lundgren, 150%; Mr. Peach, 80%; Mr. Christopher, 100%; Mr. Josephson, 65%; and Mr. Klauer, 65%. For Messrs. Peach, Josephson and Klauer, the Committee retained discretion to pay bonuses below the stated threshold and above the stated maximum amounts. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Annual

Incentive Programs." Bonus amounts earned based on fiscal 2012 performance are included in the "Summary Compensation Table."

Amounts reported in these columns represent LTIP performance shares granted in fiscal 2012 and are based on (2) performance during fiscal years 2013-2014. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Long Term Incentive Program."

Represents RSUs granted under the Company's SIP. RSUs generally vest ratably over five years, subject to continued employment. The 2,763 RSUs granted to Ms. Lundgren on August 30, 2012 in exchange for waiver of (3) her annual bonus payment will vest fully on August 28, 2017, subject to her continued employment. The number of RSUs granted was determined in conjunction with the stock option grant on August 28, 2012. Vesting may be accelerated in certain circumstances, as described under "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control."

Represents options granted in exchange for waivers of annual bonus payments. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Annual Incentive Programs - Annual Bonus Waivers for Options and RSUs." These premium-priced (4) (also known as "out-of-the-money") options have a term of five years and become exercisable for 100% of the shares covered by the options on the second anniversary of the grant date. The exercise price of these options was set at \$34.75, which was 120% of the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the grant date. Vesting may be accelerated in certain circumstances, as described under "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control."

(5) The exercise price of the options is 120% of the closing price of our Class A Common Stock on the grant date.

Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of options, RSUs and LTIP performance share awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. The grant date fair value of the options is \$9.29 per share computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The assumptions made in determining the grant date fair values of options under FASB ASC Topic 718 are disclosed in Note 17 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form (6) 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2012. The grant date fair value of the RSUs is equal to the value of the underlying restricted shares based on the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the grant date. The grant date fair value of the LTIP performance share awards is calculated by multiplying the target number of shares issuable under the award by the closing market price of the Company's Class A common stock on the grant date. Of the grant date fair values of the options granted on August 28, 2012 reported in the table above, \$960,000, \$127,680, \$137,498, \$93,730, and \$122,200 represent the earned but waived amount of the non-equity incentive plan awards for Ms. Lundgren and Messrs. Peach, Christopher, Josephson and Klauer, respectively.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2012

We entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Lundgren in connection with her initial employment, and we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Christopher in connection with his March 2012 promotion. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis–Employment Agreements" above for a description of the material terms of their employment agreements.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal 2012 Year End

The following table sets forth certain information concerning outstanding equity awards for each named executive officer as of August 31, 2012.

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | | | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)(4) | |
|------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|---|---|----------------|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - (#)(1) | Number of Securities Underlying Exercised Options - (#)(2) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)(3) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(4) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) | | |
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 10,000 | — | 30.19 | 10/19/2015 | — | — | — | — | |
| | 10,276 | — | 34.46 | 11/29/2015 | — | — | — | — | |
| | 4,884 | — | 30.71 | 1/11/2016 | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | 150,000 | (5) | 34.75 | 8/28/2017 | — | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 2,434 | (6) | 67,227 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 398 | (6) | 10,993 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 9,299 | (7) | 256,838 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 17,064 | (8) | 471,308 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 17,717 | (9) | 489,344 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 22,544 | (10) | 622,665 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 22,544 | (10) | 622,665 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 2,763 | (11) | 76,314 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 28,941 | (12) | 799,350 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 15,072 | (13) | 416,289 | 18,959 | (14) 523,657 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 114,198 | (15) 3,154,149 |
| Richard D. Peach | — | 49,092 | (5) | 34.75 | 8/28/2017 | — | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 400 | (6) | 11,048 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,782 | (7) | 49,219 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,413 | (8) | 94,267 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 4,284 | (10) | 118,324 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 4,284 | (10) | 118,324 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 5,546 | (12) | 153,181 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,014 | (13) | 83,247 | 3,791 | (14) 104,717 |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 32,546 | (15) 898,921 | |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 4,404 | — | 34.46 | 11/29/2015 | — | — | — | — | — |
| | — | 14,803 | (5) | 34.75 | 8/28/2017 | — | — | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 309 | (6) | 8,535 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,116 | (7) | 30,824 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,991 | (8) | 54,991 | — | — |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-------|------|--------|--------|--------------|
| — | — | — | — | 2,630 | (10) | 72,641 | — | — |
| — | — | — | — | 2,630 | (10) | 72,641 | — | — |
| — | — | — | — | 3,611 | (12) | 99,736 | — | — |
| — | — | — | — | 1,780 | (13) | 49,164 | 2,211 | (14) 61,077 |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 26,646 | (15) 735,963 |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6,261 | (16) 172,929 |

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | | | | Equity |
|----------------------|--|--|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Exercisable (#)(1) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options - Unexercisable (#)(2) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Share or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)(3) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)(4) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)(4) | |
| Richard C. Josephson | 10,127 | — | 30.71 | 1/11/2016 | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | 36,039 | (5) 34.75 | 8/28/2017 | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 343 (6) | 9,474 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,407 (7) | 38,861 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,959 (8) | 54,108 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,006 (10) | 83,026 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,006 (10) | 83,026 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 4,377 (12) | 120,893 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,730 (13) | 47,783 | 2,177 (14) | 60,120 | |
| Thomas D. Klauer | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15,226 (15) | 420,542 | |
| | 2,936 | — | 34.46 | 11/29/2015 | — | — | — | — | |
| | 6,046 | — | 34.73 | 7/25/2016 | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | 32,890 | (5) 34.75 | 8/28/2017 | — | — | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 343 (6) | 9,474 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 1,304 (7) | 36,016 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 2,844 (8) | 78,551 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,532 (10) | 97,554 | — | — | |
| | — | — | — | — | 3,532 (10) | 97,554 | — | — | |
| — | — | — | — | 4,221 (12) | 116,584 | — | — | | |
| — | — | — | — | 2,543 (13) | 70,238 | 3,159 (14) | 87,261 | | |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | 22,838 (15) | 630,786 | | |

(1) Options to purchase Class A common stock granted prior to fiscal 2012 generally become exercisable for 20% of the shares on June 1 following the grant date and on June 1 of each of the next four years thereafter, becoming fully exercisable on the fifth June 1 following the grant date, subject to continued employment, and accelerated vesting under certain circumstances. All options granted prior to fiscal 2012 are fully vested.

(2) Unexercisable options to purchase Class A common stock relate only to options granted during fiscal 2012. These become exercisable for 100% of the shares on the second anniversary of the grant date.

(3) RSUs become exercisable for 20% of the shares on June 1 following the grant date and on June 1 of each of the next four years thereafter, becoming fully exercisable on the fifth June 1 following the grant date, subject to continued employment, and accelerated vesting under certain circumstances.

(4)

Market values of all shares are based on the closing price of the Class A common stock on the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

- (5) This option vests as to 100% of the shares on August 28, 2014.
- (6) This RSU will be fully vested on June 1, 2013.
- (7) This RSU vests as to 50% of the shares on June 1 each year in 2013 and 2014.
- (8) This RSU vests as to 33.3% of the shares on June 1 each year in 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- (9) This RSU will be fully vested on June 29, 2013.
- (10) This RSU vests as to 25% of the shares on June 1 each year in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- (11) This RSU will be fully vested on August 28, 2017.

Reflects LTIP shares that were subject to performance over the performance period of fiscal 2010-2012. The (12) number of shares issuable was based on performance during this period, and vesting of these shares was also subject to continued employment until October 31, 2012.

One-third of the target shares subject to LTIP performance share awards granted in fiscal 2011 were subject to performance during each of fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012, with another one-third of the target shares subject to (13) performance in fiscal 2013. The amount in the table for each named executive officer is the number of shares that are issuable under these awards based on performance during fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012, with vesting of these shares subject to continued employment until October 31, 2013.

Reflects the portion of the LTIP performance share awards that were granted in fiscal 2011 that will vest subject (14) to and based on performance during fiscal 2013. Share amounts are based on the number of shares that would be issued at the 2x maximum level of performance.

Reflects the LTIP performance share awards that were granted in fiscal 2012 that will vest subject to and based on (15) performance during fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2014. Share amounts are based on the number of shares that would be issued at the 2x maximum level of performance.

Reflects special LTIP performance share awards granted in fiscal 2010 that will vest based on the return on investment for upgrades to the nonferrous metals recovery systems at the Company's major metals recycling facilities in Portland, Tacoma, Everett and Oakland over the three-year period following completion of each (16) upgrade. Maximum share payouts based on continued employment and performance of the upgrades at the respective facilities are as follows: 1,610 shares for Portland through August 1, 2013, 1,610 shares for Tacoma through November 1, 2013, 1,610 shares for Everett through March 1, 2014, and 1,431 shares for Oakland through May 1, 2014.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested in Fiscal 2012

The following table sets forth certain information concerning stock option exercises and vesting of stock for each named executive officer during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012.

| Name | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$)(1) |
| Tamara L. Lundgren | — | — | 66,309 | 2,333,471 |
| Richard D. Peach | — | — | 6,859 | 216,219 |
| Patrick L. Christopher | — | — | 4,804 | 154,284 |
| Richard C. Josephson | — | — | 5,498 | 175,534 |
| Thomas D. Klauer | — | — | 5,809 | 183,521 |

(1)The value realized on vesting is based on the closing price of the Class A Common stock on the vesting date.

Pension Benefits at Fiscal 2012 Year End

The following table sets forth certain information concerning accrued pension benefits for each named executive officer as of August 31, 2012.

| Name | Age | Plan Name | Number of Years of Credited Service | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)(1) | Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) |
|------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 55 | Pension Retirement Plan | 7 | 43,941 | — |
| | | Suppl. Exec. Retirement Bonus Plan | 6.92 | 465,776 | — |
| Richard D. Peach | 48 | Pension Retirement Plan | — | — | — |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 47 | Pension Retirement Plan | 7 | 26,695 | — |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|-------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Richard C. Josephson | 64 | Pension Retirement Plan | 7 | 29,556 | — |
| Thomas D. Klauer | 58 | Pension Retirement Plan | — | — | — |

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The Pension Retirement Plan Present Value of Accumulated Benefit in the above table represents the actuarial present value as of August 31, 2012 of each named executive officer's frozen pension benefit, assuming commencement of benefit payments at age 65. Benefit accruals under that plan ceased when the plan was frozen on June 30, 2006, but years of service are still relevant for purposes of satisfying the five-year vesting requirement. The SERBP Present Value of Accumulated Benefit in the table above represents the actuarial present value as of August 31, 2012 of Ms. Lundgren's pension benefit calculated based on years of credited service and the maximum (1) SERBP benefit level as of that date and assuming commencement of benefit payments at age 60. Actuarial present values were calculated using a discount rate of 3.67% with respect to the Pension Retirement Plan and 3.38% with respect to the SERBP, and the mortality table set forth in IRS Revenue Ruling 2007-67 for both plans, the same assumptions used in the pension benefit calculations reflected in the Company's audited consolidated balance sheet for the year ended August 31, 2012. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Elements of Compensation – Executive Benefits – Retirement Plans."

Defined Benefit Retirement Plans

Pension Retirement Plan. The Company's Pension Plan is a defined benefit plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code. Persons who were non-union employees of the Company prior to May 15, 2006 are eligible to participate in the Pension Plan. Benefit accruals ceased on June 30, 2006. Generally, pension benefits become fully vested after five years of service and are paid in monthly installments beginning upon the later of retirement or age 65. Benefits accrued each year after August 31, 1986 and prior to June 30, 2006 in an amount equal to 2% of qualifying compensation earned in the applicable year. Qualifying compensation for executive officers included base salary, subject to a legal limit for the year. Retirement benefits are payable at any time after termination of employment, subject to actuarial reduction for early start of payment before age 65. A participant may choose payment from various actuarial equivalent life annuity options or a lump sum. Death benefits are payable to a beneficiary in a lump sum; a surviving spouse may elect payment as a life annuity.

Supplemental Executive Retirement Bonus Plan. The SERBP was adopted to provide a competitive level of retirement income for key executive officers selected by the Board. SERBP benefits become fully vested after five years of continuous service. The SERBP establishes an annual target benefit for each participant based on continuous years of service. The target benefit is an annual amount paid for the life of the employee, which is the lesser of (i) the product of 2.6% and the average of the participant's five consecutive calendar years of highest compensation ("Final Average Compensation") multiplied by years of continuous service, but in no event more than 65% of Final Average Compensation, or (ii) the product of \$265,323 (subject to annual adjustment) multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the employee's continuous years of service and the denominator of which is the greater of the number of continuous years of service or 25. Compensation includes all cash compensation from an employer that participates in the SERBP, including salary and adjusted bonus, without taking into account voluntary reductions. Adjusted bonus means the lesser of (i) the bonus amount paid or (ii) 25% of salary during the period for which the bonus was earned. The target benefit is reduced by 100% of primary social security benefits and the Company-paid portion of all benefits payable under the Company's qualified retirement plans to determine the actual benefit payable under the SERBP. The actual benefit will be paid as a straight life annuity or in other actuarially equivalent forms chosen by the participant commencing on the later of retirement or age 60. A participant who retires before age 60 with at least 10 years of continuous service will receive an early retirement benefit commencing on the later of retirement or age 55 equal to the normal retirement benefit reduced by 4% for each year by which commencement of benefits precedes age 60. Ms. Lundgren is the only named executive officer who participates in the SERBP and she was not eligible for early retirement benefits at August 31, 2012.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

Potential Payments Upon a Change in Control

The Company has entered into a change in control agreement with Ms. Lundgren which provides certain benefits if her employment is terminated by the Company without "cause" or by her for "good reason" during a six-month period preceding a "change in control" of the Company or within 24 months after a "change in control" of the Company. In this agreement, "change in control" is generally defined to include:

- the acquisition by any person of 20 percent or more of the Company's outstanding Class A common stock;
- the nomination (and subsequent election) of a majority of the Company's directors by persons other than the incumbent directors; or
- the consummation of a sale of all or substantially all of the Company's assets or an acquisition of the Company through a merger or share exchange.

"Cause" generally includes willful and continued failure to substantially perform assigned duties or willfully engaging in illegal conduct injurious to the Company, and "good reason" generally includes a change in position or responsibilities that does not represent a promotion, a decrease in compensation or a base office relocation.

The Company has also entered into change in control agreements with the other named executive officers which provide certain benefits if the officer's employment is terminated by the Company without "cause" or by the officer for "good reason" within 18 months after a "change in control" of the Company. These agreements contain definitions of "change in control," "cause" and "good reason" which are substantially identical to those contained in the change in control agreement for Ms. Lundgren.

The Company granted LTIP performance shares to the named executive officers in fiscal 2010, 2011 and 2012 pursuant to which shares of Class A common stock will be issued based on the Company's performance during the applicable three-year or two-year performance periods relating to the awards. The award agreements relating to the LTIP performance shares provide for an accelerated payout of the performance shares upon a "Company sale," which generally means a sale of the Company by means of a merger, share exchange or sale of substantially all of the assets of the Company. In addition, award agreements relating to all outstanding RSUs provide for accelerated vesting on a change in control of the Company (which has the same meaning as under the change in control agreements). An accelerated payout of LTIP performance shares and accelerated vesting of RSUs would occur even if the named executive officer's employment was not terminated in connection with the Company sale or change in control.

The following table sets forth the estimated change in control benefits that would have been payable to each named executive officer if a change in control (including a Company sale) had occurred on August 31, 2012 and, except as noted, each officer's employment had been terminated on that date either by the Company without "cause" or by the officer with "good reason."

| Name | Cash Severance Benefit (\$)(1) | Non-competition Covenant Payment (\$)(2) | Insurance Continuation (\$)(3) | Stock Option Acceleration and Extension (\$)(4) | Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration (\$)(5) | LTIP Performance Share Acceleration (\$)(6) | Tax Gross-up Payment (\$)(7) | Total (\$) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 7,500,000 | — | 42,528 | — | 2,617,354 | 3,161,909 | — | 13,321,791 |
| Richard D. Peach | 1,539,000 | — | 31,232 | 370,154 | 391,182 | 759,716 | — | 3,091,284 |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 1,100,000 | 893,523 | 30,486 | 126,104 | 239,632 | 732,261 | — | 3,122,006 |
| Richard C. Josephson | 1,274,625 | — | 39,881 | 305,153 | 268,495 | 421,343 | — | 2,309,497 |
| Thomas D. Klauer | 1,208,798 | — | 18,643 | 279,476 | 319,149 | 562,868 | — | 2,388,934 |

(1)Cash Severance Benefit. The change in control agreements provide for cash severance equal to a multiple (three for Ms. Lundgren, and one and one-half for Messrs. Peach, Josephson and Klauer and one for Mr. Christopher) times the sum of (a) the officer's base salary plus (b) the greater of (1) the average of the officer's last three annual

bonuses, except that for Ms. Lundgren the amount taken into account for any such bonus shall not exceed three times the target bonus for such year, or (2) the most recently established target bonus. The change in control agreements also provide for a payment of all or a portion of the annual bonus for the year in which termination occurs. The table above does not include a bonus payment for fiscal 2012 because bonuses earned for fiscal 2012 are included in the Summary Compensation Table and no additional amount would have been earned in fiscal 2012 if the officer had terminated employment as of August 31, 2012.

Noncompetition Covenant Payment. Mr. Christopher has entered into an employment agreement providing, among (2) other things, for certain payments following termination of his employment as consideration for certain noncompetition and

nonsolicitation covenants, but only if we terminate his employment without cause or he resigns with good reason. In all those cases, including circumstances not involving a change in control, Mr. Christopher is entitled to continue to receive his base salary for one year and then receive a bonus at the end of that year equal to the average of his last three annual bonuses. The amount in the table above represents the sum of his base salary plus the average of his last three annual bonuses.

(3) Insurance Continuation. If cash severance benefits are triggered, the change in control agreements also provide for continuation of Company paid life, accident and medical insurance benefits for up to 36 months following termination of employment for Ms. Lundgren, up to 18 months for Messrs. Peach, Josephson and Klauer and up to 12 months for Mr. Christopher, except to the extent similar benefits are provided by a subsequent employer. The amounts in the table above represent 36, 18 or 12 months, as applicable, of life, accident and medical insurance benefit payments at the rates paid by the Company for each of these officers as of August 31, 2012.

(4) Stock Option Acceleration and Extension. All outstanding unexercisable options for all named executive officers will immediately become exercisable on a change in control of the Company, whether or not the officer's employment is terminated in connection with the change in control. If cash severance benefits are triggered, all options held by Messrs. Peach, Christopher, Josephson and Klauer will remain outstanding for their full term. Information regarding outstanding options held by the named executive officers is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table. The amounts in the table above represent the sum of (a) the positive spread, if any, between \$27.62 (the closing market price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012) and the exercise price for each outstanding unexercisable option held by the applicable officer on August 31, 2012, and (b) the increase in value of outstanding options resulting from the extension of the post-termination exercise period from 90 days to the full remaining term, with the option values for 90-day and full remaining terms calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with assumptions consistent with those used for valuing our options under accounting for share-based compensation.

(5) RSU Acceleration. All RSUs for all named executive officers will immediately vest on a change in control of the Company, whether or not the officer's employment is terminated in connection with the change in control. Information regarding unvested RSUs held by the named executive officers is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table. The amounts in the table above represent the number of shares subject to unvested RSUs multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

(6) LTIP Performance Share Acceleration. Under the terms of the standard LTIP performance share award agreements, upon a Company sale, a named executive officer would receive a payout in an amount equal to the greater of (a) 100% of the target share amount or (b) the payout calculated as if the performance period had ended on the last day of the Company's most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of the Company sale, taking into account provisions in the award agreements for calculating performance for a shorter performance period and a partial year. Under the terms of the special LTIP performance share award agreements relating to nonferrous recovery system upgrades, upon a Company sale, Mr. Christopher would receive a payout of 100% of the maximum share amount. The accelerated payouts would occur whether or not the officer's employment was terminated in connection with the Company sale. The amounts in the table above represent the value of outstanding LTIP performance share awards that would vest and be paid out pursuant to the terms of the award agreements on a Company sale based on a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

(7) Tax Gross-up Payment. If any payments to a named executive officer in connection with a change in control are subject to the 20% excise tax on "excess parachute payments" as defined in Section 280G of the Code, the Company is required under the change in control agreements to make a tax gross-up payment to the officer sufficient so that officer will receive benefits as if no excise tax were payable. However, for the named executive officers other than Ms. Lundgren there is a cut back provision that provides that if the "parachute value" is less than 110% of the Safe Harbor amount (as such terms are defined in the change of control agreement), no additional payment is required and the amounts payable to the named executive officer will be reduced to 2.99 times such officer's "base amount."

Potential Payments Upon Involuntary Termination of Employment without Cause or Voluntary Termination of Employment for "Good Reason" in Circumstances Not Involving a Change in Control

The following table sets forth the estimated benefits that would have been payable to the named executive officers under currently effective agreements if each officer's employment had been terminated on August 31, 2012, either by the Company without "cause" or, with respect to certain benefits, by the officer for "good reason" in circumstances not involving a change in control.

| Name | Cash Severance Benefit (\$)(1) | Non-competition Covenant Payment (\$)(2) | Insurance Continuation (\$)(3) | Stock Option Acceleration (\$)(4) | Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration (\$)(5) | LTIP Performances Share Acceleration (\$)(6) | Total (\$) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 7,500,000 | — | 28,352 | — | 2,617,354 | 1,185,368 | 11,331,074 |
| Richard D. Peach | — | — | — | — | — | 230,682 | 230,682 |
| Patrick L. Christopher | — | 893,523 | — | — | — | 144,756 | 1,038,279 |
| Richard C. Josephson | — | — | — | — | — | 163,649 | 163,649 |
| Thomas D. Klauer | — | — | — | — | — | 182,292 | 182,292 |

Cash Severance Benefit. Ms. Lundgren has entered into an employment agreement providing for, among other things, cash severance benefits if her employment is terminated by the Company without "cause" or by her for "good reason" in circumstances not involving a change in control. "Cause" and "good reason" generally have the same meaning as under the change in control agreements described above. The cash severance payment for Ms. Lundgren is equal to three times the sum of base salary plus target bonus as in effect at the time plus a pro rata portion of the incentive bonus that she would have received if she had remained employed for the fiscal year in which the termination occurs (based on the portion of the year worked). The table above does not include a pro rata portion of the incentive bonus for fiscal 2012 because bonuses earned for fiscal 2012 are included in the Summary Compensation Table and no additional amounts would have been earned if Ms. Lundgren had terminated employment as of August 31, 2012. These amounts are payable within 30 days after termination. Under the AICP, if a named executive officer (other than Ms. Lundgren) were involuntarily terminated by the Company without cause (as determined by the Committee), the named executive officer would receive, at the time that bonuses under the program were determined and paid for other participants, a bonus based on the officer's earnings for the portion of the year the participant was employed. For this purpose the officer would be deemed to have satisfied the officer's individual goals. The table above does not include bonus payments for fiscal 2012 because bonuses earned for fiscal 2012 are included in the Summary Compensation Table and no additional amounts would have been earned if the officers had terminated employment as of August 31, 2012.

Noncompetition Covenant Payment. Mr. Christopher has entered into an employment agreement providing, among other things, for certain payments following termination of his employment as consideration for certain noncompetition and nonsolicitation covenants, but only if we terminate his employment without cause or he resigns with good reason. In all those cases, Mr. Christopher is entitled to receive his base salary for one year and then receive a bonus at the end of that year equal to the average of his last three annual bonuses. The amount in the table above represents the sum of his base salary plus the average of his last three annual bonuses.

Insurance Continuation. If cash severance benefits are triggered under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement, her employment agreement provides for continuation for up to 24 months of Company paid life, accident and health insurance benefits for Ms. Lundgren and Ms. Lundgren's spouse and dependents, and the amount in the table represents 24 months of such insurance benefit payments at the rates paid by us for Ms. Lundgren as of August 31, 2012.

Stock Option Acceleration. If cash severance benefits are triggered under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement, her employment agreement provides that all of her outstanding unexercisable options will immediately become

exercisable. Information regarding outstanding unexercisable options held by Ms. Lundgren is set forth in the Outstanding Equity Awards table. No amount is reported in the table above because the exercise price for each outstanding unexercisable option held by Ms. Lundgren on August 31, 2012 exceeded \$27.62 (the closing market price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012).

(5) RSU Acceleration. If cash severance benefits are triggered under Ms. Lundgren's employment agreement, her employment agreement also provides that all RSUs will immediately vest. Information regarding unvested restricted stock units held by Ms. Lundgren is set forth in the Outstanding Equity Awards table. The amount in the table above represents the number of shares subject to unvested RSUs multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

LTIP Performance Shares Acceleration. Under the terms of the standard LTIP performance share award agreements, if a named executive officer's employment is terminated by the Company without cause in circumstances not involving a Company sale after the end of the twelfth month of the applicable performance period and prior to the vesting date, the named executive officer would be entitled to receive a prorated award to be paid following completion of the performance period, taking into account the number of performance shares that would otherwise have been issued based on the actual performance during the entire performance period and the portion of the performance period the officer had worked. The officer is required to provide a release of claims in connection with such payout. For this purpose, "cause" generally means (a) the conviction of the officer of a felony involving theft or moral turpitude or relating to the business of the Company, (b) the officer's continued failure to (6) perform assigned duties, (c) fraud or dishonesty by the officer in connection with employment with the Company, (d) any incident materially compromising the officer's reputation or ability to represent the Company with the public, (e) any willful misconduct that substantially impairs the Company's business or reputation, or (f) any other willful misconduct by the officer that is clearly inconsistent with the officer's position or responsibilities. No accelerated vesting on termination without cause is provided in the special LTIP performance share awards relating to nonferrous recovery system upgrades. The amounts in the table above are calculated based on actual performance for completed portions of the applicable performance periods and assume performance at the 100% payout level (actual performance may be more or less) for the remaining portions of the performance periods, with the resulting number of performance shares then multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

Potential Payments Upon Retirement

The terms of outstanding options, RSUs and LTIP performance share awards define retirement as normal retirement after reaching age 65, early retirement after reaching age 55 and completing 10 years of service or early retirement after completing 30 years of service. Mr. Klauer is the only named executive officer who was eligible for retirement at August 31, 2012. The following table sets forth the estimated benefits that would have been payable to Mr. Klauer if his employment had been terminated on August 31, 2012 by reason of retirement, excluding amounts payable under the Company's 401(k) Plan, Pension Plan and SERBP.

| Name | Stock Option Extension (\$)(1) | Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration (\$)(2) | LTIP Performance Shares Acceleration (\$)(3) | Total (\$) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| Thomas D. Klauer | 10,150 | 319,149 | 182,292 | 511,591 |

Stock Option Extension. The terms of outstanding options provide that on retirement, the standard 90-day period for exercising options following termination of employment will be extended to 12 months, but not beyond each option's original 10-year term. Information regarding outstanding options held by Mr. Klauer is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table. The amount in the table above represents the increase in value of outstanding (1) options resulting from the extension of the post-termination exercise period from 90 days to 12 months, with the option values for 90-day and 12-month remaining terms calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with assumptions consistent with those used for valuing our options under accounting for share-based compensation.

RSU Acceleration. The terms of the RSU awards (other than Ms. Lundgren's RSU for 2,763 shares granted in August 2012) provide for accelerated vesting on retirement. Information regarding unvested RSUs held by Mr. Klauer is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table above. The amount in the table above represents the (2) number of shares subject to RSUs that would vest on retirement multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

(3) LTIP Performance Shares Acceleration. Under the terms of the standard LTIP performance share awards, if a named executive officer retires prior to the vesting date, the named executive officer would be entitled to receive a

pro-rated award to be paid following completion of the performance period, taking into account the number of performance shares that would otherwise have been issued based on the actual performance through the entire performance period and the portion of the performance period the officer had worked. The officer is required to provide a release of claims in connection with such payout. The amount in the table above is calculated based on actual performance for completed portions of the applicable performance periods and assumes performance at the 100% payout level (actual performance may be more or less) for the remaining portions of the performance periods, with the resulting number of performance shares then multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

Potential Payments Upon Disability or Death

The following table sets forth the estimated benefits that would have been payable to the named executive officers if each officer's employment had been terminated on August 31, 2012 by reason of disability or death, excluding amounts payable under the Company's 401(k) Plan, Pension Plan and SERBP.

| Name | Stock Option Acceleration and Extension (\$)(1) | Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration (\$)(2) | LTIP Performance Shares Acceleration (\$)(3) | Total (\$) |
|------------------------|---|--|--|------------|
| Tamara L. Lundgren | 197,175 | 2,617,354 | 1,151,478 | 3,966,007 |
| Richard D. Peach | 54,983 | 391,182 | 223,915 | 670,080 |
| Patrick L. Christopher | 21,556 | 239,632 | 185,496 | 446,684 |
| Richard C. Josephson | 52,314 | 268,495 | 159,754 | 480,563 |
| Thomas D. Klauer | 46,987 | 319,149 | 176,934 | 543,070 |

Stock Option Acceleration and Extension. The terms of outstanding options provide that upon termination of employment as a result of disability or death, all unvested options shall become fully exercisable and the standard 90-day period for exercising options following termination of employment will be extended to 12 months, but not beyond each option's original 10-year term. Information regarding outstanding unexercisable options held by the named executive officers is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table. The amounts in the table above represent the sum of (a) the positive spread, if any, between \$27.62 (the closing market price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012) and the exercise price for each outstanding unexercisable options held by the applicable officer on August 31, 2012, and (b) the increase in value of outstanding options resulting from the extension of the post-termination exercise period from 90 days to 12 months, with the option values for 90-day and 12-month remaining terms calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with assumptions consistent with those used for valuing our options under accounting for share-based compensation.

RSU Acceleration. The terms of the RSU awards provide for accelerated vesting upon termination of employment as a result of disability or death. Information regarding unvested RSUs held by the named executive officers is set forth in the "Outstanding Equity Awards" table above. The amounts in the table above represent the number of shares subject to unvested RSUs multiplied by a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

LTIP Performance Shares Acceleration. Under the terms of the standard LTIP performance share awards, if a named executive officer's employment is terminated due to death or disability prior to the vesting date, the officer (or his or her estate) would receive a payout in an amount equal to the payout calculated as if the performance period had ended on the last day of the Company's most recently completed fiscal quarter prior to the date of employment termination, taking into account provisions in the award agreement for calculating performance for a shorter performance period and a partial year, and prorated for the portion of the performance period the officer had worked. Under the terms of the special LTIP performance share awards relating to nonferrous recovery system upgrades that Mr. Christopher has received, if he dies or becomes disabled after the end of the 24th month of the applicable performance period and prior to the vesting date, he will be entitled to receive a full payout under the award following completion of the performance period. The amounts in the table above represent the value of outstanding LTIP performance share awards that would vest and be paid out pursuant to the terms of the award agreements on death or disability based on a stock price of \$27.62 per share, which was the closing price of the Company's Class A common stock on August 31, 2012, the last trading day of fiscal 2012.

COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table provides information as of August 31, 2012 regarding equity compensation plans approved and not approved by the Company's shareholders.

| Plan category | (a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights(2) | (b) Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights(3) | (c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders(1) | 1,769,024 | \$ 31.94 | 5,880,245 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders | — | — | — |
| Total | 1,769,024 | \$ 31.94 | 5,880,245 |

(1) Consists entirely of shares of Class A common stock authorized for issuance under the Company's SIP.

Consists of 611,592 shares subject to outstanding options, 302,920 shares subject to outstanding RSUs, 151,377 shares subject to outstanding DSUs or credited to stock accounts under the Deferred Compensation Plan for (2) Non-Employee Directors, and 703,135 shares representing the maximum number of shares that could be issued under outstanding LTIP performance share awards.

(3) Represents the weighted average exercise price for options included in column (a).

PROPOSAL NO. 2 – ADVISORY RESOLUTION ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (which was added by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act")) and the related rules of the SEC, we are including in these proxy materials a separate resolution to approve, in a non-binding, advisory vote, the compensation paid to our named executive officers as disclosed on pages 29 to 41. In accordance with the results of the advisory vote on the frequency of shareholder advisory votes on executive compensation conducted at our 2012 annual meeting, we currently intend to hold such votes annually. Accordingly, the next such vote will be held at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. While the results of the vote are non-binding and advisory in nature, the Board of Directors intends to carefully consider the results of this vote.

The text of the resolution in respect of Proposal No. 2 is as follows:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and any related narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR this resolution because it believes that our executive compensation policies and practices described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis are effective in achieving the Company's goals of rewarding sustained financial and operating performance and leadership excellence, aligning the executives' long-term interests with those of the shareholders and motivating the executives to remain with the Company for long and productive careers. Our performance targets are meaningful and rigorous and are designed to encourage our executives to perform at the highest levels. In addition, the Company's executive compensation practices have been designed to align our executive officer's interests with those of shareholders and to drive long-term shareholder value:

• **Pay for Performance:** The majority of our named executive officers' compensation is not guaranteed, but is based on the financial performance of the Company as a whole.

• **Change in Control Agreements:** No excise tax gross-ups have been included in new agreements since 2008.

• **Minimal Perquisites:** We do not have any special perquisites and the annual value is small.

• **Share-ownership Guidelines:** The guidelines specify that the CEO must hold our Class A Common Stock in the amount of five times base salary and Senior Vice Presidents must hold two times base salary. Our policy is to allow our executive officers to reach their targeted holdings through retention of shares which vest under our SIP. Our CEO has achieved the minimum required ownership, and each of the other named executive officers was otherwise in compliance with the guidelines as of August 31, 2012.

• **Regular Review of Share Utilization:** We evaluate share utilization annually by reviewing overhang levels (dilutive impact of equity compensation on shareholders) and annual run rates (the aggregate shares awarded as a percentage of total outstanding shares).

• **Independent Compensation Consulting Firm:** The Compensation Committee utilizes an independent compensation consulting firm which does not provide other services to the Company.

• **Dividends and Dividend Equivalents:** No dividends or dividend equivalents are paid on unearned LTIP performance shares.

We urge shareholders to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 15 of this proxy statement, as well as the Summary Compensation Table and related compensation tables and narrative discussion, appearing on pages 29 through 41, which provide detailed information on the Company's executive compensation policies and practices and the compensation of our named executive officers.

The Board of Directors recommends that shareholders vote "FOR" THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION PAID TO OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") as our independent auditors to audit our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting for the fiscal years ending August 31, 2011 and 2012, as well as for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2013. Aggregate fees of PwC for audit services related to the most recent two fiscal years, and other professional services for which they billed us during the most recent two fiscal years, were:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Audit Fees(1) | \$1,784,235 | \$1,532,653 |
| Audit Related Fees(2) | — | 295,225 |
| Tax Fees(3) | — | — |
| All Other Fees | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Total | \$1,787,835 | \$1,831,478 |

(1) Comprised of the audit of the Company's annual financial statements, reviews of the Company's quarterly financial statements and the required audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as well as consents related to and reviews of other documents filed with the SEC.

(2) Comprised of acquisition due diligence and consultations regarding internal controls and financial accounting and reporting.

(3) Comprised of services for tax compliance, tax return preparation, tax advice and tax planning.

In fiscal 2012 and 2011, 100% of the audit fees, audit-related fees, tax fees and all other fees were approved by the Audit Committee.

A representative of PwC is expected to be present at the annual meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if he desires to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, all audit and non-audit services performed by our independent accountants must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee to assure that such services do not impair the accountants' independence from the Company. Accordingly, the Audit Committee has adopted an Audit and Non-Audit Services Pre-Approval Policy (the "Policy") which sets forth the procedures and the conditions pursuant to which services to be performed by the independent accountants are to be pre-approved. Pursuant to the Policy, certain services described in detail in the Policy may be pre-approved on an annual basis together with pre-approved maximum fee levels for such services. The services eligible for annual pre-approval consist of services that would be included under the categories of Audit Fees, Audit-Related Fees and Tax Fees in the above table as well as services for accounting consultations. If not pre-approved on an annual basis, proposed services must otherwise be separately approved prior to being performed by the independent accountants. In addition, any services that receive annual pre-approval but exceed the pre-approved maximum fee level also will require separate approval by the Audit Committee prior to being performed. The Audit Committee may delegate authority to pre-approve audit and non-audit services to any member of the Audit Committee but may not delegate such authority to management.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee has:

Reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements of the Company with management.

Discussed with the independent auditors 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 3200 T.

Received the written disclosures and the letter from the Company's independent accountant required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence and has discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant's independence.

Based on the review and discussions described above, recommended to the Board of Directors that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012 filed with the SEC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

William D. Larsson, Chair

David J. Anderson

Judith A. Johansen

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The Company's Bylaws require shareholders to give the Company advance notice of any proposal or director nomination to be submitted at any meeting of shareholders and prescribe the information to be contained in any such notice. For any shareholder proposal or nomination to be considered at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the shareholder's notice must be received at the Company's principal executive office no earlier than the close of business on October 2, 2013 and no later than the close of business on November 1, 2013 and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Company's Bylaws. In addition, any proposal by a shareholder of the Company to be considered for inclusion in proxy materials for the Company's 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must be received in proper form by the Company at its principal executive office no later than August 21, 2013.

DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY

Although the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders provides for transaction of any other business that properly comes before the meeting, the Board has no knowledge of any matters to be presented at the meeting other than the matters described in this Proxy Statement. The enclosed proxy, however, gives discretionary authority to the proxy holders to vote in accordance with their judgment if any other matters are presented.

GENERAL

The cost of preparing, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement and of the solicitation of proxies by us will be borne by us. Solicitation will be made by mail and, in addition, may be made by our directors, officers and employees personally or by telephone, email, facsimile or telegram. We will request brokers, custodians, nominees and other like parties to forward copies of proxy materials to beneficial owners of stock and will reimburse such parties for their reasonable and customary charges or expenses in this connection.

We will provide to any person whose proxy is solicited by this proxy statement, without charge, upon written request to our Corporate Secretary, a copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2012 or of our proxy statement. We also make available, free of charge on our website, all of our filings that are made electronically with the SEC, including Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE PROVIDED PROMPTLY. THEREFORE, SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON ARE URGED TO SUBMIT A PROXY THROUGH THE INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE OR TO EXECUTE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE REPLY ENVELOPE PROVIDED IF THIS PROXY WAS RECEIVED BY MAIL.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Richard C. Josephson

Secretary

December 19, 2012

Shareowner Services
 P.O. Box 64945
 St. Paul, MN 555164-0945

COMPANY #

Vote by Internet, Telephone or Mail
 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week
 Your phone or Internet vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.
 INTERNET – www.eproxy.com/schn
 Use the Internet to vote your proxy until 12:00 p.m. (CT) on January 29, 2013.

PHONE – 1-800-560-1965
 Use a touch-tone telephone to vote your proxy until 12:00 p.m. (CT) on January 29, 2013.

MAIL – Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you vote your proxy by Internet or by Telephone, you do NOT need to mail back your Proxy Card.

TO VOTE BY MAIL AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS ON ALL ITEMS BELOW, SIMPLY SIGN, DATE, AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD.

The Board of Directors Recommends a Vote FOR Proposals 1 and 2.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Election of directors: | 01 William A. Furman | £ | Vote FOR | £ | |
| | 02 William D. Larsson | | all nominees | | Vote WITHHOLD |
| | 03 David L. Jahnke | | (except as marked) | | from all nominees |

(Instructions: To withhold authority to vote for any indicated nominee, write the number(s) of the nominee(s) in the box provided to the right.)

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|---|---------|---|---------|
| 2. To vote on an advisory resolution on executive compensation | £ | For | £ | Against | £ | Abstain |
|--|---|-----|---|---------|---|---------|

The proxies may vote in their discretion as to other matters which may come before the meeting.

THIS PROXY WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED OR, IF NO DIRECTION IS GIVEN, WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSALS 1 AND 2.

Date
 Address Change? £ Indicate changes
 Mark Box below:

Signature(s) in Box
 Please sign exactly as your name(s) appears on Proxy. If held in joint tenancy, all persons should sign. Trustees, administrators,

etc., should include title and authority. Corporations should provide full name of corporation and title of authorized officer signing the Proxy.

SCHNITZER STEEL INDUSTRIES, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
Wednesday, January 30, 2013
8:00 a.m.
Multnomah Athletic Club
1849 SW Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97205

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be Held on January 30, 2013: The Notice and Proxy Statement, Form 10-K and Annual Brochure are available at www.ematerials.com/schn. For driving directions to the Annual Meeting, please see www.themac.com.

Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 10047
Portland, Oregon 97296-0047

proxy

This proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on January 30, 2013.

The shares of common stock of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. that you hold will be voted as you specify on the reverse side.

If no choice is specified, the proxy will be voted "FOR" all nominees in Proposal 1 and "FOR" Proposal 2.

By signing the proxy, you revoke all prior proxies and appoint Tamara L. Lundgren and Richard D. Peach, and each of them with full power of substitution, to vote your shares on the matters shown on the reverse side and any other matters which may come before the Annual Meeting and all adjournments.

See reverse for voting instructions