

MARTEN TRANSPORT LTD
Form DEF 14A
March 28, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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.

Definitive Additional Materials.

Soliciting material under Rule 14a-12.

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

(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.

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Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Marten Transport, Ltd. The meeting will be held on May 8, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. local time, at the Roger Marten Community Center, 120 South Franklin Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin.

We suggest you carefully read the enclosed Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement.

We hope you will attend the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you attend, we urge you to complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed envelope in order to have your shares represented and voted at the Annual Meeting.

Very truly yours,

Randolph L. Marten

Chairman of the Board and

Chief Executive Officer

March 28, 2018

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

129 Marten Street

Mondovi, Wisconsin 54755

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD MAY 8, 2018

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Marten Transport, Ltd. will be held on May 8, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. local time, at the Roger Marten Community Center, 120 South Franklin Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors to serve for the next year or until their successors are elected and qualified.
2. To consider and vote on a proposal to amend our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized number of shares of common stock from 96,000,000 to 192,000,000 shares.
3. To consider and hold a vote on an advisory resolution to approve executive compensation.
4. To consider and vote on a proposal to ratify the selection of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent public accountants for 2018.

5. To transact other business if properly brought before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only stockholders of record as shown on the books of the Company at the close of business on March 9, 2018, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Thomas A. Letscher

Secretary

March 28, 2018

MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD.

129 Marten Street

Mondovi, Wisconsin 54755

PROXY STATEMENT FOR

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

MAY 8, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Marten Transport, Ltd. will be held on May 8, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. local time, at the Roger Marten Community Center, 120 South Franklin Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin. See the Notice of Meeting for the purposes of the meeting.

A proxy card is enclosed for your use. You are solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of Marten Transport, Ltd. to **MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED**. Postage is not required if mailed in the United States. We will pay the cost of soliciting proxies, including preparing, assembling and mailing the proxies. We will also pay the cost of forwarding such material to the beneficial owners of our common stock, par value \$.01 per share. Our directors, officers and regular employees may, for no additional compensation, solicit proxies by telephone or personal conversation. We may reimburse brokerage firms and others for the expenses of forwarding proxy material to the beneficial owners of our common stock.

Any proxy given in accordance with this solicitation and received in time for the Annual Meeting will be voted in accordance with the instructions given in the proxy. Any stockholder giving a proxy may revoke it at any time before its use at the Annual Meeting by giving written notice of revocation to our Secretary. The revocation notice may be given before the Annual Meeting, or a stockholder may appear at the Annual Meeting and give written notice of revocation before use of the proxy.

We expect to mail this Proxy Statement, the proxy card and Notice of Meeting to stockholders on or about March 28, 2018.

The terms “we,” “us,” “our,” or the “Company” or similar terms refer to Marten Transport, Ltd.

VOTING OF SHARES

Only holders of common stock of record at the close of business on March 9, 2018 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. On March 9, 2018, we had 54,567,444 shares of common stock outstanding. For each share of common stock that you own of record at the close of business on March 9, 2018, you are entitled to one vote on each matter voted on at the Annual Meeting. Holders of shares of common stock are not entitled to cumulative voting rights.

Presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock on March 9, 2018 (27,283,723 shares) is required for a quorum to conduct business. In general, shares of common stock represented by a properly signed and returned proxy card will count as shares present at the Annual Meeting to determine a quorum. This is the case regardless of whether the proxy card reflects votes withheld from the election of director nominees or abstentions (or is left blank) or reflects a “broker non-vote” on a matter. If your shares are held in “street name” and you do not indicate how you wish to vote, your broker is permitted to exercise its discretion to vote your shares only on certain “routine” matters. This is called a “broker non-vote” and although your shares will be considered to be represented by proxy at the annual meeting for purposes of a quorum, they are not considered to be shares “entitled to vote” at the annual meeting and will not be counted as having been voted on non-routine matters. The ratification of Grant Thornton LLP is a “routine” matter and your broker is permitted to exercise discretionary voting authority to vote your shares “for” or “against” the proposal in the absence of your instruction.

Assuming a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, any business, except for the election of directors and the approval of the amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, that may properly come before the Annual Meeting requires the approval of a majority of the shares voting in person or by proxy on that proposal. With respect to the election of directors, the seven director nominees receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the election of directors will be elected as directors. The approval of the amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation requires the affirmative vote of a majority of our total shares of common stock issued and outstanding. The advisory vote on executive compensation is non-binding; provided, however, our Compensation Committee and Board expect to take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation decisions.

You may vote for or against a proposal, or may abstain from voting on a proposal. Shares voted as abstaining on a proposal will be treated as votes against the proposal. You may vote for all nominees for director, or withhold authority to vote for all or certain nominees but you do not have the choice to abstain. Votes withheld from the election of director nominees, therefore, will be excluded entirely from such vote and will have no effect. Broker non-votes on the proposal for the election of directors, and the advisory vote on executive compensation will be treated as shares not entitled to vote on such proposals and, therefore, will not be counted as voted shares. Broker non-votes on the proposal to approve the amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation will have the same effect as if voted against the proposal. A broker may exercise discretion and may vote shares that are not directed how to vote on the ratification of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent public accountants.

Shares of common stock represented by properly executed proxy cards will be voted as directed on the proxy cards. Proxies signed by stockholders but lacking any voting instructions will be voted in favor of each of the proposals or in favor of management's recommendation for a proposal, as appropriate. The proxies named on the proxy cards will use their judgment to vote such proxies on any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Proposal 1

Nomination

Our Bylaws provide that the Board shall have at least one member, or a different number of members as may be determined by the Board of Directors or the stockholders. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee has recommended to our Board of Directors that the seven persons listed below be nominated for election at the Annual Meeting and our Board has nominated the seven persons listed below. If elected, the individuals will serve until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. All of the nominees are members of the present Board of Directors, and all were elected at last year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The Board recommends a vote **FOR** the election of each of the nominees listed below. The seven nominees for election as directors at the Annual Meeting who receive the greatest number of votes cast will be elected as directors. If, before the Annual Meeting, the Board learns that any nominee will be unable to serve because of death, incapacity or other unexpected occurrence, the proxies that would have been voted for the nominee will be voted for a substitute nominee recommended by the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee and selected by the Board. The proxies may also, at the Board's discretion, be voted for the remaining nominees. The Board believes that all nominees will be able to serve at the time of the Annual Meeting. No arrangements or understandings exist between any nominee and any other person under which such nominee was selected.

Information about Nominees

The following chart and paragraphs provide information as of the date of this proxy statement about each nominee. The information presented includes information each director has given us about his age, all positions he holds, his principal occupation and business experience for the past five years, and the names of other publicly-held companies of which he currently serves as a director or has served as a director during the past five years. In addition to the information presented below regarding each nominee's specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led our Board to the conclusion that he should serve as a director, we also believe that all of our director nominees display personal and professional integrity; broad-based business acumen; a high level of understanding of our business and the transportation industry; strategic thinking and a willingness to share ideas; and have a diversity of experiences, expertise and background.

Name of Nominee	Age	Principal Occupation	Director Since
Randolph L. Marten	65	Our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	1980
Larry B. Hagness	68	Chief Executive Officer of Durand Builders Service, Inc., Durand, Wisconsin	1991
Thomas J. Winkel	75	Management Consultant Pewaukee, Wisconsin	1994
Jerry M. Bauer	66	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Bauer Built, Inc., Durand, Wisconsin	1997
Robert L. Demorest	72	Business Consultant and former President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of MOCON, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota	2007
G. Larry Owens	80	Retired Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, President and Secretary of Smithway Motor Xpress Corp., Milford, Iowa	2007
Ronald R. Booth	67	Retired Partner, KPMG LLP Dellwood, Minnesota	2015

Other Information about Nominees

Randolph L. Marten has been a full-time employee of ours since 1974. Mr. Marten has been a Director since October 1980, our Chairman of the Board since August 1993 and our Chief Executive Officer since January 2005. Mr. Marten also served as our President from June 1986 until June 2008, our Chief Operating Officer from June 1986 until August 1998 and as a Vice President from October 1980 to June 1986. We believe Mr. Marten's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his four decades of experience in the trucking industry, including 37 years as an executive officer.

Larry B. Hagness has been a Director since July 1991. Mr. Hagness has been the Chief Executive Officer of Durand Builders Service, Inc., a retail lumber/home center outlet and general contractor, since June 2016 and served as the President of Durand Builders Service, Inc. from 1978 to June 2016. Mr. Hagness was an officer and owner of Main Street Graphics, a commercial printing company, from 1985 through January 2014, and also served on the Board of Directors of Chippewa Valley Technical College from 2007 through July 2013. We believe Mr. Hagness's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his management experience with Durand Builders Service, Inc. and his years of experience as our director.

Thomas J. Winkel has been a Director since April 1994. Since January 1994, Mr. Winkel has been a management and financial consultant and private investor. From 1990 to 1994, Mr. Winkel was the majority owner, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President of Road Rescue, Inc., a manufacturer of emergency response vehicles. Mr. Winkel is a retired certified public accountant having served in various professional capacities over a 23 year career with a national accounting firm, including as a partner from 1977 to 1990. Mr. Winkel has also served on the National Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Association from 2007 through October 2016, and served as a director of Featherlite, Inc., a manufacturer of specialty trailers and luxury motorcoaches, from 1994 through October 2006 upon the sale of Featherlite.

We believe Mr. Winkel's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his experience as a CEO and President of a manufacturer of specialty vehicles and his prior experience as a board member and committee chairman of a publicly-traded manufacturing company combined with his extensive financial and accounting experience as an audit partner in a national accounting firm.

Jerry M. Bauer has been a Director since January 1997. Mr. Bauer has been the Chief Executive Officer of Bauer Built, Inc. since 1976 and the Chairman of the Board since 1980. Bauer Built is a distributor of new and retreaded tires and related products and services throughout the Midwest, and a distributor of petroleum products in west central Wisconsin. Mr. Bauer has also served on the Board of Directors of Security Financial Bank, Durand, Wisconsin since 1992 and served on the Board of Directors of Mason Companies, Inc., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin from 1999 through 2008. We believe Mr. Bauer's qualifications to sit on our Board include his operational experience as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of a company that specializes in tires and fuel, both important components for

a trucking company, combined with his board experience.

Robert L. Demorest has been a Director since December 2007. Mr. Demorest formerly served as the President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of MOCON, Inc., a publicly traded company that provides consulting services and designs, manufactures, markets and services measurement and analytical instruments primarily for food, beverage and pharmaceutical companies world-wide, from April 2000 to July 2017. Prior to that time, Mr. Demorest had been President of MOCON, Inc. for more than five years. Mr. Demorest is now a business consultant to global companies, and we believe Mr. Demorest's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his years of experience as a Chief Executive Officer leading a world-wide, publicly-traded organization.

Pursuant to the requirements of our Corporate Governance Standards, Mr. Demorest provided us notice of his change in job responsibilities resulting from the sale of MOCON, Inc., which resulted in Mr. Demorest transitioning from President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of MOCON, Inc. to consultant. In addition, Mr. Demorest agreed to resign from the Board in the event the Board determined it was no longer appropriate that he serve as a Director. Our Board evaluated the continued appropriateness of Mr. Demorest's Board membership due to this change in circumstance and determined that Mr. Demorest's continuing membership on the Board was appropriate.

G. Larry Owens has been a Director since December 2007. Mr. Owens served as the Chief Executive Officer, President and Secretary of Smithway Motor Xpress Corp., a formerly publicly traded truckload carrier that provides nationwide transportation of diversified freight, concentrating primarily on the flatbed segment of the truckload market, from March 2004 to December 2007, and served as the Chairman of the Board of Smithway Motor Xpress Corp. from April 2004 to December 2007, at which time he retired. Mr. Owens had served prior to that time as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Smithway Motor Xpress Corp. from January 1993 and Chief Administrative Officer from August 2001. Mr. Owens also served as the Chief Operating Officer of Smithway Motor Xpress Corp. from May 1998 to August 2001. Prior to joining Smithway Motor Xpress Corp., Mr. Owens spent twenty-five years in the banking industry, most recently from 1982 through 1992 as President of Boatmen's Bancshares' regional banks in Spencer and Fort Dodge, Iowa. We believe Mr. Owens' qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his industry experience as the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, President and Secretary of a publicly-traded trucking company and his extensive financial background.

Ronald R. Booth has been a Director since December 2015. Mr. Booth was employed by KPMG LLP, an international public accounting firm, where he worked from 1973 until his retirement in September 2009 and where he served as an audit partner beginning in June 1984. During his 36-year tenure with KPMG, Mr. Booth provided audit and business advisory services to clients in various industries, including the manufacturing, retail, distribution and transportation industries. Mr. Booth holds a B.S. in Accounting from Iowa State University. Mr. Booth also served as treasurer and a director for Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, a not-for-profit organization, from 2009 through June 2015. We believe Mr. Booth's qualifications to sit on our Board of Directors include his extensive financial and accounting experience as an audit partner in a national accounting firm.

Corporate Governance

Our Board of Directors has adopted an Audit Committee Charter, a Compensation Committee Charter, a Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee Charter, Corporate Governance Standards, Policy Regarding Related Party Transactions, a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management and a Code of Ethics/Conduct that applies to all officers, directors, employees and independent contractors. We have posted all of these documents on our website at www.marten.com. The information contained in or connected to our website is not incorporated by reference into or considered a part of this Proxy Statement.

Board Oversight of Risk

Management is responsible for the Company's day-to-day risk management and the Board's responsibility is to engage in informed oversight of and provide overall direction with respect to such risk management. Our Board administers its risk oversight function directly and through its committees, which includes regular meetings with management to discuss, identify and mitigate potential areas of risk. Our Board's approach to risk management is to focus on understanding the nature of our enterprise risks, to support the achievement of organizational objectives, including

strategic objectives, to improve long-term organizational performance and enhance stockholder value, while at the same time overseeing an appropriate level of risk for the Company. We believe our current board leadership structure helps ensure proper risk oversight, based on the allocation of duties among committees and the role of our independent directors in risk oversight.

While our Board has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, various committees of the Board also have responsibility for risk management. As part of its charter, the Audit Committee discusses with management and the independent auditors our adequacy and effectiveness of accounting and financial controls, including our systems to monitor and manage business, information technology and cyber security risks. The Audit Committee charter also charges the Audit Committee with setting the overall tone for sound business risk practices. The Company's Compensation Committee reviews the Company's overall compensation programs and is responsible for overseeing the management of risks relating to the Company's executive compensation plans and arrangements. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee manages risks associated with the Board's composition and corporate governance practices, as well as director independence, ethics and conflicts of interest. The Board and its committees regularly discuss with management our major risk exposures, their potential impact on us, and the steps we take to manage them.

Corporate Governance Standards

Our Corporate Governance Standards provide guidelines which govern the qualifications and conduct of our Board. Our standards are consistent with the corporate governance requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the corporate governance listing requirements applicable to companies whose securities are listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Our Corporate Governance Standards address, among other matters, the following:

regular meetings of our Board of Directors;

attendance by directors at annual meetings of stockholders;

conduct of Board meetings;

meetings of independent directors;

director access to executive officers and employees;

the composition, membership and selection of our Board of Directors;

the compensation and evaluation of performance of our Board of Directors and its committees;

the organization and basic function of Board committees;

the evaluation of the performance of our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer; and

stockholder communications with directors.

Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management

Our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management applies to all of our executive officers, including our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer and our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, along with

our Vice President of Finance and Controller and other employees performing similar functions who have been identified by the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and meet the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. We have posted our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management on our website at www.marten.com. We intend to disclose any amendments to and any waivers from a provision of our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Management on our website within five business days following the amendment or waiver.

Risk Considerations in our Compensation Program

Our Compensation Committee has discussed risk as it relates to our compensation policies and practices for our employees and the Committee does not believe our compensation policies and practices for our employees are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us because of the way we structure our compensation policies and practices. We structure our compensation policies and practices to consist of both fixed and variable compensation. The fixed (or salary) portion of compensation is designed to provide a steady income regardless of the metrics associated with our business so that employees do not feel pressured to focus exclusively on business metrics to the detriment of our business. The variable component of our pay structure includes stock options, performance unit awards and both performance based and cash bonus plans. Our stock options generally vest over five years and are only valuable if our stock price increases over time so employees are encouraged to add to our long-term value. Our performance unit awards primarily vest based upon increases in our profitability over a five-year period, and also include a service-based vesting component and a requirement that at least half of all vested awards must be credited to the named executive officer's discretionary account in our deferred compensation plan. We believe that our compensation programs have an appropriate mix of fixed and variable compensation to insure our compensation objectives and philosophy are being met without encouraging our employees to engage in unnecessary or excessive risk-taking that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. Our Compensation Committee regularly monitors its compensation policies and practices to determine whether its risk management objectives are being met as it incentivizes our employees. In addition, to prevent speculation or hedging of interests in our equity by our employees, the Company adopted a policy prohibiting employees, officers and directors from engaging in any hedging or monetization transactions with respect to the Company's securities, including through the use of financial instruments such as exchange funds, prepaid variable forwards, equity swaps, puts, calls, collars, forwards or other derivative instruments, or through the establishment of a short position in the Company's securities.

Code of Ethics/Conduct

Our Code of Ethics/Conduct applies to all officers, directors, non-driver employees, driver employees and independent contractors of the Company. The Code is intended to promote honest and ethical conduct and to provide guidance for the appropriate handling of various business situations. The Code addresses, among other matters, legal and regulatory compliance, insider trading, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, competition and fair dealing, financial reporting and record-keeping, protection and proper use of Company assets, and the reporting of illegal or unethical behavior. Employees may anonymously report possible violations of the Code via a toll free telephone number, which is monitored by the chair of our Audit Committee. Waivers of the Code for officers and directors may be made only by our Board and will be promptly disclosed if and as required by law or NASDAQ listing requirements. We have posted our Code of Ethics/Conduct on our website at www.marten.com.

Board Oversight of Management Succession

On a periodic basis, our Board, with the involvement of our Compensation Committee, reviews the Company's plan for management succession, both in the ordinary course of business and in response to emergency situations. Potential candidates for management positions, including the position of Chief Executive Officer, are identified internally within the organization in consultation with our Compensation Committee (which oversees the evaluation of management) and our Chief Executive Officer, as well as externally through various sources. The succession planning process also addresses the continuing development of appropriate leadership skills for internal candidates for Chief Executive Officer, as well as candidates for other leadership positions within the Company. To aid in its planning, our Board regularly requests contact with non-executive members of management in order to have visibility into potential internal management succession candidates. Our Board also regularly engages in discussions with our Chief Executive Officer regarding long-range plans for officer development and succession.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the Compensation Committee addressed management succession and executive development in connection with its review of officer elections, promotions, and compensation matters during the year.

Board and Board Committees

We continue to monitor the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and NASDAQ to ensure that a majority of our Board remains composed of "independent" directors. Mr. Winkel, Mr. Hagness, Mr. Bauer, Mr. Demorest, Mr. Owens and Mr. Booth are all "independent" directors, as defined by current NASDAQ listing standards. Our independent directors hold meetings, referred to as "executive sessions," on a periodic basis and at least two times each year, at which only the independent directors are present. We have appointed Mr. Winkel as our lead independent director to preside at executive sessions of our independent directors.

Our Board of Directors held four meetings during 2017, and each director attended all Board meetings, as well as all meetings of committees of the Board on which they served and the annual meeting of stockholders. The Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee. Our Board of Directors adopted a policy that all directors are expected to attend our annual meeting of stockholders and we generally schedule a meeting of the Board on the same day as our annual meeting of stockholders in order to facilitate attendance of all directors at the annual meeting.

Leadership Structure of the Board

We currently combine the positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. We have adopted a counterbalancing governance structure to protect the interests of our stockholders by preventing the Board from being unduly influenced by the combination of these positions. Some components of our counterbalancing governance structure include:

- a designated lead independent director;
- a Board entirely composed of independent members, with the exception of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer;
- annual election of directors;
- committees entirely composed of independent directors;
- our independent directors hold executive sessions prior to most Board meetings at which only the independent directors are present; and
- established corporate governance standards and ethics guidelines.

The lead independent director presides at executive sessions of our independent directors, as well as performs other duties applicable to that position including, among other things, providing guidance to the Chairman regarding agendas for Board and committee meetings, advising the Chair as to the information to be provided the Board for its meetings, chairing meetings of the Board in the event the Chairman cannot be in attendance, and acting as principal liaison between the independent directors and the Chair. The lead independent director is expected to foster a cohesive board that cooperates with the Chairman towards the ultimate goal of creating stockholder value.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides assistance to the Board in satisfying its fiduciary responsibilities for our accounting, auditing, operating and reporting practices. The Committee oversees the financial reporting process, has the sole authority to appoint, compensate, retain and oversee the work of our independent registered public accounting firm, reviews and pre-approves all audit services and permissible non-audit services performed by our independent registered public accounting firm, establishes procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and for the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, oversees the establishment and administration of a written code of ethics for our senior financial management, reviews and either approves or disapproves of all related party transactions and performs other related duties delegated to it by the Board. The

responsibilities and functions of the Audit Committee are further described in the Audit Committee Report beginning on page 10 of the Proxy Statement. The Audit Committee consists of Mr. Winkel (Chair), Mr. Demorest, Mr. Owens and Mr. Booth. All of the members of the Audit Committee are “independent” as defined by current NASDAQ listing standards and the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, our Board has determined that each of Mr. Winkel, Mr. Owens and Mr. Booth is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. During 2017, the Audit Committee met seven times.

Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee establishes the compensation philosophy and policy for our executive officers and other key employees, which includes reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to their compensation, reviewing and evaluating their performance, monitoring the effectiveness of our benefit plans and, where appropriate, approving changes, reviewing and approving, or recommending to the full Board of Directors, executive incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans, supervising and overseeing the administration of our incentive compensation and equity-based programs and reviewing the compensation levels of independent directors from time to time. The Committee reviews our compensation policies and practices to confirm that such policies and practices do not encourage unnecessary risk taking and reviews and discusses, at least annually, the relationship between risk management policies and practices, corporate strategy, and our compensation policies and practices. The Committee serves as the disinterested administrator of our 2015 Equity Incentive Plan. The Committee also periodically reviews a management succession plan and recommends succession decisions to the Board of Directors. The responsibilities and functions of the Compensation Committee, including the use of compensation consultants and the involvement of management in compensation decisions, are further described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 15 of the Proxy Statement. The Compensation Committee consists of Mr. Winkel (Chair), Mr. Hagness, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Owens. All of the members of the Compensation Committee are “independent” directors, as defined by current NASDAQ listing standards. During 2017, the Compensation Committee met five times.

Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the size and composition of the Board, considers and recruits candidates for director nominees based upon recommendations from current outside directors, members of management, outside consultants or search firms and stockholders, recommends on an annual basis a slate of director nominees for approval by the Board and the stockholders, reviews our committee structure and membership, reviews and advises the Board regarding our corporate governance standards, advises the Board on emerging corporate governance matters, develops and recommends to the Board for its approval an annual self-evaluation process of the Board and its committees and provides suitable programs for the orientation and continuing education of directors. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee consists of Mr. Booth (chair), Mr. Hagness, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Demorest. All of the members of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee are “independent” directors, as defined by current NASDAQ listing standards. During 2017, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee met two times.

In evaluating and determining whether to recommend a person as a candidate for election as a director, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee’s criteria reflects the requirements of the NASDAQ definitions with respect to independence and financial literacy and the following factors: the needs of the Company with respect to the particular talents and experience of its directors; personal and professional integrity of the candidate; level of education and/or business experience; broad-based business acumen; the level of understanding of the Company’s business and the transportation industry; strategic thinking and a willingness to share ideas; and diversity of

experiences, expertise and background. Because the Committee believes it is important to create a Board with a diversity of experience, expertise, gender, race and ethnicity, the Committee will commit to include in each search candidates who reflect diverse backgrounds, including diversity of gender, race and ethnicity. The Committee will use these criteria to evaluate potential nominees and will not evaluate proposed nominees differently depending upon who has made the recommendation.

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee will consider proposed nominees whose names are submitted to it by stockholders; however, it does not have a formal process for that consideration. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee has not adopted a formal process since it believes its informal consideration process has been adequate because historically stockholders have not proposed any nominees. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee intends to review periodically whether a more formal policy should be adopted.

In considering whether to recommend any director nominee, including candidates recommended by stockholders, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee will apply the criteria set forth in its charter. These criteria include, among other things, the candidate's diversity of experiences, expertise and background, and the Committee's commitment to include in each search candidates who reflect diverse backgrounds, including diversity of gender, race and ethnicity. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criterion is necessarily applicable to all prospective nominees. We believe that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide a significant composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will allow the Board to fulfill its responsibilities. Nominees are not discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis prescribed by law.

Any stockholder who desires to recommend a nominee for director must submit a letter, addressed to the Chairman of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee, Marten Transport, Ltd., 129 Marten Street, Mondovi, Wisconsin 54755, and which is clearly identified as a "Director Nominee Recommendation." All recommendation letters must identify the author as a stockholder and provide a brief summary of the candidate's qualifications, as well as contact information for both the candidate and the stockholder. Stockholders who wish to make a recommendation for a nominee to be elected at our 2019 Annual Meeting must submit their recommendation by November 28, 2018 to assure time for meaningful consideration and evaluation of the nominees by the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is composed of four directors and acts under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the Audit Committee Charter is posted on our website at www.marten.com. All members of the Audit Committee meet the SEC and the NASDAQ definitions of independence and financial literacy for audit committee members. The Audit Committee will periodically review the Audit Committee Charter in light of new developments and may make additional recommendations to the Board of Directors for further revision of the Audit Committee Charter to reflect evolving best practices and changes in applicable laws and regulations.

Management is primarily responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our Company's consolidated financial statements, accounting and financial reporting processes, and internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Grant Thornton LLP, our Company's independent registered public accounting firm, is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), and to issue their reports thereon. Grant Thornton LLP also reviews our Company's interim consolidated financial statements in accordance with Statement on Auditing Standards No. 116 (*Interim Financial Information*). The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes on behalf of the Board of Directors.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management and Grant Thornton LLP the audited consolidated financial statements, including Management's Discussion and Analysis, included in our Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K and the results of Grant Thornton LLP's review of our Company's interim consolidated financial statements. These reviews included a discussion of:

critical accounting policies of our Company;

the reasonableness of significant financial reporting judgments made in connection with our consolidated financial statements, including the quality (and not just the acceptability) of our Company's accounting principles;

the clarity and completeness of financial disclosures;

the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, including management's and Grant Thornton LLP's reports thereon, the basis for the conclusions expressed in those reports and changes made to the Company's internal control over financial reporting during 2017;

matters noted by Grant Thornton LLP during its audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements and other material written communications between management and Grant Thornton LLP; and

the potential effects of regulatory and accounting initiatives on our Company's consolidated financial statements.

In connection with its audit of our Company's annual consolidated financial statements, the Audit Committee also discussed with Grant Thornton LLP other matters required to be discussed with the auditors under Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Auditing Standard No. 16 (*Communication with Audit Committees*), and, with and without management present, reviewed and discussed the results of Grant Thornton LLP's audit of our Company's annual consolidated financial statements.

The Audit Committee also has received the written disclosures and the letter from Grant Thornton LLP required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding Grant Thornton LLP's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with Grant Thornton LLP its independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

THOMAS J. WINKEL (CHAIR)

ROBERT L. DEMOREST

G. LARRY OWENS

RONALD R. BOOTH

Director Compensation

We do not pay fees to directors who are our full-time employees, nor do we reimburse them for out-of-pocket expenses of attending Board or committee meetings. We paid each non-employee director in 2017 an annual retainer of \$30,000, a fee of \$1,500 for each Board meeting attended, \$750 for each committee meeting attended, and reimbursed them for out-of-pocket expenses of attending meetings. We also paid the Chair of our Audit Committee, who is also our lead independent director, an additional annual retainer of \$25,000, the Chair of our Compensation Committee an additional annual retainer of \$10,000, and the Chair of our Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee an additional annual retainer of \$3,500. The directors did not receive any other cash compensation for services as directors in 2017.

In each of 2014 through 2017, each non-employee director received a grant of 1,000 shares of common stock upon re-election to the Board. The 1,000 shares granted in each year increased to 1,667 shares in our five-for-three stock split effected in the form of a 66 2/3% stock dividend on July 7, 2017.

In February 2010, we entered into an indemnification agreement with each of our then-current directors. Under each indemnification agreement, we agree to indemnify the director against liability arising out of performance of their duties to us and to advance expenses, if the requisite standards of conduct are met. The agreement also contains procedural mechanisms and presumptions applicable to any dispute as to whether such standards of conduct are satisfied. In February 2016, we also entered into an indemnification agreement containing similar terms with Mr. Booth, who has been a director since December 2015.

The following table provides summary information concerning the compensation of each individual who served as a director of our Company during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, other than Randolph L. Marten, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, whose compensation is set forth below under the heading “Compensation and Other Benefits.”

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards (7)	Total
Thomas J. Winkel	\$ 81,500 (1)	\$ 24,100	\$ 105,600
Ronald R. Booth	47,750 (2)	24,100	71,850
G. Larry Owens	46,500 (3)	24,100	70,600
Robert L. Demorest	44,250 (4)	24,100	68,350
Larry B. Hagness	42,750 (5)	24,100	66,850
Jerry M. Bauer	42,750 (6)	24,100	66,850

Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer, \$25,000 for services as the lead independent director and Audit (1)Committee Chair, \$10,000 for services as the Compensation Committee Chair and \$16,500 for attending 17 Board and committee meetings.

(2) Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer, \$3,500 for services as the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee Chair and \$14,250 for attending 14 Board and committee meetings.

(3) Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer and \$16,500 for attending 17 Board and committee meetings.

(4) Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer and \$14,250 for attending 14 Board and committee meetings.

(5) Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer and \$12,750 for attending 12 Board and committee meetings.

(6) Fees paid consist of \$30,000 as an annual retainer and \$12,750 for attending 12 Board and committee meetings.

(7) This column reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of 1,000 shares of our common stock granted in 2017 to Mr. Winkel, Mr. Booth, Mr. Owens, Mr. Demorest, Mr. Hagness, and Mr. Bauer. The dollar amount for each of the six directors reflects the compensation cost of the 1,000 shares granted on May 9, 2017 based on the closing

market price of our common stock of \$24.10 per share on that date. The number of shares and stock price above were prior to our five-for-three stock split effected in the form of a 66 2/3% stock dividend on July 7, 2017.

Note As of December 31, 2017, each current director had the following number of options outstanding: Mr. Winkel – 38,750; Mr. Booth – none; Mr. Owens – none; Mr. Demorest – 38,750; Mr. Hagness – 38,750; and Mr. Bauer – 26,250. All of these option shares were issued under non-statutory stock option agreements and were fully-vested as of December 31, 2017.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN**BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table gives information on the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of February 27, 2018, unless otherwise indicated. The information is given by (a) each stockholder who we know to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common stock, (b) each director, (c) each named executive officer and (d) all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned (1)		
	Amount		Percentage of Class
Randolph L. Marten 129 Marten Street Mondovi, WI 54755	11,860,038	(2)	21.7%
BlackRock, Inc. 55 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10055	5,185,021	(3)	9.7%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP Building One, 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	4,582,170	(4)	8.4%
Christine K. Marten 77 Cecil Johnson Road Mulberry, TN 37359	3,474,571	(5)	6.4%
Timothy M. Kohl	168,643.1	(6)	*
Larry B. Hagness	139,025	(7)	*
James J. Hinnendael	71,363	(8)	*
Jerry M. Bauer	70,416	(7)	*
Timothy P. Nash	64,253.3	(9)	*
Thomas J. Winkel	52,991	(7)	*
John H. Turner	52,381.3	(10)	*
Robert L. Demorest	45,416	(7)	*
G. Larry Owens	44,166	(5)	*
Ronald R. Booth	3,333	(5)	*
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (11 persons)	12,572,025.7	(11)	22.9%

* Less than 1% of the outstanding shares

(1)

Unless otherwise noted, the stockholders have sole voting and investment power for the shares shown. Shares not outstanding, but considered beneficially owned because of the right of a person or member of a group to purchase them within 60 days, are treated as outstanding only when calculating the amount and percent owned by such person or group.

(2) Includes 11,770,733 shares owned by Mr. Marten, 27,066 shares that Mr. Marten may acquire under outstanding options, 53,043.01 shares credited to Mr. Marten's account within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 9,196 shares distributed to Mr. Marten or credited to Mr. Marten's deferred compensation account after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

On January 23, 2018, BlackRock, Inc. reported in a schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that, as of December 31, 2017, it beneficially owns and has sole dispositive power over 5,185,021 shares of our stock.

On February 9, 2018, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP reported in a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission that as of December 31, 2017, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP furnishes investment advice to four investment companies and serves as investment manager or sub-advisor to certain other commingled funds, group trusts and separate accounts. In its role as investment advisor, sub-advisor and/or manager, Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or its subsidiaries may possess investment and/or voting power over the Company's securities that are owned by such investment companies, trusts and separate accounts. According to the Schedule 13G, the investment companies, trusts and separate accounts beneficially own all such shares of the Company's stock and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP expressly disclaimed any beneficial ownership of such securities.

Consists entirely of 3,474,571 shares owned by Ms. Marten; 44,166 shares owned by Mr. Owens; and 3,333 shares owned by Mr. Booth.

Includes 103,591 shares owned by Mr. Kohl, 20,000 shares that Mr. Kohl may acquire under outstanding options, 38,257.1 shares credited to Mr. Kohl's account within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 6,795 shares distributed to Mr. Kohl or credited to Mr. Kohl's deferred compensation account after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

Includes shares that the stockholder may acquire under outstanding options: for Mr. Hagness, 32,500 shares; for Mr. Bauer, 26,250 shares; for Mr. Winkel, 32,500 shares; and for Mr. Demorest, 38,750 shares.

Includes 34,603 shares owned by Mr. Hinnendael, 11,266 shares that Mr. Hinnendael may acquire under outstanding options, 21,561 shares credited to Mr. Hinnendael's account within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 3,933 shares distributed to Mr. Hinnendael or credited to Mr. Hinnendael's deferred compensation account after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

Includes 18,693 shares owned by Mr. Nash, 13,866 shares that Mr. Nash may acquire under outstanding options, 26,959.3 shares credited to Mr. Nash's account within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 4,735 shares distributed to Mr. Nash or credited to Mr. Nash's deferred compensation account after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

Includes 16,055 shares owned by Mr. Turner, 11,132 shares that Mr. Turner may acquire under outstanding options, 21,407.3 shares credited to Mr. Turner's account within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 3,787 shares distributed to Mr. Turner or credited to Mr. Turner's deferred compensation account after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

(11)

Includes a total of 213,330 shares that directors and executive officers may acquire under outstanding options, 161,227.7 shares credited to the executive officers' accounts within the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, and 28,446 shares distributed or credited to the executive officers' deferred compensation accounts after February 27, 2018 relating to vested performance unit awards.

compensation discussion and analysis

Overview

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes the material elements of the compensation awarded to, earned by and paid to our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and our other executive officers included in the Summary Compensation Table on page 25 below. These individuals are referred to in this Proxy Statement as our “named executive officers.” The discussion below focuses on the information contained in the tables and related footnotes and narrative primarily for 2017 under the heading “Compensation and Other Benefits” below, but also describes actions taken before 2017 to the extent it enhances the understanding of our executive compensation disclosure.

In connection with the discharge of its responsibilities, the Compensation Committee considered the result of the advisory, non-binding “say-on-pay” vote of our stockholders at the Company’s 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Because over 99% of the votes cast by our stockholders approved the compensation programs described in our proxy statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Compensation Committee has not implemented any significant changes to our compensation programs as a result of the stockholder advisory vote.

A non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on our executive compensation is required to be conducted every six years under Section 14A of the Exchange Act pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act. At our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders we asked our stockholders to indicate whether they preferred that we hold a say-on-pay vote every year, every two years or every three years. Over 77% of the votes cast by our stockholders approved an advisory vote on an annual basis. In light of the voting results, the Board decided that the Company will hold an advisory vote on the compensation of named executive officers on an annual basis.

Compensation Objectives and Philosophy

Our executive compensation program is designed to:

attract, motivate, retain and reward executive officers and other key employees who are likely to contribute to our long-term success;

provide a “team” approach where executive officers and key employees with differing functional responsibilities work together to achieve overall strategic objectives;

create a flexible environment that allows us to grant variable compensation based on actual performance results taking into account internal business goals as well as changing business and economic conditions during times of economic uncertainty;

focus management on maximizing stockholder value through equity-based compensation aligned to stockholder returns;

provide compensation opportunities depending upon our performance relative to our competitors and changes in our performance over time; and

ensure that our compensation program is competitive in the industry.

Our executive compensation program and decisions of the Compensation Committee are based on the following philosophy and principles:

As a performance driven company, we favor having a significant component of variable compensation tied to actual results that are evaluated at the end of the year when all of the relevant factors can be taken into account, such as Company performance and changing business and economic conditions, over solely fixed compensation.

In order to foster cooperation and communication among our executives and among their respective teams, the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors place primary emphasis on Company performance (rather than individual performance).

We differentiate individual compensation among our executives based on scope and nature of responsibility, education and experience, job performance and potential.

We seek to align the interests of our executives with the interests of our stockholders through the use of long-term, equity-based incentive compensation, primarily in the form of performance unit awards and stock options.

Our primary objective is to provide a total compensation program that establishes competitive base salaries, bonus opportunities that reward above-average performance, and equity-based incentive programs designed to achieve sustainable long-term corporate growth and build executive equity ownership in alignment with the interests of our stockholders.

Setting Executive Compensation

In determining the amount of compensation to pay our named executive officers, the Compensation Committee considers factors such as: the executive's position within the Company and the level of responsibility, skills and experiences required by the executive's position; the executive's experience and qualifications; our ability to replace such individual and the overall competitive environment for executive talent; the attainment of or failure to attain Company objectives and the difficulty in achieving desired Company objectives; individual performance of the executive as measured by the impact of such performance on the attainment of Company objectives; the Company's performance in various economic environments; current and historical compensation levels; the executive's length of service to our Company; the Compensation Committee's view of internal equity and consistency; and other considerations it deems relevant. In analyzing some of these factors, the Compensation Committee from time to time reviews competitive compensation data gathered in comparative surveys, as well as publicly available comparable public company information.

In 2017, the Compensation Committee engaged Grant Thornton LLP to conduct an overall benchmarking analysis of our executive compensation program, including a competitive assessment of the base salaries, short-term and long-term incentives, benefits and perquisites paid to our executive officers and to review the equity holdings of our executive officers in comparison to similar executives of other companies in our industry sector. The Compensation Committee continues to use the approach and methodology from a similar review a number of years ago, along with the use of other appropriate published data, to assist it in determining the amount of base salary, annual incentive compensation, total compensation and the form and amount of long-term equity-based incentive compensation to pay our named executive officers. The Compensation Committee believes the information from Grant Thornton LLP's analysis not only confirmed the Company's approach to structuring its compensation programs, but will also be valuable in assisting in the determination of compensation on an ongoing basis. The Compensation Committee also uses competitive compensation data provided by Equilar, Inc.

Our executive compensation program as a whole and each individual element of the program is designed to be competitive in order to attract, motivate and retain executives necessary to the achievement of our Company objectives. We generally target total compensation and each element of total compensation within a reasonable range of our competitive market. In connection with the compensation consulting firm's analysis of our executive compensation program, we define our industry sector as a peer group of seven long-haul truckload carriers with approximately \$600 million to approximately \$6 billion in revenue. We continue to include these companies in our peer group based on their current business profiles being similar to ours and because we believe we compete with these or similar companies for executive talent and for stockholder investments. The companies in our peer group consist of the following:

Celadon Group, Inc.
Covenant Transport, Inc.
Heartland Express, Inc.
Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings Inc.

P.A.M. Transportation Services, Inc.

USA Truck, Inc.

Werner Enterprises, Inc.

Executive Compensation Components

The principal elements of our executive compensation program include:

base salary compensation;

annual incentive compensation;

equity-based compensation; and

executive benefits and perquisites.

In addition, our executive compensation program also includes certain change in control arrangements.

Except as described below, the Compensation Committee has not adopted any formal or informal policies or guidelines for allocating compensation between long-term and currently paid-out compensation, between cash and non-cash compensation, or among different forms of non-cash compensation. However, the Compensation Committee's philosophy is to make a significant portion of an executive's compensation at risk and based on actual results that are evaluated at the end of the year when all of the relevant factors can be taken into account, such as Company financial performance and changing business and economic conditions. The Compensation Committee believes that since our executive officers have more opportunity to affect our performance, they should be held more accountable for results. It is also the Compensation Committee's view to keep cash compensation at a competitive level while providing the opportunity to be well rewarded through long-term equity-based incentive compensation in the form of stock options if the Company's stock price performs well over time and, for performance unit awards, if the Company's net income increases year over year. We believe these equity-based awards to our executive officers help ensure that they have a stake in the Company's long-term success by providing an incentive to improve the overall growth, profitability and value of our Company.

Base Salary Compensation

We provide a base salary for our named executive officers, which, unlike some of the other elements of our executive compensation program, is not subject to performance risk. We recognize the need for most executives to receive at least a portion of their total compensation in the form of a guaranteed base salary that is paid in cash regularly throughout the year to support a reasonable standard of living.

We initially fix base salaries for our executives at a level we believe enables us to hire and retain them in a competitive environment and to reward satisfactory individual performance and a satisfactory level of contribution to our overall business objectives. We also take into account the base compensation paid by companies in our peer group.

The Compensation Committee reviews base salaries for our named executive officers each year beginning in April and generally approves any increases at its May meeting held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Any increases in base salaries are typically effective in April of that year. This decision is made in May because the Compensation Committee takes the results of the first quarter of each fiscal year into consideration when deciding whether to increase base salaries.

In determining the amount of base salaries for our named executive officers, the Compensation Committee strives to target base salaries within the range of salaries for executives in similar positions and with similar responsibilities at companies in our current peer group. The Compensation Committee's determinations regarding the base salaries of our named executive officers are also based on a number of other factors, including: the executive's position within the Company and the level of responsibility, the skills and experience required by the executive's position; the executive's experience and qualifications; our ability to replace such individual and the overall competitive environment for executive talent; the executive's current base salary; the executive's length of service to our Company, the executive's past performance and the impact of such performance on the attainment of Company objectives; competitive compensation data; the Compensation Committee's view of internal equity and consistency; and other considerations it deems relevant. Following these factors, we typically increase base salaries for executive officers modestly from year to year consistent with our general philosophy of favoring variable, performance-based compensation.

In particular, the Compensation Committee's determination of base salary for each of the named executive officers included an emphasis on the following factors:

- Mr. Marten's leadership role as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Company, length of service with the Company, in-depth knowledge of the trucking industry, position based on competitive compensation data and relative level of responsibility when compared to other executive officers;
- Mr. Kohl's prior experience and qualifications, including his operational experience in, and in-depth knowledge of, the trucking industry, position based on competitive compensation data and relative level of responsibility as President when compared to other executive officers;
- Mr. Nash's length of service to Marten, position based on competitive compensation data and his role and relative level of responsibility as Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing;