

SHERWIN WILLIAMS CO

Form DEF 14A

March 05, 2009

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

SCHEDULE 14A

**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 Pursuant to 240.14a-12**

**THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY
(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)(4) 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.**

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

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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The Sherwin-Williams Company

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held April 15, 2009

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of The Sherwin-Williams Company will be held in the Landmark Conference Center, 927 Midland Building, 101 West Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 9:00 A.M., local time, for the following purposes:

1. To fix the number of directors of Sherwin-Williams at nine and to elect the nine director nominees named in the attached Proxy Statement to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors are elected;
2. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as Sherwin-Williams independent registered public accounting firm;
3. To consider a shareholder proposal if presented at the Annual Meeting; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on February 27, 2009, the record date for the Annual Meeting, are the only shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please promptly vote by the Internet, by telephone or by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card. Voting early will help avoid additional solicitation costs and will not prevent you from voting in person at the Annual Meeting if you wish to do so.

L. E. Stellato
Secretary

101 West Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075
March 5, 2009

ADMISSION TO THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING.

You are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting only if you were a Sherwin-Williams shareholder at the close of business on February 27, 2009. We may ask you to present evidence of share ownership and valid photo identification to enter the Annual Meeting. Please refer to the section entitled "How can I attend the Annual Meeting?" on page 3 for further information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 15, 2009.

Sherwin-Williams Proxy Statement and 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders are available at <http://proxymaterials.sherwin.com>.

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THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY

101 West Prospect Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075

PROXY STATEMENT

March 5, 2009

PRELIMINARY

We are providing the enclosed proxy materials to you in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 15, 2009. We began mailing these proxy materials to our shareholders on March 5, 2009. The use of the terms we, us and our throughout this Proxy Statement refers to Sherwin-Williams and/or its management.

ANNUAL REPORT

We are enclosing our Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2008 with these proxy materials. We may submit additional financial and other reports at the Annual Meeting, but we do not intend to take any action relating to those reports.

ABOUT THE MEETING

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, shareholders will act upon the proposals outlined in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. These proposals include:

the election of directors;

the ratification of the appointment of Sherwin-Williams independent registered public accounting firm; and

the consideration of a shareholder proposal if presented at the Annual Meeting.

In addition, our management will report on Sherwin-Williams performance and respond to questions from shareholders. We are not aware of any other matters that will be brought before the Annual Meeting for action.

Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

You are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting only if you were a record holder of our common stock or our ESOP serial preferred stock at the close of business on February 27, 2009, the record date for the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the record date, 117,396,377 shares of common stock and 216,753 shares of ESOP serial preferred stock were outstanding. Each share owned on the record date is entitled to one vote.

How do I vote?

Most shareholders have a choice of voting by mail, via the Internet, by telephone or in person at the Annual Meeting.

Voting by mail. If you are a shareholder of record, you may vote by signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the enclosed prepaid envelope. The proxy holders will vote your shares in accordance with your directions. If you sign and return your proxy card, but do not properly direct how your shares should be voted on a proposal, the proxy holders will vote your shares *FOR* Proposals 1 and 2 and *AGAINST* Proposal 3. If you sign and return your proxy card, the proxy holders will vote your shares according to their discretion on any other proposals and other matters that may be brought before the Annual Meeting.

If you hold shares in an account through a broker or other nominee in street name, you should complete, sign and date the voting instruction card provided to you by your broker or nominee.

Voting via the Internet or by Telephone. If you are a shareholder of record, detailed instructions for Internet and telephone voting are attached to your proxy card. Your Internet or

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telephone vote authorizes the proxy holders to vote your shares in the same manner as if you signed and returned your proxy card by mail. If you are a shareholder of record and you vote via the Internet or by telephone, your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on April 14, 2009; you should not return your proxy card.

If you hold shares through a broker or other nominee in street name, you may be able to vote via the Internet or by telephone as permitted by your broker or nominee.

Voting in Person. All shareholders may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Shareholders of record may also be represented by another person present at the Annual Meeting by signing a proxy designating such person to act on your behalf. If you hold shares through a broker or nominee, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting only if you have obtained a signed proxy from your broker or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares.

Who tabulates the vote?

Representatives of The Bank of New York Mellon will tabulate the votes and act as inspectors of election at the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote if I am a participant in the Stock Ownership and Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan or the Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan?

If you are a participant in one of these plans, your proxy card also serves as voting instructions for the number of shares which you are entitled to direct the vote under each plan. You may vote your shares in the same manner outlined above. If you are a participant in our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, your voting instructions must be received by the close of business on April 10, 2009 in order to allow the trustee sufficient time for voting.

If you are a participant in our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan and you do not timely provide your voting instructions, the trustee will vote your shares in the same proportion as the trustee votes those shares for which it receives proper instructions. The trustee will vote any unallocated shares held in our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan in the same proportion as the trustee votes those shares for which it receives proper instructions.

What are the voting recommendations of the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote:

FOR fixing the number of directors at nine and electing the nine nominees for directors (Proposal 1);

FOR ratifying the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as Sherwin-Williams independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2); and

AGAINST the shareholder proposal (Proposal 3).

What constitutes a quorum for the Annual Meeting?

A quorum of shareholders is necessary for us to hold a valid Annual Meeting. For a quorum, there must be present, in person or by proxy, or by use of communications equipment, shareholders of record entitled to exercise not less than fifty percent of the voting power of Sherwin-Williams.

Proxy cards marked as withholding authority, as well as proxy cards containing abstentions and broker non-votes, will be treated as present for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker or other nominee

holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular non-routine proposal because the broker or nominee does not have discretionary voting power for that proposal and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner. If you are a beneficial owner and a broker holds your shares, it is expected that your broker will be permitted to vote your shares on Proposals 1 and 2 even if your broker does not receive voting instructions from you.

What vote is required to approve each proposal?

Election of Directors (Proposal 1). Proposal 1 to fix the number of directors at nine requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present, in person or by

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proxy, and entitled to vote on this proposal. To be elected as a director, a nominee must receive the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast. Under the plurality voting standard, the nominees receiving the most for votes will be elected. A proxy card marked as withholding authority with respect to the election of one or more directors will be counted for quorum purposes.

Under our Majority Voting Policy, in an uncontested election, any nominee for director who receives a greater number of withheld votes than for votes is required to tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors. We have provided more information about our Majority Voting Policy under the heading Corporate Governance Majority Voting Policy.

Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (Proposal 2). Proposal 2 to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as Sherwin-Williams independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. A proxy card marked as abstaining with respect to this proposal will be counted for quorum purposes, but will not be counted as a vote cast, and therefore will have no effect on the vote.

Shareholder Proposal (Proposal 3). Proposal 3 requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. A proxy card marked as abstaining with respect to this proposal and any broker non-votes with respect to this proposal will be counted for quorum purposes, but will not be counted as a vote cast, and therefore will have no effect on the vote.

Other Items. All other proposals and other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, except as otherwise required by statute or our Amended Articles of Incorporation or Regulations.

Can I revoke or change my vote after I submit my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke or change your vote before the proxy holders vote your shares by timely:

giving a revocation to our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary in writing, in a verifiable communication or at the Annual Meeting;

returning a later signed and dated proxy card;

entering a new vote by the Internet or telephone; or

voting in person at the Annual Meeting.

How can I attend the Annual Meeting?

You are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting only if you were a shareholder at the close of business on February 27, 2009, the record date. We may ask you to present evidence of share ownership and valid photo identification to enter the Annual Meeting.

If you are a shareholder of record, or own your shares through our Stock Ownership and Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan or our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, an admission ticket is attached to your proxy card. Simply tear it off and bring it to the Annual Meeting.

If you hold your shares through a broker or other nominee in street name, we may ask you to provide proof of beneficial ownership as of the record date, such as a bank or brokerage account statement showing ownership on February 27, 2009, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker or nominee, or similar

evidence of ownership.

What are the costs of this proxy solicitation?

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors, and Sherwin-Williams will pay the entire cost of solicitation. We have retained Georgeson Inc. to aid in the solicitation of proxies, for which it will receive a fee estimated at \$15,000 plus reasonable expenses.

In addition, we may reimburse banks, brokers and other nominees for costs reasonably incurred by them in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common stock. Our officers and other employees may also solicit the return of proxies. Proxies will be solicited by personal contact, mail, telephone and electronic means.

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Are the Proxy Statement and the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders available on the Internet?

Yes. This Proxy Statement and our 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders are available at <http://proxymaterials.sherwin.com>.

You may help us save money in the future by accessing your proxy materials online, instead of receiving paper copies in the mail. If you would like to access proxy materials on the Internet beginning next year, please follow the instructions located under **Access Proxy Materials Online** in the **Corporate Governance** section on the **Investor Relations** page of our website at www.sherwin.com.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We have a long history of good corporate governance practices that has greatly aided our long-term success. The Board of Directors and management have recognized for many years the need for sound corporate governance practices in fulfilling their respective duties and responsibilities to shareholders. We describe below our key corporate governance policies that enable us to manage our business in accordance with high ethical standards and in the best interests of our shareholders.

Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines, which provide the framework for the governance of our company. The Board of Directors reviews our Corporate Governance Guidelines at least annually. From time to time, the Board of Directors may revise our Corporate Governance Guidelines to reflect new regulatory requirements and evolving corporate governance practices.

Business Ethics Policy. We have operated under a Business Ethics Policy for many years and are committed to conducting business in an ethical and legal manner throughout the world. Our Business Ethics Policy applies to all of our directors, officers and employees and outlines the broad principles of ethical and legal conduct embraced by our company to guide our business related conduct. Under our Business Ethics Policy, any director or employee who reasonably believes or suspects that Sherwin-Williams or any director or employee has engaged or is engaging in improper or illegal activities, fraud or activities that appear to be inconsistent with or in violation of our Business Ethics Policy is responsible for reporting such activities. We do not permit retaliation of any kind against any person who, in good faith, reports any known or suspected improper activities pursuant to our Business Ethics Policy.

Our Business Ethics Policy includes additional ethical obligations for our senior financial management (which includes our chief executive officer, our chief financial officer, and the controller, treasurer and principal financial and accounting personnel in our operating groups and corporate departments). Our senior financial management is responsible for creating and maintaining a culture of high ethical standards throughout our company to ensure the fair and timely reporting of our financial results and financial condition.

Communications with Directors. The Board of Directors has adopted a process by which shareholders and other interested parties may communicate with the non-management directors or the chairperson of any of the committees of the Board of Directors. You may send communications by regular mail to the attention of the Chairperson, Audit Committee; Chairperson, Compensation and Management Development Committee; or Chairperson, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee; or to the non-management directors as a group to the Non-Management Directors, each c/o Corporate Secretary, The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Sherwin-Williams management will review all communications received to determine whether the communication requires immediate action. Management will pass on all communications received, or a summary of such

communications, to the appropriate director or directors.

Complaint Procedures for Accounting, Auditing and Financial Related Matters. The Audit Committee has established procedures for receiving, retaining and treating complaints from any source regarding accounting, internal accounting controls and auditing matters. The Audit Committee has also established procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding

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questionable accounting or auditing matters. Interested parties may communicate such complaints by following the procedures described under the heading Communications with Directors, above. Employees may report such complaints by following the procedures outlined in our Business Ethics Policy. We do not permit any retaliation of any kind against any person who, in good faith, submits a complaint or concern under these procedures.

Independence of Directors. Under our Director Independence Standards (a copy of which is attached as Appendix A), 10 of our current 11 directors are independent and eight of our nine director nominees are independent. In addition, all members of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent.

Majority Voting Policy. The Board of Directors has adopted a Majority Voting Policy. Any nominee for director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of withheld votes than for votes shall promptly tender his or her resignation. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will promptly consider the tendered resignation and will recommend to the Board of Directors whether to accept the tendered resignation or to take some other action, such as rejecting the tendered resignation and addressing the apparent underlying causes of the withheld votes.

In making this recommendation, the Committee will consider all factors deemed relevant by its members. These factors may include the underlying reasons why shareholders withheld votes for election from such director (if ascertainable), the length of service and qualifications of the director whose resignation has been tendered, the director's contributions to Sherwin-Williams, whether by accepting such resignation Sherwin-Williams will no longer be in compliance with any applicable law, rule, regulation or governing document, and whether or not accepting the resignation is in the best interests of Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders.

In considering the Committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors will consider the factors considered by the Committee and such additional information and factors that the Board of Directors believes to be relevant. We will promptly publicly disclose the Board of Directors' decision and process in a periodic or current report filed with the SEC.

Executive Sessions. The non-management members of the Board of Directors meet at least twice each year in regularly scheduled executive sessions. Additional executive sessions may be scheduled by the non-management directors. The chairpersons of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee rotate presiding over these sessions.

Annual Board Self-Assessments. The Board of Directors has instituted annual self-assessments of the Board of Directors, as well as the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, to assist in determining whether the Board of Directors and its committees are functioning effectively. In early 2009, the Board and each of its committees completed self-evaluations and reviewed and discussed the results. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees this evaluation process.

Board Committee Charters. The Board of Directors has adopted written charters for the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Each committee reviews and evaluates the adequacy of its charter at least annually and recommends any proposed changes to the Board of Directors for approval.

Stock Ownership Guidelines. The Board of Directors has established a minimum share ownership requirement for its directors, executive officers and operating presidents. Each director who has served on the Board of Directors for at least five years is expected to own a minimum of 10,000 shares of common stock. Each executive officer and

operating president who has served in such capacity for at least five years is expected to own shares of common stock equal in value to a multiple of his base salary ranging from a low of three times to a high of five times for the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. For purposes of meeting this minimum share ownership

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requirement, each equivalent share of common stock and each share of restricted stock held under our benefit plans is considered as a share of common stock. Stock options are not considered towards meeting this requirement.

All directors, executive officers and operating presidents have either met our stock ownership guidelines or are pursuing plans to meet our guidelines within the time frames prescribed.

Executive Compensation Adjustment and Recapture Policy. The Board of Directors has adopted a policy regarding the adjustment and recapture of compensation paid or payable to certain key employees and executives. Under the policy, employees who participate in our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan are required to reimburse Sherwin-Williams for any award paid under this plan in the event:

The award was based upon the achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the federal securities laws;

The Board of Directors determines that the employee engaged in knowing or intentional fraudulent or illegal conduct that caused or partially caused the need for the restatement; and

A lower amount would have been paid to the employee based upon the restated financial results.

The reimbursement will be equal to the difference in the amount of the award prior to the restatement and the amount of the award determined using the restated financial results.

In addition, under our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan, (a) all outstanding stock awards will be cancelled and (b) the employee will be required to reimburse Sherwin-Williams for any economic gains received by the employee pursuant to a stock award during the one-year period preceding the Board of Directors' determination that the employee engaged in the conduct described above.

Availability of Corporate Governance Materials. You may access all committee charters, our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Director Independence Standards, our Business Ethics Policy, our Majority Voting Policy and other corporate governance materials in the Corporate Governance section on the Investor Relations page of our website at www.sherwin.com. You also may receive copies without charge by writing to us at: The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, Attention: Investor Relations.

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (PROPOSAL 1)

At the Annual Meeting, the number of directors is to be fixed at nine, and nine directors are to be elected to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders and until their successors are elected.

Our Board of Directors currently has 11 members. All of these directors are standing for re-election as nominees except for Messrs. Evans and Mahoney. Messrs. Evans and Mahoney are retiring as directors at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Board of Directors' retirement policy.

All of the nominees were elected by the shareholders at the 2008 Annual Meeting. All of the nominees are independent except for Mr. Connor. Mr. Connor is not considered to be independent because of his position as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sherwin-Williams. There are no family relationships among any of the directors and executive officers.

Each of the nominees has agreed to serve if elected. If any nominee declines or is unable to accept such nomination or is unable to serve, an event which we do not expect, the Board of Directors reserves the right in its discretion to substitute another person as a nominee or to reduce the number of nominees. In this event, the proxy holders may vote in their discretion for any substitute nominee proposed by the Board of Directors unless you indicate otherwise.

The following is biographical information regarding each nominee:

Arthur F. Anton

*President and Chief Executive Officer,
Swagelok Company
Director of Sherwin-Williams since 2006*

Arthur F. Anton, 51, has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Swagelok Company (manufacturer and provider of fluid system products and services) since January 2004. Mr. Anton served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Swagelok from January 2001 to January 2004, Executive Vice President of Swagelok from July 2000 to January 2001, and Chief Financial Officer of Swagelok from August 1998 to July 2000. Mr. Anton is also a Director of University Hospitals Health System and is Chairman of the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network.

James C. Boland

*Former Vice Chairman,
Cavaliers Operating Company, LLC
Director of Sherwin-Williams since 1998*

James C. Boland, 69, served as Vice Chairman of Cavaliers Operating Company, LLC (formerly known as Cavaliers/Gund Arena Company) from January 2003 to June 2007 and President and Chief Executive Officer of CAVS/Gund Arena Company from January 1998 to January 2003. Prior to his time with the Cavaliers, Mr. Boland served for 22 years as a partner of Ernst & Young LLP in various roles including Vice Chairman and Regional Managing Partner as well as a member of the firm's Management Committee from 1988 to 1996 and as Vice Chairman of National Accounts from 1997 to his retirement from the firm in 1998. Mr. Boland is also a Director of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and Invacare Corporation and is a Trustee of Bluecoats, Inc. and The Harvard Business School Club of Cleveland.

Christopher M. Connor

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

Sherwin-Williams

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 1999

Christopher M. Connor, 52, has served as Chairman of Sherwin-Williams since April 2000 and Chief Executive Officer of Sherwin-Williams since October 1999. Mr. Connor served as President of Sherwin-Williams from July 2005 to October 2006, Vice Chairman of Sherwin-Williams from October 1999 to April 2000, and President, Paint Stores Group of Sherwin-Williams from August 1997 to October 1999. Mr. Connor has been with Sherwin-Williams since 1983 in roles of increasing responsibility. Mr. Connor is also a Director of Eaton Corporation.

David F. Hodnik

Retired, Former President and

Chief Executive Officer,

Ace Hardware Corporation

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 2005

David F. Hodnik, 61, prior to his retirement in April 2005, served as Chief Executive Officer of Ace Hardware Corporation (cooperative of independent hardware retail stores) since January

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1997. Mr. Hodnik also served as President of Ace Hardware from January 1996 through December 2004. Mr. Hodnik joined Ace Hardware in October 1972 and held various financial, accounting and operating positions at Ace Hardware.

Susan J. Kropf

Retired, Former President and

Chief Operating Officer,

Avon Products, Inc.

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 2003

Susan J. Kropf, 60, prior to her retirement in January 2007, served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Avon Products, Inc. (global manufacturer and marketer of beauty and related products) since January 2001. Mrs. Kropf served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, North America and Global Business Operations, of Avon from December 1999 to January 2001 and Executive Vice President and President, North America, of Avon from March 1997 to December 1999. Mrs. Kropf joined Avon in 1970 and held various positions in manufacturing, marketing and product development. Mrs. Kropf is also a Director of Coach, Inc., MeadWestvaco Corporation, The Kroger Co. and the Wallace Foundation.

Gary E. McCullough

President and Chief Executive Officer,

Career Education Corporation

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 2002

Gary E. McCullough, 50, has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Career Education Corporation (provider of post-secondary educational services) since March 2007. Immediately prior to joining Career Education Corporation, Mr. McCullough served as Senior Vice President of Abbott Laboratories and President of its Ross Products Division from December 2003 to March 2007. Immediately prior to joining Abbott Laboratories, Mr. McCullough served as Senior Vice President Americas of Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company from March 2000 to December 2003. Mr. McCullough also spent 13 years at the Procter & Gamble Company where he served in a variety of marketing and management positions. Mr. McCullough is also a Director of Career Education Corporation.

A. Malachi Mixon, III

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

Invacare Corporation

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 1993

A. Malachi Mixon, III, 68, has served as Chief Executive Officer of Invacare Corporation (manufacturer and distributor of home health care products) since January 1980 and Chairman of Invacare since September 1983. Mr. Mixon served as President of Invacare from January 1980 to November 1996. Mr. Mixon is also a Director of Park-Ohio Holdings Corp., is Chairman of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Cleveland Institute of Music and is on the Visiting Committee of the Harvard School of Business Administration.

Curtis E. Moll

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,

MTD Holdings Inc

Director of Sherwin-Williams since 1997

Curtis E. Moll, 69, has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of MTD Holdings Inc (manufacturer of outdoor power equipment and tools, dies and stampings for the automotive industry) since October 1980. Mr. Moll is

also a Director of AGCO Corporation and is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shiloh Industries, Inc.

Richard K. Smucker

*Executive Chairman and
Co-Chief Executive Officer,
The J.M. Smucker Company
Director of Sherwin-Williams since 1991*

Richard K. Smucker, 60, has served as Co-Chief Executive Officer of The J.M. Smucker Company (makers of food products) since February 2001 and Executive Chairman of J.M. Smucker since June 2008. Mr. Smucker served as President of J.M. Smucker from January 1987 to June 2008 and Chief Financial Officer of J.M. Smucker from June 2003 to January 2005. Mr. Smucker is also a Director of J.M. Smucker and is a Trustee of Miami University of Ohio and the Musical Arts Association (The Cleveland Orchestra).

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR Proposal 1 relating to the election of directors.

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INDEPENDENCE OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has adopted categorical Director Independence Standards to assist the Board of Directors in determining the independence of each director. To be considered independent, the Board of Directors must affirmatively determine that the director has no material relationship with Sherwin-Williams. In each case, the Board of Directors broadly considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the director's commercial, industrial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting, charitable and familial relationships, and such other criteria as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time.

During the Board of Directors' annual review of director independence, the Board of Directors considers transactions, relationships and arrangements between each director or an immediate family member of the director and Sherwin-Williams. The Board of Directors also considers transactions, relationships and arrangements between each director or an immediate family member of the director and Sherwin-Williams' senior management.

Under our Director Independence Standards, the following relationships are not considered to be material relationships that would impair a director's independence:

if the director is a current employee, or an immediate family member of the director is a current executive officer, of another company that has made payments to, or received payments from, Sherwin-Williams for property or services in an amount which, in any of the last three fiscal years, is less than \$1 million or two percent, whichever is greater, of such other company's annual gross revenues;

if the director, or an immediate family member of the director, is an executive officer of another company which is indebted to Sherwin-Williams, or to which Sherwin-Williams is indebted, in an amount which is less than five percent of such other company's total assets;

if the director, or an immediate family member of the director, serves as an officer, director or trustee of a not for profit organization, and Sherwin-Williams' discretionary charitable contributions (excluding matching contributions) to the organization are less than \$500,000 or five percent, whichever is greater, of that organization's annual gross revenues;

if the director serves as a director or executive officer of another company that also uses Sherwin-Williams independent auditor;

if the director is a member of, or associated with, the same professional association, or social, educational, civic, charitable, fraternal or religious organization or club as another Sherwin-Williams director or executive officer; or

if the director serves on the board of directors of another company at which another Sherwin-Williams director or executive officer also serves on the board of directors (except for compensation committee interlocks.)

A complete copy of our Director Independence Standards is attached as Appendix A.

Early this year, the Board of Directors performed its annual director independence review for 2009. As part of this review, the Board of Directors considered club memberships common among our directors, including Messrs. Anton, Boland, Connor, Mixon and Smucker. The Board of Directors also considered common public, private and charitable board memberships among our executive officers and directors, including Messrs. Anton, Boland, Connor, Mixon and

Moll. The Board of Directors does not believe that any of these common club and board memberships impair the independence of our directors.

As a result of this review, the Board of Directors determined that 10 of our 11 current directors and eight of our nine director nominees are independent. In addition, all members of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent. The Board of Directors determined that Mrs. Kropf and Messrs. Anton, Boland, Evans, Hodnik, Mahoney, McCullough, Mixon, Moll and Smucker meet these standards and are independent and, in addition, satisfy the independence requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Connor is not considered to be independent because of his position as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sherwin-Williams.

Table of Contents**2008 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE**

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation of our nonemployee directors for 2008. Mr. Connor, who is our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, does not receive any additional compensation for services as a director.

| Name | Fees Earned | Stock Awards | Option Awards | All Other Compensation | Total (\$) |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | or Paid in Cash (\$) ⁽⁵⁾ | (\$) ^(6,7,8) | (\$) ⁽⁹⁾ | (\$) ^(10,11) | |
| A. F. Anton | 85,000 | 78,461 | -0- | -0- | 163,461 |
| J. C. Boland ⁽¹⁾ | 97,832 | 77,548 | -0- | 5,000 | 180,380 |
| D. E. Evans | 85,000 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 162,548 |
| D. F. Hodnik | 85,000 | 77,756 | -0- | -0- | 162,756 |
| S. J. Kropf | 85,000 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 162,548 |
| R. W. Mahoney ⁽²⁾ | 96,500 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 174,048 |
| G. E. McCullough | 85,000 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 162,548 |
| A. M. Mixon, III | 85,000 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 162,548 |
| C. E. Moll ⁽³⁾ | 90,668 | 77,548 | -0- | -0- | 168,216 |
| R. K. Smucker ⁽⁴⁾ | 90,000 | 77,548 | -0- | 1,000 | 168,548 |

¹ Mr. Boland served as Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee from January April 2008 and Chair of the Audit Committee from April December 2008.

² Mr. Mahoney served as Chair of the Compensation and Management Development Committee from January December 2008.

³ Mr. Moll served as Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee from April December 2008.

⁴ Mr. Smucker served as Chair of the Audit Committee from January April 2008.

⁵ The amounts set forth in this column reflect the annual retainer, the annual retainer for committee chairs, and any meeting fees. Messrs. Boland, Kropf, McCullough, Mixon and Moll elected to defer payments of all of their fees under our Director Deferred Fee Plan. Cash amounts deferred during 2008 were as follows: Mr. Boland (\$97,832), Mrs. Kropf (\$85,000), Mr. McCullough (\$85,000), Mr. Mixon (\$85,000) and Mr. Moll (\$90,668). These amounts were credited to either a common stock account or a shadow stock account under our Director Deferred Fee Plan. The number of shares of common stock (which includes shares acquired through the reinvestment of dividends) held by the nonemployee directors under our Director Deferred Fee Plan at December 31, 2008 was as follows: Mr. McCullough (11,090), Mr. Moll (20,763) and Mr. Smucker (11,978). The number of shares of shadow stock (which includes shares acquired through the reinvestment of dividend equivalents) held by the nonemployee directors under our Director Deferred Fee Plan at December 31, 2008 was as follows: Mr. Boland (19,970), Mrs. Kropf (8,055) and Mr. Mixon (29,460).

⁶ The values set forth in this column reflect shares of restricted stock granted to our directors under our 2006 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors and our 1997 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors (the predecessor plan). The

values are equal to the compensation cost recognized by Sherwin-Williams during 2008 for financial statement purposes in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R (FAS 123R), except no assumptions for forfeitures were included. This valuation method values restricted stock granted during 2008 and previous years, based on the fair market value of our common stock (the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices) on the date of grant.

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- 7 Each of the nonemployee directors received 1,337 shares of restricted stock during 2008 under our 2006 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors. The aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with FAS 123R for the shares of restricted stock granted to the nonemployee directors during 2008 was \$71,951 for each of Mrs. Kropf and Messrs. Anton, Boland, Evans, Hodnik, Mahoney, McCullough, Mixon, Moll and Smucker. The grant date fair value is based on the fair market value of our common stock (the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices) on the date of grant.
- 8 The number of shares of restricted stock held by the nonemployee directors at December 31, 2008 was 2,725 for each of Mrs. Kropf and Messrs. Anton, Boland, Evans, Hodnik, Mahoney, McCullough, Mixon, Moll and Smucker. Dividends are paid on shares of restricted stock at the same rate as paid on our common stock.
- 9 The number of stock options held by the nonemployee directors at December 31, 2008 was as follows: Mr. Evans (11,000), Mrs. Kropf (7,000), Mr. Mahoney (11,000), Mr. McCullough (9,000), Mr. Mixon (15,000), Mr. Moll (1,167) and Mr. Smucker (3,500). No stock options have been granted to the nonemployee directors since 2003, and our director compensation program no longer includes the granting of stock options.
- 10 The amounts set forth in this column reflect charitable matching gifts under our matching gifts to education program and our matching gifts for volunteer leaders program. These programs are available to all full-time employees and directors and are described on the next page.
- 11 The amounts set forth in this column do not include the incremental cost of our Business Travel Accident Insurance Plan. Coverage under this plan is provided to all directors, executive officers and full-time salaried employees. We pay an aggregate premium for the insurance policy underlying this plan. The total aggregate premium in 2008 for this plan for all directors, executive officers and employees was \$34,028.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Compensation and Management Development Committee is responsible for annually reviewing and approving the compensation for the nonemployee directors. All of the nonemployee directors are paid under the same compensation program. Officers of Sherwin-Williams who also serve as directors do not receive any additional compensation for services as a director.

We use a combination of cash and equity-based compensation to attract and retain our nonemployee directors. Compensation for the nonemployee directors consists of an annual cash retainer; an additional annual cash retainer for chairs of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Management Development Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee; meeting fees; an annual grant of restricted stock; and other benefits.

Stock options are not currently a part of the nonemployee director compensation program. In addition, we do not provide retirement benefits to our nonemployee directors.

Director Fees. For 2008 and 2009, the cash and equity compensation program for the nonemployee directors consists of the following:

An annual cash retainer of \$85,000;

An additional annual cash retainer of \$15,000 for the chair of the Audit Committee;

An additional annual cash retainer of \$11,500 for the chair of the Compensation and Management Development Committee;

An additional annual cash retainer of \$8,500 for the chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee;

A meeting fee of \$1,750 for each Board or committee meeting attended in excess of twelve meetings during the calendar year. For purposes of calculating the number of meetings during the calendar year, any Board and committee meetings held on the same date shall constitute one meeting; and

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An annual grant of restricted stock valued at approximately \$85,000 at the time of the grant under our 2006 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors.

Shares of restricted stock vest in annual increments of one-third of the shares granted over a period of three years. The shares will immediately vest in the event of the death or disability of the director or in the event of a change in control of Sherwin-Williams. In the event of the retirement of the director, the shares will continue to vest in accordance with the original three-year vesting schedule.

We reimburse all directors for reasonable travel and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. This includes travel expenses of spouses if they are invited for a specific business purpose.

Other Benefits. We also pay the premiums for liability insurance and business travel accident insurance for all directors, including \$225,000 accidental death and dismemberment coverage and \$225,000 permanent total disability coverage, while the directors are traveling on Sherwin-Williams business.

Directors may also receive the same discounts as our employees on the purchase of products at Sherwin-Williams stores and are eligible to participate in our matching gifts programs on the same basis as employees. These programs provide for annual matches in an equal amount of up to \$5,000 under the matching gifts to education program and \$1,000 under the matching gifts for volunteer leaders program, as well as annual grants of up to \$200 under the grants for volunteers program. Amounts of matching gifts and grants under these programs are included in the All Other Compensation column of the 2008 Director Compensation Table.

Deferral of Director Fees. Directors may elect to defer all or a part of their retainer and meeting fees under our Director Deferred Fee Plan. The amounts deferred during 2008 are set forth in a footnote to the 2008 Director Compensation Table.

Deferred fees may be credited to a common stock account, a shadow stock account or an interest bearing cash account. The value of the shadow stock account reflects changes in the market price of our common stock and the payment of dividend equivalents at the same rate as dividends are paid on our common stock. The number of shares of common stock and shadow stock held by participating directors under the plan is set forth in a footnote to the 2008 Director Compensation Table.

Amounts deferred may be distributed either in annual installments over a period up to ten years or in a lump sum on the date chosen by the director. Amounts credited to a shadow stock account are distributed in cash.

Table of Contents**BOARD MEETINGS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Directors held six meetings during 2008. Each director attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and committees on which he or she served. Each director is expected to attend, absent unusual circumstances, all annual and special meetings of shareholders. All directors except one attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

The Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation and Management Development Committee, and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for each committee. You can find a complete copy of each charter in the Corporate Governance section on the Investor Relations page of our website at www.sherwin.com. The following table sets forth the current membership of the committees.

| Name | Audit | Compensation and Management Development | Nominating and Corporate Governance |
|------------------|--------------|---|---|
| A. F. Anton | x | | |
| J. C. Boland | Chair | | x |
| D. E. Evans | | x | |
| D. F. Hodnik | x | | |
| S. J. Kropf | | x | |
| R. W. Mahoney | | Chair | x |
| G. E. McCullough | x | | |
| A. M. Mixon, III | | x | x |
| C. E. Moll | | x | Chair |
| R. K. Smucker | x | | x |

Audit Committee. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling the Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities on matters relating to:

the integrity of our financial statements;

the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence;

the performance of our internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm;

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

preparing the report required by the rules of the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement; and

engaging in such other matters as may from time to time be specifically delegated to the Audit Committee by the Board of Directors.

The Audit Committee met five times during 2008. Each member of the Audit Committee is independent as defined in the corporate governance listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange, SEC regulations and our Director Independence Standards. The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Anton, Boland, Hodnik, McCullough and Smucker are audit committee financial experts, as that term is defined by SEC regulations. No member of the Audit Committee serves on the audit committees of three other public companies.

Compensation and Management Development Committee. The purpose of the Compensation and Management Development Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling the Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities on matters relating to:

compensating our management, which includes our executive officers;

overseeing our management succession planning;

producing a compensation committee report required by the rules of the SEC to

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be included in our annual proxy statement; and

engaging in such other matters as may from time to time be specifically delegated to the Compensation Committee by the Board of Directors.

The Compensation Committee met five times during 2008. Each member of the Compensation Committee is independent as defined in the corporate governance listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and our Director Independence Standards.

Process for Determining Director and Executive Compensation. The Compensation Committee reports to the Board of Directors on all compensation matters regarding our directors, executives and other key salaried employees. The Compensation Committee annually reviews and approves the compensation for our directors, executives and other key salaried employees. The Compensation Committee does not generally delegate any of its authority to other persons, although it has the power to delegate authority to subcommittees. The Compensation Committee relies upon several members of our management and their staff, as well as an outside compensation consultant, in order to assist the Compensation Committee in performing its duties.

We strive to pay our directors and executives compensation that is competitive in the marketplace. In order to assist the Compensation Committee in determining compensation that is competitive, the Compensation Committee has engaged Towers Perrin, an outside compensation consulting firm, as its compensation consultant. Towers Perrin annually compiles information regarding the compensation that similar companies are paying to their directors and executives. Our Senior Vice President HR and his staff usually work directly with Towers Perrin to compile the market compensation information. We use that information as a starting point to set compensation levels for our directors and executives.

Role of the Compensation Consultant. Towers Perrin serves as an advisor to the Compensation Committee on compensation matters relating to our directors and executives. Towers Perrin generally provides the Compensation Committee with market compensation data and makes recommendations with regard to the form and amount of director and executive compensation based on the market data. Towers Perrin typically makes recommendations with regard to the base salary, annual cash incentive compensation and long-term equity incentive compensation for our Chief Executive Officer.

Towers Perrin also from time to time identifies peer companies for benchmarking director and executive compensation, provides other market compensation information and analysis, assists with the development of, and changes to, compensation plans and programs, and attends Compensation Committee meetings.

Role of Management. Several members of our management participate in the Compensation Committee's executive compensation process. The Compensation Committee relies upon our Senior Vice President HR and his staff for input in determining director and executive compensation levels. Towers Perrin typically provides the requested market compensation information to our Senior Vice President HR, and our Senior Vice President HR typically meets with Towers Perrin to discuss this information. Our Chief Executive Officer does not meet with Towers Perrin on an individual basis. With regard to director compensation, Towers Perrin also typically provides the Compensation Committee with recommendations of any changes to director compensation. Our Senior Vice President HR may also make recommendations to the Compensation Committee of changes to director compensation based upon the market compensation information.

With regard to executive compensation, management generally makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee and plays a more active role in the compensation process. Management makes recommendations relating to the development of compensation plans and programs and changes to existing plans and programs. Management

also makes recommendations with respect to:

the evaluation of executive performance;

salary increases;

the performance goals (and weightings) for annual cash incentive compensation;

the financial performance goals for grants of restricted stock;

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the results attained with respect to performance goals; and

the number of stock options and shares of restricted stock granted.

Prior to providing recommendations to the Compensation Committee at its formal meetings, our Senior Vice President HR generally will meet with our Chief Executive Officer to review the recommendations, except for recommendations concerning our Chief Executive Officer's compensation. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Senior Vice President HR also may meet with the chair of the Compensation Committee prior to meetings to review the agenda for the meetings and the compensation recommendations. Our Chief Executive Officer and our Senior Vice President HR generally attend all Committee meetings. Our Chief Executive Officer does not have the ability to call meetings. Our Senior Vice President HR serves as secretary for the Compensation Committee at its meetings. Our Chief Executive Officer is excused from that part of the meeting during which the Compensation Committee discusses his annual performance evaluation and compensation.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The purpose of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling the Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities on matters relating to:

identifying individuals qualified to become members of the Board of Directors;

recommending to the Board of Directors the director nominees for election as directors;

recommending to the Board of Directors the director nominees for each committee of the Board of Directors;

reviewing, developing and recommending to the Board of Directors a set of corporate governance guidelines;

guiding the Board of Directors in its annual evaluation of the Board of Directors' performance; and

engaging in such other matters as may from time to time be specifically delegated to the Nominating Committee by the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee met twice in 2008. Each member of the Nominating Committee is independent as defined in the corporate governance listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and our Director Independence Standards.

Director Qualifications. The Nominating Committee seeks a diverse group of candidates who possess the appropriate characteristics, skills, experience and time to make a significant contribution to the Board of Directors, Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders. The Nominating Committee seeks input from senior management and other members of the Board of Directors to identify and evaluate potential director candidates. Each candidate is evaluated in the context of the Board of Directors as a whole, with the objective that the Board of Directors can best perpetuate Sherwin-Williams' success and represent shareholders' interests through the exercise of sound business judgment using the directors' diversity of experiences. Each candidate shall have the highest personal and professional character and integrity, and shall have demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment in their respective endeavors. Candidates must possess sufficient time to effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities.

In considering the composition of the Board of Directors as a whole, the Board of Directors considers the following characteristics, skills and experiences of each individual candidate:

Management;

Financial Expertise;

Manufacturing, Distribution;

Technical, Research & Development;

International Operations;

Marketing, Sales;

Retail Operations;

Independence; and

Diversity.

In addition, the Board of Directors considers such other skills and experiences as it deems appropriate given the then-current needs of the Board of Directors and Sherwin-Williams.

The Nominating Committee may, but typically does not, employ professional search firms

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(for which it would pay a fee) to assist it in identifying potential members of the Board of Directors with the desired skills and disciplines.

Consideration of Candidates Recommended by Shareholders. The Nominating Committee's policy with respect to the consideration of director candidates recommended by shareholders is that the Nominating Committee will consider such candidates on the same basis and in the same manner as it considers all director candidates. Recommendations are required to include the following information:

the name and address of the shareholder;

the number of shares of common stock that is owned by the shareholder;

a description of all arrangements or understandings between or among any of (a) the shareholder, (b) each candidate and (c) any other person or persons pursuant to which the recommendation is being made;

the candidate's full name, address and telephone numbers;

a statement of the candidate's qualifications and experiences, and any other relevant qualities;

the information that would be required under the rules of the SEC in a proxy statement soliciting proxies for the election of the candidate as a director;

a statement, signed by both the shareholder and the candidate (a) that the shareholder and the candidate currently do not have, and in the prior three years have not had, directly or indirectly, any business, professional or other relationship with each other, and that the shareholder and the candidate do not have any agreement, arrangement or understanding with each other with respect to the candidate's proposed service as a director, or (b) if either of the foregoing statements is incorrect in any manner, describing in detail the relationship, agreement, arrangement or understanding;

the candidate's resume, a list of other boards of directors of public companies on which the candidate currently serves or has served in the past five years, educational information and at least three references; and

a written statement signed by the candidate agreeing that if he or she is nominated by the Board of Directors, he or she will (a) be a nominee for election to the Board of Directors, (b) provide all information necessary to be include in Sherwin-Williams' proxy statement under applicable SEC or NYSE rules, and (c) serve as director if he or she is elected by shareholders.

You may find a complete description of these requirements under "Procedures for Shareholders to Recommend Director Candidates" in the "Corporate Governance" section on the "Investor Relations" page of our website at www.sherwin.com. Shareholders may submit recommendations, along with proof of shareholder status, in writing to Chairperson, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o Corporate Secretary, The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

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AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Management has the primary responsibility for the integrity of Sherwin-Williams' financial information and the financial reporting process, including the system of internal control over financial reporting. Ernst & Young LLP, Sherwin-Williams' independent registered public accounting firm, is responsible for conducting independent audits of Sherwin-Williams' financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and expressing an opinion on the financial statements and management's assessment based upon those audits. The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the conduct of these activities by management and Ernst & Young LLP.

As part of its oversight responsibility, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements, the adequacy of financial controls and the effectiveness of Sherwin-Williams' internal control over financial reporting with management and Ernst & Young LLP. The Audit Committee also has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees). The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Ernst & Young LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also has discussed with Ernst & Young LLP that firm's independence.

Based upon these reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in Sherwin-Williams' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

J. C. Boland, Chairman

A. F. Anton

D. F. Hodnik

G. E. McCullough

R. K. Smucker

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation and Management Development Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this Proxy Statement. Based upon this review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in Sherwin-Williams' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and this Proxy Statement.

**COMPENSATION AND MANAGEMENT
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

R. W. Mahoney, Chairman

D. E. Evans

S. J. Kropf

A. M. Mixon, III

C. E. Moll

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COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Executive Summary.

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our compensation programs and how they apply to our executives, including our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, our Senior Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer and our three other highest paid executives. We refer to these five executives as our named executives, and they are identified in the Summary Compensation Table.

The major components of our executive compensation program are base salary, annual cash incentive compensation, long-term equity incentive compensation through stock options and restricted stock, and other employee and executive benefits.

We benchmark our executive compensation against the median compensation paid at similar chemical, building product manufacturing and retail companies, as well as against median compensation derived from an average of five general broad-based surveys of industrial companies of similar size to us. We use this market compensation information to ensure that our compensation program is competitive in comparison with our peers.

Our incentive compensation programs focus our employees on the business strategies and objectives that help drive our business and contribute to our success.

Our executives did not receive a merit salary increase in 2009 as a part of our efforts to manage employee-related costs during this challenging global economic environment.

No annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives for 2008.

We annually grant stock options and performance-based restricted stock to our executives to help us retain our executives and encourage our executives to improve the long-term performance of our company.

We provide our executives with various retirement and savings programs, health and welfare programs, and employee benefit plans, programs and arrangements generally available to all employees.

We provide our executives with a limited number of perquisites.

We prepare and use tally sheets when approving changes in compensation for our named executives to allow us to review how a change in the amount of each compensation component affects total compensation and to review each named executive's total compensation in the aggregate.

Overview of Our Executive Compensation Program

The Compensation Committee. The Compensation and Management Development Committee assists our Board of Directors in fulfilling our Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities to administer our executive compensation program. Each member of the Compensation Committee is independent as defined in the corporate governance listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and our director independence standards.

The Compensation Committee reports to the Board of Directors on all compensation matters regarding our executives and other key salaried employees. You may learn more about the Compensation Committee's responsibilities by reading the Compensation Committee's charter, which is available in the Corporate Governance section on the Investor Relations page of our website at www.sherwin.com. We have also included additional information about the Compensation Committee, including the role of compensation consultant and management in the compensation setting process, under the heading Board Meetings and Committee

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Membership Compensation and Management Development Committee.

Components of Compensation. The major components of our executive compensation program, the primary purpose of each component and the form of compensation for each component are described in the following table.

| Component | Primary Purpose | Form of Compensation |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Base Salary</i> | Provides base compensation for the day-to-day performance of job responsibilities. | Cash |
| <i>Annual Cash Incentive Compensation</i> | Rewards performance during the year based on the achievement of annual performance goals. | Cash |
| <i>Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation</i> | Encourages improvement in the long-term performance of our company, thereby aligning the interests of our executives with the interests of our shareholders. | Stock options, which vest over a three-year period, and performance-based restricted stock, which vests based upon the achievement of financial performance goals. |
| <i>Other Employee And Executive Benefits, Including Perquisites</i> | Provides a broad-based executive compensation program for employee retention, retirement and health. | Retirement and savings programs, health and welfare programs, and employee benefit plans, programs and arrangements generally available to all employees; limited perquisites, executive life insurance program, executive long-term disability program and grantor trust program. |

Compensation Objectives. We design and manage our company-wide compensation programs to align with our overall business strategy for the benefit of our shareholders. We believe it is important that our executive compensation programs:

Are competitive. Our programs are designed to attract, hire, retain and motivate talented and skilled individuals at all levels of our company around the world. We benchmark executive compensation against compensation paid at companies that are similar to us.

Maintain a performance and achievement-oriented environment. A significant portion of our executives compensation is tied to annual and long-term performance goals. We select performance goals that we believe help drive our business and create value for our shareholders. We reward executives for overall company results while also recognizing individual performance.

Align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders. We believe it is important that a portion of our executives incentive compensation is linked directly to the price of our common stock in order to align the interests of our executives with the interests of our shareholders. We tie our long-term equity incentive compensation to the value of our common stock.

The policies we use to make compensation decisions and the decisions we make are materially similar for all executives. These policies and decisions result in higher compensation levels for our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer primarily based upon the higher market compensation that is available for chief executive officers.

We compensate our executives principally by using a combination of fixed and

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performance-based compensation, annual and long-term compensation, and cash and stock-based compensation. We determine this mix by reviewing the mix available at the peer companies listed on the next page and according to the general survey data described below. Accordingly, we do not have a specific policy for the allocation of compensation between fixed and performance-based compensation, annual and long-term compensation, and cash and stock-based compensation. The following table illustrates the allocation of the major compensation components for our named executives for 2008 in terms of this mix. The percentages reflect the amounts of salary and annual cash incentive compensation earned in 2008 and the aggregate grant date fair values of stock options and shares of restricted stock granted in 2008 (as reflected in the 2008 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table).

| Named Executive | Allocation of 2008 | | Allocation of 2008 | | Allocation of 2008 | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| | Total | | Performance-Based | | Total | |
| | Fixed | Based | Annual | Long-Term | Cash | Stock-Based |
| C.M. Connor | 23% | 77% | 0% | 100% | 23% | 77% |
| J.G. Morikis | 30% | 70% | 0% | 100% | 30% | 70% |
| S.J. Oberfeld | 29% | 71% | 0% | 100% | 29% | 71% |
| S.P. Hennessy | 31% | 69% | 0% | 100% | 31% | 69% |
| T.W. Seitz | 40% | 60% | 0% | 100% | 40% | 60% |

* For purposes of this table, (a) fixed compensation consists of salary, (b) performance-based compensation consists of annual cash incentive compensation, stock options and restricted stock, (c) annual compensation consists of salary and annual cash incentive compensation, (d) long-term compensation consists of stock options and restricted stock, (e) cash compensation consists of salary and annual cash incentive compensation, and (f) stock-based compensation consists of stock options and restricted stock.

Benchmarking Our Starting Point

We offer our executives compensation that is intended to be competitive in the market. The Compensation Committee has retained Towers Perrin, an outside compensation consulting firm, to identify annually the compensation paid to executives holding equivalent positions or having similar responsibilities at similar chemical, building product manufacturing and retail peer companies with comparable sales. Towers Perrin also compiles compensation data derived from the average of five general broad-based surveys of industrial companies of similar size to us. These surveys are sponsored by nationally recognized compensation consulting firms.

We calculate an average of (a) the compensation available at the peer companies and (b) the average compensation derived from the five general broad-based surveys. We refer to this average as market compensation. This market compensation provides a framework for us to determine the mix of compensation components and target compensation levels. We generally benchmark the compensation that we pay to our executives to approximate the median market compensation. We benchmark against median market compensation because it allows us to attract and retain employees and helps us to manage the overall cost of our compensation program. We use this information only as a starting point, not as a determining factor, in setting compensation.

We review compensation paid at these peer companies because their size and business make them most comparable to us. We also believe these companies likely compete with us for executive talent. For compensation earned in 2008,

these peer companies included the companies listed in the following table. The peer companies are regularly reviewed and changed from time to time, and the information is updated annually.

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| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. | Eastman Chemical Co. | Owens Corning |
| Akzo Nobel, N.V. | Fortune Brands Inc. | PPG Industries, Inc. |
| American Standard Companies, Inc. | Leggett & Platt Inc. | Rohm and Haas Company |
| Ashland Inc. | The Lubrizol Corporation | The Stanley Works |
| Avery Dennison Corporation | Masco Corporation | USG Corporation |
| The Black & Decker Corporation | Mohawk Industries, Inc. | Weyerhaeuser Company |
| Celanese Corporation | Newell Rubbermaid Inc. | |

The market compensation information provided by Towers Perrin includes base salary, annual cash incentive compensation, long-term equity incentive compensation and total direct compensation. We define total direct compensation as the sum of base salary, annual cash incentive compensation and long-term equity incentive compensation. We review total direct compensation in order to help us determine whether the principal compensation components that we pay to our executives are competitive in the aggregate. The Compensation Committee compares each named executive's base salary, annual cash incentive compensation, long-term equity incentive compensation and total direct compensation to the median market compensation.

The following table sets forth the projected total direct compensation for our named executives as a percent of the median market total direct compensation. For purposes of this table, projected total direct compensation includes 2009 base salary, 2009 targeted annual cash incentive compensation, the annual grant of stock options granted in October 2008 and the targeted value of the recommended 2009 annual grant of restricted stock.

| Named Executive | Projected Targeted Total Direct Compensation as a Percentage of Market Compensation |
|------------------------|--|
| C.M. Connor | 98.2 |
| J.G. Morikis | 97.0 |
| S.J. Oberfeld | 124.9 |
| S.P. Hennessy | 103.8 |
| T.W. Seitz | 109.0 |

The median total direct compensation paid by the peer companies reflects 2007 compensation because more current compensation amounts were not available at the time the Compensation Committee reviewed the information. Consequently, because peer compensation amounts were two years old, we expected that projected targeted total direct compensation for our named executives (as set forth in the table above) may exceed 100% of median market compensation.

In addition, the projected total direct compensation for Mr. Oberfeld materially exceeded 100% primarily because of the value of stock options and restricted stock. For internal pay equity purposes, Mr. Oberfeld was targeted the same number of stock options and restricted stock as Mr. Hennessy because they are in the same pay grade. Accordingly, the value of stock options and restricted stock for Mr. Oberfeld materially exceeded median market.

The actual amounts we pay our executives may vary from the targeted amounts based upon company and individual performance and the market price of our common stock. Individual components may be greater than or lesser than that targeted because we focus on the overall competitiveness of the entire compensation program. In addition, the

Compensation Committee did not increase or decrease the amount of any compensation component based upon the amount of any other compensation component or its review of projected targeted total direct compensation.

Table of Contents**Major Components of Our Executive Compensation Program**

Base Salary. Each executive salaried position at our company is assigned a salary grade that corresponds to a salary range. We review the salary ranges against median market base salaries based upon the position and level of responsibility. The midpoint of the range generally approximates the median market salary paid for an equivalent or similar position at the peer companies and according to the general survey data. The Compensation Committee reviews and approves the base salary of each executive annually and at other times in connection with any promotion or other change in responsibility. Annual base salary increases are effective in March.

Annual salary increases are based, in part, on the overall annual salary budget guidelines for our company. In addition, each executive undergoes an annual performance review. The executive's performance for the prior year is reviewed by his direct supervisor. With regard to the evaluation of our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, each director provides ratings and comments for performance results, business strategy, developing a management team, and leadership. The results are reviewed by the Compensation Committee and by the non-management directors in executive session.

As part of this annual performance review, all salaried employees, including our executives, are assigned a performance rating that corresponds with a range of potential merit increases. Increases are based upon the executive's performance, responsibilities, experience and tenure in his particular position and our company-wide performance. These factors are not quantified or weighted in any objective manner. Instead, the Compensation Committee exercises its discretion and subjective judgment in assessing those factors and in approving a specific merit increase within the range.

We adopt budget salary guidelines for all of our employees. For 2008, we adopted an overall 3.25% merit budget for annual salary increases with possible merit increases ranging from 0% to 7.75%. Each of our named executives received a merit salary increase of 3.25% during 2008. For 2009, we adopted an overall 3.0% merit budget for annual salary increases with possible merit increases ranging from 0% to 7.5%. We set the range of merit salary increases for all employees as part of our annual operating budget process. The maximum amount of the range is equal to the amount necessary to increase the salary of an employee (whose salary is below median market for his position, but who receives the highest performance rating) to an amount that approximates the median market salary for his position.

In early 2009, the Compensation Committee performed its annual review of the base salaries of each executive. The Compensation Committee decided that our named executives would not receive a merit salary increase for 2009 as a part of our efforts to manage employee-related costs during this challenging global economic environment.

The following table sets forth the 2008 and 2009 base salaries and the percentage merit increases for our named executives. The table reflects \$23,000 increases to Mr. Oberfeld's 2008 annual base salary and Mr. Seitz's 2009 annual base salary to offset the elimination of their company automobiles.

| Named Executive | % Merit Increase for 2008 | 2008 Base Salary (\$) | % Merit Increase for 2009 | 2009 Base Salary (\$) |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| C.M. Connor | 3.25 | 1,221,987 | -0- | 1,221,987 |
| J.G. Morikis | 3.25 | 705,566 | -0- | 705,566 |
| S.J. Oberfeld | 3.25 | 512,999 | -0- | 512,999 |
| S.P. Hennessy | 3.25 | 539,127 | -0- | 539,127 |

| | | | | |
|------------|------|---------|-----|---------|
| T.W. Seitz | 3.25 | 450,907 | -0- | 473,907 |
|------------|------|---------|-----|---------|

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Annual Cash Incentive Compensation. We pay annual cash incentive compensation to our executives under our shareholder-approved 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan. All of our executives participate in our Performance Plan. Our Performance Plan is designed so that our executives may earn higher than average annual cash incentive compensation for above average performance and lower than average annual cash incentive compensation for below average performance.

The Compensation Committee annually reviews target and maximum annual cash incentive compensation levels for our executives as a percent of their salary. Target incentive awards are determined by using the median market annual cash incentive compensation, which generally equals the amount an executive could receive under our Performance Plan if he achieves a 100% average of his goals. The maximum incentive awards are determined by using the maximum annual cash incentive compensation available at the peer companies and according to the general survey data, which generally equals the amount an executive could receive if he achieves a 125% average of his goals.

The following table sets forth the 2008 minimum, target and maximum cash incentive amount levels, as a percent of salary, for each named executive based upon the executive achieving an average of 75%, 100% and 125%, respectively, of his performance goals.

| Named Executive | Incentive Amount as a Percentage of Salary | | |
|-----------------|--|--------|---------|
| | Minimum | Target | Maximum |
| C.M. Connor | 40 | 95 | 190 |
| J.G. Morikis | 40 | 75 | 150 |
| S.J. Oberfeld | 30 | 60 | 120 |
| S.P. Hennessy | 40 | 75 | 150 |
| T.W. Seitz | 30 | 60 | 120 |

The Compensation Committee reviews and approves each named executive's achievement of performance goals for the prior year and approves new performance goals for the current year.

For 2008, we established a threshold goal to increase company earnings. 75% of this earnings increase must have been achieved in order to have paid annual incentive compensation under our Performance Plan. Under our Performance Plan, the Compensation Committee may approve, based upon our Chief Executive Officer's recommendation, the payout of awards on a discretionary basis if performance goals are not achieved, except with respect to executives who are subject to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. For Section 162(m) participants, the Compensation Committee retains the discretion to reward individual performance by paying executive compensation outside of our Performance Plan.

During 2008, the Compensation Committee approved the performance goals of all of our named executives. Our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer also approved the goals of our other named executives. Performance goals varied by executive and usually related to the business unit or function for which such person has responsibility. Performance goals were weighted between 10% and 30%. Financial performance goals were generally weighted more heavily.

The 2008 target levels for most of the financial performance goals were set at levels that showed improvement over 2007. When target levels for financial performance goals are set at levels that show improvement over the prior year,

the levels coincide with improvements established by our annual operating budget over the level realized in the prior operating year. The Board of Directors reviews our annual operating budget, each financial improvement objective therein and approves financial performance goals that are set at levels that show relative improvement over the prior year at the same magnitude of improvement as is set forth in our annual operating budget. The following table shows for each named executive the 2008 performance goals and the weightings for each goal.

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| Named Executive | 2008 Performance Goals and Weightings |
|------------------------|---|
| C.M. Connor | Earnings per share of \$5.09 (weighted 30%) |
| J.G. Morikis | Net sales of \$8.3 billion (weighted 20%, 20% and 10%, respectively) |
| S.P. Hennessy | After tax return on equity of 35.06% (weighted 20%, 10% and 10%, respectively) |
| | Free cash flow of \$534.7 million (weighted 10%, 10% and 20%, respectively) |
| | Consolidated working capital as a % of sales of 12.36% (weighted 10%) |
| | Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization of \$1.175 billion (weighted 10%, 20% and 20%, respectively) |
| S.J. Oberfeld | Paint Stores Group sales of \$5.1 billion (weighted 20%) |
| | Paint Stores Group profit before taxes (weighted 20%) |
| | Paint Stores Group return on sales (weighted 20%) |
| | Paint Stores Group return on net assets employed of 45.98% (weighted 10%) |
| | Paint Stores Group gallons sold (weighted 10%) |
| | Paint Stores Group new store openings of 101 (weighted 10%) |
| | Sales of 190.9 million and profit before taxes of 27.5 million for M.A. Bruder and Columbia Paint (weighted 10%) |
| T.W. Seitz | Earnings per share of \$5.09 (weighted 20%) |
| | Net sales of \$8.3 billion (weighted 20%) |
| | Return on net assets employed of 27% (weighted 20%) |
| | Development of excellence initiatives throughout company (weighted 20%) |
| | Creation of a global sourcing strategy for commodities (weighted 10%) |
| | Improvement in processes and leveraging (weighted 10%) |

We have not disclosed the target levels for three of Mr. Oberfeld's individual performance goals because we believe such disclosure will cause competitive harm to Sherwin-Williams with regard to product pricing. These goals relate to Paint Stores Group profit before taxes, return on sales and gallons sold. The target levels of these goals were based upon historical and budgeted amounts and were established at levels that would require a higher rate of achievement than industry growth expectations. When these levels were set, the Compensation Committee believed that these goals could have been achieved through organic growth in the number of distribution outlets in the Paint Stores Group, growth of business with existing customers, attaining new customers or business, sales of new products and gaining market share. The Compensation Committee believed that reaching the target levels for these goals would have been unlikely without substantial growth of existing business and new business resulting in market share gains.

In February 2009, the Compensation Committee reviewed achievement against the 2008 threshold earnings goal. For 2008, the threshold earnings goal was to increase 2008 earnings before taxes \$16.1 million over 2007 earnings before taxes. In 2008, our earnings before taxes decreased compared to 2007. Accordingly, we did not meet the 2008 threshold earnings goal, and no annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives under our Performance Plan.

Long-term Equity Incentive Compensation. We grant long-term equity incentive compensation in the form of stock options and restricted stock annually under our shareholder-approved 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. Our long-term equity compensation program is designed to focus the efforts of our employees on performance objectives that contribute to company success on a long-term basis, while serving important employee retention, recognition and management succession planning purposes. Our stock option program is the primary means in which we grant long-term stock compensation to a broad group of key employees based strictly upon increases in our stock price. Our restricted stock program is designed for a more selective group of key employees and rewards participants

based upon

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the achievement of financial performance goals and for the appreciation in our stock price.

When making grants, we begin by determining the median market value of long-term equity incentive compensation. We allocate that value between stock options and restricted stock by targeting comparable values for stock options and restricted stock. We allocate the mix of stock options and restricted stock in this way because we want to equally reward the growth in the value of our common stock and the achievement of financial performance goals.

We have used a consistent approach in granting stock options and restricted stock over the years. We grant stock options and restricted stock on an annual basis at regularly scheduled Compensation Committee meetings. We schedule the dates of these meetings approximately one year in advance. We typically grant restricted stock in February and stock options in October. We grant restricted stock and stock options in February and October so that our annual grants are made at different times of the year. Information relating to the stock options and shares of restricted stock granted to our named executives is set forth in the Summary Compensation Table and the 2008 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.

At each October Compensation Committee meeting, we grant stock options to all eligible employees. These grants are made typically on the same day that the Audit Committee approves our earnings release for the third quarter and a day or so before we release our third quarter earnings results. At each February Compensation Committee meeting, we grant restricted stock. This meeting typically occurs in the third week of February, approximately three or four weeks after we release our annual earnings results. We may also grant restricted stock and stock options at other regularly scheduled Compensation Committee meetings in connection with an employee's initial hire, promotion and other events. The dates of these grants may occur shortly before we release our quarterly earnings results. We do not take into account our earnings results when determining the number of stock options or shares of restricted stock to be granted.

Stock Options. The number of stock options granted to an executive is based upon the executive's position and level of responsibility using comparable positions at the peer companies and according to the general survey data. We determine the specific number of stock options to be granted by calculating the Black-Scholes value of the stock options over a prior 90-day period. Black-Scholes is a generally accepted model used in estimating the value of stock options. We identify the minimum, median and maximum values of stock options granted by the peer companies and according to the general survey data. The Compensation Committee generally grants stock options to approximate median market value.

In accordance with the terms of our stock plans, the option exercise price for all stock options is equal to the average of the high and low market price of our common stock on the date options are granted. Accordingly, the exercise price may be higher or lower than the closing price of our common stock on that day. We do not reprice stock options, and our stock plans do not contain reload features. Stock options typically vest at the rate of one-third per year for three years (beginning one year from the date of grant) and expire ten years from the date of grant. In October 2008, we granted stock options to all executives.

Restricted Stock. We determine the granting of restricted stock in a manner similar to how we determine the granting of stock options. We identify the minimum, median and maximum values of restricted stock granted by the peer companies and according to the general survey data. The Compensation Committee generally grants restricted stock with a value higher than the median to allow our executives the opportunity to earn above average compensation for above average performance. In 2008, the Compensation Committee granted shares of restricted stock at approximately 150% of the median value in order to provide an incentive for above average performance.

Shares of restricted stock are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture and vest in accordance with performance and time restrictions. The number of shares of restricted stock that will vest at the end of the restriction period is based

upon the achievement of one or more performance goals. Up to 100% of the number of shares of restricted stock may be forfeited if the

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performance goals are not achieved. The shares of restricted stock granted in 2008 and in prior years vest at the end of four years. During the four-year period, executives beneficially own the shares of restricted stock and possess all voting and dividend rights.

The number of shares of restricted stock that will actually vest will range from 0% to 100% based upon our company's achievement of specified financial performance goals. These goals measure average return on average equity and cumulative earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) over the four-year period and are calculated as follows:

We calculate average return on average equity for the four-year period as follows. Return on average equity for each year of the four-year period is calculated by dividing our reported net income (excluding any items relating to extraordinary events or which result in a distortion of comparative results) by our average of beginning and ending shareholders' equity for that year. We then calculate the average of those amounts over the four-year period to arrive at average return on average equity. The number of shares of restricted stock that vested in February 2008 and February 2009 did not increase due to any change in reported net income due to excluding items relating to extraordinary events or which resulted in a distortion of comparative results.

We explain how we calculate EBITDA on page 33 of our 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders.

The Compensation Committee selected these two performance measures because they reward our executives in achieving two important business objectives—earnings growth and working capital management. The Compensation Committee believes these objectives help us improve our long-term financial results.

At the end of the vesting period, the Compensation Committee will review performance against the goals and determine the number of shares of restricted stock that will vest.

For the 2008 grant of restricted stock:

100% of the shares of restricted stock will vest in the event we achieve at least a 18% average return on average equity and at least an 10% cumulative growth in EBITDA;

No shares will vest in the event we achieve below 12% average return on average equity or below 3% cumulative growth in EBITDA; and

Between 26% and 100% of the restricted stock will vest in the event we achieve between 12% and 18% average return on average equity and between 3% and 10% cumulative growth in EBITDA.

In February 2008 and 2009, the Compensation Committee approved the vesting of 100% of the shares of restricted stock granted in February 2004 and 2005, respectively. During each four-year period, Sherwin-Williams achieved at least a 17% average return on average equity and at least an 8% cumulative growth in EBITDA.

Long-term incentive opportunities are intended to be competitive with market long-term incentive opportunities. Therefore, we do not consider the amount of outstanding stock options and shares of restricted stock currently held by an executive when making awards of stock options and restricted stock.

Other Arrangements, Policies and Practices

Perquisites. During 2007, the Compensation Committee eliminated most of the perquisites that we had historically provided to our executives. Accordingly, we now offer a limited number of perquisites to our executives, including

personal use of the corporate aircraft, an executive automobile program (which is being phased out as automobile lease terms end) and relocation expenses. These perquisites represent a small portion of the total compensation paid to our executives. The incremental costs of these perquisites for 2008 are set forth in a footnote to the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

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Other Benefits. We provide our named executives with various retirement and savings programs, health and welfare programs, and employee benefit plans, programs and arrangements generally available to all employees and other executive benefits. We annually review these items in connection with our preparation and review of the overall compensation packages of our named executives and in connection with our review of tally sheets. We also offer deferred compensation plans under which participating employees may elect to defer compensation on a pre-tax basis. None of our named executives participate in these deferred plans.

Other executive benefit programs include an executive life insurance program, an executive long-term disability program and a grantor trust program. The 2008 amounts for these programs are set forth in a separate table that is included in a footnote to the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

The life insurance and long-term disability programs are designed to provide our named executives with life and disability benefits greater than the life and disability benefits available under the broad-based life insurance and long-term disability programs that we offer to other employees due to benefit limitations within the broad-based programs.

We initiated our grantor trust program in 2003 to replace our non-qualified deferred compensation plan in order to provide financial security to those executives who have accumulated a significant retirement benefit in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan. All salaried employees are eligible to participate in funded retirement plans. The Internal Revenue Code contains limits on the amount of benefits that can be contributed to and/or paid from a qualified retirement plan. Employees whose retirement benefits are limited are eligible to participate in the nonqualified deferred compensation plan to provide such employees with the retirement benefits they would have received under our qualified retirement plans but for those limitations. Executives who are eligible to participate in our grantor trust program are not eligible to participate in our deferred compensation plan.

All of our named executives participate in our grantor trust program. Under this program, supplemental compensation payments and related tax gross-up payments are made to our named executives to fund individual grantor trusts established by the executives. It is intended that these payments provide our named executives with the same after-tax amount at retirement age as would have been provided under our non-qualified deferred compensation plan.

Internal Pay Equity. The Compensation Committee broadly considers internal pay equity when setting compensation levels for executives with similar responsibilities, experience and tenure. However, the Compensation Committee has no specific policy and follows no established guidelines or formulas when comparing compensation levels among executives. In connection with grants of stock options and restricted stock, the Compensation Committee generally grants the same number of stock options and shares of restricted stock to employees who are in similar pay grades.

Use of Tally Sheets. When approving changes in compensation for our named executives, our human resources department prepares a tally sheet for each named executive. Tally sheets set forth the dollar amounts of all components of each named executive's current compensation, including salary, annual cash incentive compensation, long-term incentive compensation, retirement and savings programs, health and welfare programs and other executive benefits, including perquisites.

The Compensation Committee uses tally sheets as a reference in order to ensure that members understand the total compensation of our named executives. Tally sheets also allow the Compensation Committee and management to review, in one place, how a change in the amount of each compensation component affects each named executive's total compensation and to review each named executive's total compensation in the aggregate. Based upon its most recent review, the Compensation Committee determined that total compensation, in the aggregate, for each of our named executives to be consistent with the Compensation Committee's expectations. The Compensation Committee did not increase or decrease the amount of compensation of our named executives solely based upon the review of

tally sheets.

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The Compensation Committee and management also reviewed potential payments to our named executives under termination and change in control scenarios including:

- normal and early retirement;
- death and disability;
- voluntary termination;
- involuntary (not for cause) termination;
- termination for cause; and
- termination following a change in control.

This review included potential severance payment obligations, potential values of accelerated shares of restricted stock and stock options, and projected payment obligations in connection with our retirement and savings programs, health and welfare plans, and other executive benefits. The Compensation Committee determined that the total potential payments, in the aggregate, for each of our named executives under each scenario to be reasonable and not excessive.

Tax and Accounting Considerations. From time to time, we review the accounting and tax laws, rules and regulations that may affect our compensation programs. However, tax and accounting considerations have not significantly impacted the compensation programs we offer to our executives.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally provides that certain compensation in excess of \$1 million per year paid to a company's chief executive officer and any of its four other highest paid executive officers is not deductible by a company unless the compensation qualifies for an exception. Section 162(m) provides an exception to the deductibility limit for performance-based compensation if certain procedural requirements, including shareholder approval of the material terms of the performance goal, are satisfied.

Under our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan, we have the ability to pay non-discretionary annual cash incentive compensation to our named executives that will qualify for deductibility. Independent of our Performance Plan, the Compensation Committee retains the discretion to reward individual performance by paying executive compensation amounts that may not be deductible under Section 162(m). The Compensation Committee believes that its ability to exercise such discretion is in the best interests of Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders. The Compensation Committee did not approve the payment of any such discretionary bonus amounts for 2008 that are not deductible under Section 162(m).

Executive Compensation Adjustment and Recapture Policy. In February 2008, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee adopted a policy regarding the adjustment and recapture of compensation paid or payable to key employees and executives. Under the policy, employees who receive an award under our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan are required to reimburse Sherwin-Williams in the event:

- The amount was based upon the achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the federal securities laws;

The employee engaged in knowing or intentional fraudulent or illegal conduct that caused or partially caused the need for the restatement; and

A lower amount would have been made to the employee based upon the restated financial results.

The reimbursement will be equal to the difference in the amount of the award prior to the restatement and the amount of the award determined using the restated financial results.

In addition, under our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan, (a) all stock awards will be cancelled and (b) the employee will be required to reimburse Sherwin-Williams for any economic gains received by the employee pursuant to a stock award during the one-year period preceding the Board of Director's determination that the employee engaged in such conduct.

Severance Pay Agreements. To ensure continuity and the continued dedication of our executives during any period of uncertainty

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caused by the possible threat of a takeover, we have entered into severance pay agreements with our executives, including each of our named executives. These severance pay agreements have not been a significant factor in setting compensation levels and have not affected the Compensation Committee's decisions with respect to the compensation components.

In 2006, the Compensation Committee engaged Towers Perrin to evaluate our then existing severance pay agreements in order to determine how these agreements compared to market practices. Towers Perrin's evaluation included a review of material terms of the agreements, including the change in control trigger threshold, severance pay single versus double triggers, severance pay multiples, continuation of retirement, health and welfare benefits, excise tax gross-ups, and the impact of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.

Based upon this evaluation, the Compensation Committee approved a new form of severance agreement in February 2007, and we entered into new severance agreements with each of our executives. The Compensation Committee believes that the material terms of the severance agreements are consistent with market practices.

Potential cash severance payments are based upon a multiplier of base salary and annual cash incentive pay. Because Mr. Connor's base salary and annual cash incentive pay are higher than that of our other named executives, Mr. Connor's potential cash severance payment is correspondingly higher than that of our other named executives. Additional information regarding the severance agreements, including the estimated amounts payable to each named executive, is set forth under the heading Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control.

Stock Ownership Guidelines. We have established a minimum share ownership requirement for our directors, executive officers and operating presidents. We require each director who has served on the Board of Directors for at least five years to own a minimum of 10,000 shares of common stock. We require each executive and operating president who has served in such capacity for at least five years to own shares of common stock equal in value to a multiple of his base salary ranging from a low of three times to a high of five times. The requirements for our executives and operating presidents are as follows.

| Title | Minimum Share Ownership as Multiple of Base Salary |
|---|---|
| Chief Executive Officer | 5 times |
| Chief Operating Officer | 4 times |
| Other Executives and Operating Presidents | 3 times |

For purposes of meeting this requirement, each equivalent share of common stock held under our benefit plans and each share of restricted stock is considered as a share of common stock. Stock options are not considered towards meeting the requirement. The Compensation Committee reviews compliance with these guidelines annually. All directors, executive officers and operating presidents have either met the guidelines or are pursuing plans to meet the guidelines within the time frames prescribed.

Table of Contents**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation of our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, our Senior Vice President – Finance and Chief Financial Officer and our other three highest paid executive officers (our named executives).

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$) | Stock Awards (\$) ^(2,3) | Option Awards (\$) ^(3,4) | Change in Pension Value and Non-Equity Nonqualified Incentive Compensation | | | Total (\$) |
|--|------|-------------|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------|
| | | | | | | Plan Compensation (\$) | Deferred Earnings Compensation (\$) ⁽⁵⁾ | All Other Compensation (\$) ⁽⁶⁾ | |
| M. Connor Chairman and Chief Executive Officer | 2008 | 1,214,590 | -0- | 2,610,830 | 1,853,283 | -0- | -0- | 524,807 | 6,203,510 |
| | 2007 | 1,161,047 | -0- | 2,730,500 | 1,609,818 | 1,544,000 | -0- | 540,064 | 7,585,429 |
| G. Morikis President and Chief Operating Officer | 2006 | 1,113,742 | -0- | 2,657,568 | 1,311,425 | 1,816,000 | -0- | 454,283 | 7,353,018 |
| P. Hennessy Senior Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer | 2008 | 701,295 | -0- | 1,017,886 | 614,482 | -0- | -0- | 223,132 | 2,556,795 |
| | 2007 | 663,481 | -0- | 950,199 | 477,558 | 697,000 | -0- | 254,948 | 3,043,181 |
| W. Seitz Senior Vice President Strategic Excellence Initiatives | 2006 | 479,036 | -0- | 803,983 | 315,980 | 577,000 | -0- | 194,016 | 2,370,015 |
| | 2008 | 493,225 | -0- | 585,927 | 828,633 | -0- | -0- | 187,869 | 2,095,654 |
| J. Oberfeld ⁽¹⁾ President, Retail Stores Group | 2007 | 459,272 | -0- | 474,603 | 729,311 | 276,000 | -0- | 249,720 | 2,188,906 |
| | 2008 | 535,863 | -0- | 663,125 | 471,341 | -0- | -0- | 197,075 | 1,867,404 |
| J. Oberfeld ⁽¹⁾ President, Retail Stores Group | 2007 | 503,617 | -0- | 661,186 | 382,116 | 604,000 | -0- | 193,997 | 2,344,916 |
| | 2006 | 472,572 | -0- | 670,774 | 298,841 | 634,000 | -0- | 174,650 | 2,250,837 |
| J. Oberfeld ⁽¹⁾ President, Retail Stores Group | 2008 | 448,177 | -0- | 539,007 | 367,109 | -0- | 62,165 | 295,676 | 1,712,139 |
| | 2007 | 422,093 | -0- | 531,201 | 412,697 | 339,000 | 85,979 | 258,036 | 2,049,006 |
| | 2006 | 399,642 | -0- | 444,052 | 583,737 | 327,000 | 53,816 | 356,401 | 2,164,648 |

¹ Mr. Oberfeld first became a named executive in 2007.

² The values set forth in this column reflect shares of restricted stock granted to our named executives. The values are equal to the compensation cost recognized by Sherwin-Williams during the indicated year for financial statement purposes in accordance with FAS 123R, except no assumptions for forfeitures were included. This valuation method values restricted stock granted during the indicated year and previous years, based on the fair

market value of our common stock (the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices) on the date of grant.

- ³ Additional information regarding the shares of restricted stock and stock options granted to our named executives during 2008 is set forth in the 2008 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table. The 2008 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table also sets forth the aggregate grant date fair value of the restricted stock and stock options granted during 2008 computed in accordance with FAS 123R.
- ⁴ The values set forth in this column reflect stock options granted to our named executives. The values are equal to the compensation cost recognized by Sherwin-Williams during the indicated year for financial statement purposes in accordance with FAS 123R, except no assumptions for forfeitures were included. This valuation method values stock options granted during the indicated year and previous years. The values were calculated using a Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Risk-free interest rate | 3.01% | 4.03% | 4.68% | 4.15% |
| Expected life of options | 5.24 years | 4.67 years | 4.55 years | 4.33 years |
| Expected dividend yield of stock | 2.41% | 1.80% | 1.84% | 1.86% |
| Expected volatility of stock | 0.321 | 0.279 | 0.259 | 0.240 |

- ⁵ The amount set forth in this column for Mr. Seitz reflects the aggregate increase in the present value of his accumulated benefit in our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan.

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⁶ The amounts set forth in this column for 2008 include:

company contributions under our Salaried Employees Revised Pension Investment Plan, a defined contribution plan, or our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan, a defined benefit plan;

company matching contributions under our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, a defined contribution plan;

company supplemental compensation payments pursuant to Individual Grantor Trust Participation Agreements between Sherwin-Williams and our named executives;

the dollar value of non-compensatory split-dollar life insurance benefits under our Executive Life Insurance Plan;

company payments for premiums under our Executive Disability Income Plan;

tax reimbursements, which are limited to tax gross-up payments relating to our Grantor Trust Program and \$9,360 for Mr. Oberfeld relating to relocation expenses; we disclose more information about our Grantor Trust Program under the heading Compensation Discussion and Analysis ;

company charitable matching contributions under our matching gifts programs; and

perquisites and other personal benefits.

| | C.M. Connor | J.G. Morikis | S.J. Oberfeld | S.P. Hennessy | T.W. Seitz |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Company Contributions Pension Plans (\$) | 13,500 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 2,300 |
| Company Match Employee Stock Plan (\$) | 13,800 | 13,800 | 13,800 | 13,800 | 13,800 |
| Supplemental Payments Grantor Trust (\$) | 316,838 | 131,027 | 64,710 | 109,349 | 194,562 |
| Value Executive Life Insurance Plan (\$) | 85,800 | 19,950 | 8,885 | 22,800 | 52,000 |
| Premiums Executive Disability Plan (\$) | 2,372 | 2,283 | 2,661 | 2,620 | 3,378 |
| Tax Reimbursements (\$) | 51,371 | 15,308 | 31,734 | 20,645 | 10,474 |
| Company Charitable Matching Gifts (\$) | 20,000 | -0- | -0- | -0- | 5,000 |
| Perquisites (\$) | 21,126 | 27,264 | 52,579 | 14,361 | 14,162 |
| TOTAL (\$) | 524,807 | 223,132 | 187,869 | 197,075 | 295,676 |

Amounts do not include the incremental cost of our Business Travel Accident Insurance Plan, which provides coverage for all of our directors, executive officers and full-time salaried employees. The total aggregate premium in 2008 for this plan for all directors, executives and employees was \$34,028.

Perquisites. The incremental costs of all perquisites provided to our named executives during 2008 were as follows: \$27,264, \$26,211, \$14,361 and \$14,162 for Messrs. Morikis, Oberfeld, Hennessy and Seitz, respectively, under our executive automobile program (which is being phased out as individual automobile lease terms end); \$26,368 for Mr. Oberfeld for relocation expenses; and \$21,126 for Mr. Connor for personal use of corporate aircraft.

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Narrative Information Regarding the Summary Compensation Table.

Employment Agreements. None of our named executives have entered into employment agreements with Sherwin-Williams.

Salary. The salary amounts disclosed in the table are the amounts of base salary earned by our named executives during the indicated year. For 2008, salaries earned by our named executives accounted for the following percentages of their total compensation set forth in the table: Mr. Connor (19.6%), Mr. Morikis (27.4%), Mr. Oberfeld (23.5%), Mr. Hennessy (28.7%) and Mr. Seitz (26.2%). The percentages for 2008 are higher than the percentages for 2007 because of the lower total compensation paid to our named executives for 2008.

Mr. Morikis was promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer in October 2006. Prior to October 2006, Mr. Morikis was President, Paint Stores Group.

Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation. No annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives under our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan for 2008.

Pension Investment Plan. Mr. Seitz is the only named executive who participates in our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan. Information about our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan is set forth in the 2008 Pension Benefits Table and the accompanying narrative discussion.

Key Management Deferred Compensation Plan. Our Key Management Plan is a nonqualified deferred compensation plan pursuant to which employees who participate in our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan or other identified employee groups may elect to defer on a pre-tax basis up to 100% of their base salary and bonus. None of our named executives participate in our Key Management Plan.

Perquisites. The value of perquisites disclosed in the table is based upon the incremental cost of providing the benefit to the executive. During 2007, the Compensation and Management Development Committee eliminated most of the perquisites that we had provided to our executives. Accordingly, perquisites for 2008 for our named executives related only to our executive automobile program, personal use of the corporate aircraft and relocation expenses.

The incremental cost of the executive automobile program is determined by adding all of the costs of the program, including lease costs and costs of maintenance, fuel, license and taxes. The program is being phased out at the end of each individual lease term.

The incremental cost of personal use of corporate aircraft is determined based upon the variable operating costs of the aircraft, which includes fuel costs, maintenance and repair costs, landing fees, engine reserve fees, catering costs and travel costs for the pilots. The incremental cost includes the cost of dead head flights, which are return or pick-up flights without passengers flown for personal use. An average hourly rate is calculated by dividing the total variable operating costs for the year by the number of hours the aircraft is flown. The average hourly rate is then multiplied by the number of hours of the executive's personal use to derive the total incremental cost. Fixed operating costs, such as pilot salaries, depreciation and insurance, that do not change based upon usage are not included.

The incremental cost of relocation expenses for Mr. Oberfeld was incurred in connection with his promotion to President, Paint Stores Group. These expenses reflect all costs of the program, including temporary living and commuting expenses.

In addition, we purchase tickets to sporting and cultural events for business purposes. If not used for business purposes, the tickets are made available to our executives and other employees for personal use.

Table of Contents**2008 GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS TABLE**

The following table sets forth information regarding the grants of annual cash incentive compensation, stock options and restricted stock during 2008 to our named executives.

| Name | Grant Date | Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾ | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽²⁾ | | | All Other Option Awards; Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) ⁽³⁾ | Exercise of Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) ⁽⁴⁾ | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards |
|----------|------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---|---------------|----------------|--|---|--|
| | | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | | | |
| . Connor | 02/19/2008 | 485,836 | 1,153,860 | 2,307,721 | | | | | | |
| | 02/19/2008 | | | | -0- | 28,667 | 43,000 | | | 2,314, |
| | 10/14/2008 | | | | | | | 125,000 | 54.09 | 1,782, |
| Morikis | 02/19/2008 | 280,518 | 525,971 | 1,051,942 | | | | | | |
| | 02/19/2008 | | | | -0- | 11,333 | 17,000 | | | 914, |
| | 10/14/2008 | | | | | | | 50,000 | 54.09 | 712, |
| Oberfeld | 02/19/2008 | 147,967 | 295,935 | 591,870 | | | | | | |
| | 02/19/2008 | | | | -0- | 8,333 | 12,500 | | | 672, |
| | 10/14/2008 | | | | | | | 36,000 | 54.09 | 513, |
| Hennessy | 02/19/2008 | 214,345 | 401,897 | 803,794 | | | | | | |
| | 02/19/2008 | | | | -0- | 8,333 | 12,500 | | | 672, |
| | 10/14/2008 | | | | | | | 36,000 | 54.09 | 513, |
| . Seitz | 02/19/2008 | 134,453 | 268,906 | 537,813 | | | | | | |
| | 02/19/2008 | | | | -0- | 4,533 | 6,800 | | | 365, |
| | 10/14/2008 | | | | | | | 21,000 | 54.09 | 299, |

¹ The amounts set forth in these columns reflect the annual cash incentive compensation amounts that could have been earned during 2008 based upon the achievement of performance goals under our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan. The grant date of February 19, 2008 is the date that the performance goals were approved by the Compensation and Management Development Committee. No annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives for 2008.

² The amounts set forth in these columns reflect the number of shares of restricted stock granted on February 19, 2008 under our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. These shares vest in February 2012 based upon the achievement of financial performance goals.

³ The amounts set forth in this column reflect the number of stock options granted on October 14, 2008 under our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. These stock options vest at the rate of one-third per year and expire

on October 13, 2018.

- ⁴ The exercise price (\$54.09) equals the average of the highest and lowest sale prices of our common stock on the date of grant, October 14, 2008. The closing price of our common stock on the date of grant was \$52.98.
- ⁵ The values of restricted stock and stock options disclosed in this column are equal to the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with FAS 123R, except no assumptions for forfeitures were included. The grant date fair value of restricted stock is based on the fair market value of our common stock (the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices) on the date of grant. The grant date fair value of stock options is calculated in accordance with FAS 123R using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. The assumptions used in this model are set forth in the table to footnote 4 of the Summary Compensation Table.

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Narrative Information Regarding the 2008 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.

Non-equity Incentive Plan Awards. The non-equity incentive plan awards set forth in the table reflect annual cash incentive compensation that could have been earned by our named executives during 2008 under our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan based upon the achievement of a threshold company earnings goal and the accomplishment by the executive of performance goals. No annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives for 2008.

Annual cash incentive compensation is payable as a percentage of salary. These percentages vary by named executive. The performance goals and the percentages of salary are set forth under the heading Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

The threshold, target and maximum amounts set forth in the table correspond to the named executive achieving an average of 75%, 100% and 125% of his performance goals, respectively.

Restricted Stock. We grant restricted stock pursuant to our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. The shares of restricted stock granted in 2008 vest at the end of a four-year period based upon the achievement of specified financial performance goals. The number of shares of restricted stock that will actually vest at the end of the vesting period will range from 0% to 100% based upon achievement of the specified financial performance goals. The maximum amounts set forth in the table correspond to the Compensation Committee's decision to grant a number of shares of restricted stock equal to 150% of target in order to provide an incentive for above average performance. We have included more information about these performance goals under the heading Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Shares of restricted stock will vest immediately upon the death or disability of the named executive or upon a change in control of Sherwin-Williams.

During the vesting period, the executives are the beneficial owners of the shares of restricted stock and possess all voting and dividend rights. Dividends are payable at the same rate as is paid on Sherwin-Williams common stock generally. During 2008, the quarterly dividend rate was \$0.35 per share. In February 2009, the Board of Directors announced an increase in the quarterly dividend rate to \$0.355 per share payable on March 13, 2009.

Stock Options. We grant stock options pursuant to our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. The option exercise price is equal to the market value of our common stock on the date options are granted. In accordance with the terms of the plan, the market value is equal to the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices of our common stock on the date of grant.

Stock options vest in approximately three equal installments on the first, second and third anniversary dates of the date of grant and have a term of ten years. Stock options become immediately exercisable in the event of the death or disability of the executive or in the event of a change in control of Sherwin-Williams. Stock options are not transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

Table of Contents**OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008 TABLE**

The following table sets forth information regarding the number of unexercised stock options and the number and value of unvested shares of restricted stock outstanding on December 31, 2008 for our named executives.

| Name | Option Grant Date ⁽¹⁾ | Option Awards | | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Stock Awards | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| | | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable | | | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽²⁾ |
| C. M. Connor | 10/18/2002 | 246,067 | -0- | 25.425 | 10/17/2012 | 53,750 ⁽³⁾ | 3,211,563 |
| | 10/24/2003 | 200,000 | -0- | 31.20 | 10/23/2013 | 59,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | 3,525,250 |
| | 10/20/2004 | 135,000 | -0- | 41.725 | 10/19/2014 | 43,375 ⁽⁵⁾ | 2,591,656 |
| | 10/21/2005 | 175,000 | -0- | 43.595 | 10/20/2015 | 43,000 ⁽⁶⁾ | 2,569,250 |
| | 10/18/2006 | 93,333 | 46,667 | 59.435 | 10/17/2016 | | |
| | 10/19/2007 | 33,334 | 66,666 | 63.44 | 10/18/2017 | | |
| | 10/14/2008 | -0- | 125,000 | 54.09 | 10/13/2018 | | |
| J. G. Morikis | 10/20/2004 | 10,000 | -0- | 41.725 | 10/19/2014 | 11,500 ⁽³⁾ | 687,125 |
| | 10/21/2005 | 40,000 | -0- | 43.595 | 10/20/2015 | 28,700 ⁽⁴⁾ | 1,714,825 |
| | 10/18/2006 | 33,333 | 16,667 | 59.435 | 10/17/2016 | 14,250 ⁽⁵⁾ | 851,438 |
| | 10/19/2007 | 13,334 | 26,666 | 63.44 | 10/18/2017 | 17,000 ⁽⁶⁾ | 1,015,750 |
| | 10/14/2008 | -0- | 50,000 | 54.09 | 10/13/2018 | | |
| S. J. Oberfeld | 10/19/2000 | 5,095 | -0- | 19.625 | 10/18/2010 | 5,000 ⁽³⁾ | 298,750 |
| | 10/17/2001 | 4,114 | -0- | 24.305 | 10/16/2011 | 13,500 ⁽⁴⁾ | 806,625 |
| | 10/18/2002 | 3,933 | -0- | 25.425 | 10/17/2012 | 10,000 ⁽⁵⁾ | 597,500 |
| | 10/24/2003 | 3,205 | -0- | 31.20 | 10/23/2013 | 12,500 ⁽⁶⁾ | 746,875 |
| | 10/20/2004 | 13,500 | -0- | 41.725 | 10/19/2014 | | |
| | 10/21/2005 | 16,000 | -0- | 43.595 | 10/20/2015 | | |
| | 10/18/2006 | 22,000 | 11,000 | 59.435 | 10/17/2016 | | |
| 10/19/2007 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 63.44 | 10/18/2017 | | | |

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|-------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | 10/14/2008 | -0- | 36,000 | 54.09 | 10/13/2018 | | |
| S. P. | | | | | | | |
| Hennessy | 10/24/2003 | 41,795 | -0- | 31.20 | 10/23/2013 | 13,750 ⁽³⁾ | 821,563 |
| | 10/20/2004 | 30,000 | -0- | 41.725 | 10/19/2014 | 15,000 ⁽⁴⁾ | 896,250 |
| | 10/21/2005 | 40,000 | -0- | 43.595 | 10/20/2015 | 10,000 ⁽⁵⁾ | 597,500 |
| | 10/18/2006 | 22,000 | 11,000 | 59.435 | 10/17/2016 | 12,500 ⁽⁶⁾ | 746,875 |
| | 10/19/2007 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 63.44 | 10/18/2017 | | |
| | 10/14/2008 | -0- | 36,000 | 54.09 | 10/13/2018 | | |
| T. W. Seitz | 10/24/2003 | 3,795 | -0- | 31.20 | 10/23/2013 | 6,250 ⁽³⁾ | 373,438 |
| | 10/20/2004 | 13,604 | -0- | 41.725 | 10/19/2014 | 17,500 ⁽⁴⁾ | 1,045,625 |
| | 10/21/2005 | 30,000 | -0- | 43.595 | 10/20/2015 | 7,500 ⁽⁵⁾ | 448,125 |
| | 10/18/2006 | 18,667 | 9,333 | 59.435 | 10/17/2016 | 6,800 ⁽⁶⁾ | 406,300 |
| | 10/19/2007 | 6,000 | 12,000 | 63.44 | 10/18/2017 | | |
| | 10/14/2008 | -0- | 21,000 | 54.09 | 10/13/2018 | | |

- ¹ Options vest over three years in equal annual installments on the first, second and third anniversary dates of the date of grant.
- ² The amounts set forth in this column equal the number of shares of restricted stock indicated multiplied by the closing price of our common stock (\$59.75) on December 31, 2008. The amounts assume that 100% of the shares of restricted stock will vest based upon the achievement of the specified financial performance goals.
- ³ 100% of these shares of restricted stock vested in February 2009 based upon the achievement of the performance goals.
- ⁴ Shares of restricted stock vest in February 2010 on the date that the Board of Directors determines the level of achievement of the performance goals.
- ⁵ Shares of restricted stock vest in February 2011 on the date that the Board of Directors determines the level of achievement of the performance goals.

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- ⁶ Shares of restricted stock vest in February 2012 on the date that the Board of Directors determines the level of achievement of the performance goals.

2008 OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED TABLE

The following table sets forth information regarding the number and value of stock options exercised and restricted stock vested during 2008 for our named executives.

| Name | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|----------------|---|--|--|---|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) ⁽²⁾ |
| C. M. Connor | 339,943 | 11,654,269 | 88,000 | 4,735,720 |
| J. G. Morikis | -0- | -0- | 20,000 | 1,076,300 |
| S. J. Oberfeld | 22,296 | 584,121 | 7,000 | 376,705 |
| S. P. Hennessy | -0- | -0- | 20,000 | 1,076,300 |
| T. W. Seitz | -0- | -0- | 11,000 | 591,965 |

¹ The value realized on the exercise of stock options is equal to the number of shares acquired multiplied by the difference between the exercise price and the market price of our common stock. The market price is equal to the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices of our common stock on the date of exercise.

² The value realized on the vesting of restricted stock is equal to the number of shares of restricted stock vested multiplied by the market price of our common stock. The market price is equal to the average of the highest and lowest reported sale prices of our common stock on the vesting date.

2008 PENSION BENEFITS TABLE

The following table sets forth information relating to The Sherwin-Williams Company Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan for 2008. Mr. Seitz is the only named executive who participates in our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan.

| Name | Plan Name | Number of Years Credited Service (#) | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$) | Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| C. M. Connor | N/A | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| J. G. Morikis | N/A | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| S. J. Oberfeld | N/A | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| S. P. Hennessy | N/A | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| T. W. Seitz | Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan | 33 | 726,868 | -0- |

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Material Features of our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan. Our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan is a qualified noncontributory defined benefit pension plan. The benefit formula with respect to active participants hired prior to January 1, 1984, including Mr. Seitz, consists of the sum of two components: (a) a traditional pension-type retirement benefit that is determined based upon the greater of two formulas; and (b) a contribution credit equal to 1% of the participant's earnings for periods after January 1, 1984.

The pension-type retirement benefit is determined based upon the greater of the following two formulas:

Average annual earnings are divided by 12 then multiplied by the accrued benefit service (determined according to plan provisions, up to a maximum of 40 years). The result is then multiplied by 1%. For purposes of this formula, average annual earnings are the average of earnings during the five consecutive calendar years in which the participant earned the most money during the 10 years prior to retirement. Earnings include annual salary, overtime, bonuses and commissions, but not moving expenses, tuition aid or any pay designated as not creditable as earnings at the time it is received, all subject to the applicable IRS limitations on earnings. For purposes of this calculation, our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan disregards the one year out of the 10 in which earnings were the lowest and closes the gap so that the remaining nine years are considered consecutive; or

Years and months of accrued benefit service are multiplied by \$14 to determine a monthly benefit amount; an additional medical allowance of \$15 is added.

Pension benefits may be collected upon attainment of normal retirement age (age 65) or upon satisfying the criteria for early retirement (age 55-59 with at least 20 years of vesting service or age 60 or older if the participant's combination of age and years of vesting service equal at least 75). If otherwise eligible for early retirement, a participant can elect to retire from Sherwin-Williams at age 62 with unreduced benefits. All other early retirement benefit payments are actuarially reduced to reflect the longer expected payout period. Pension benefits commence on the first day of the calendar month following the month in which the Pension Administration Committee approves the retirement election.

The normal form of benefit for a married participant is a 60% joint and survivor annuity, which provides reduced monthly payments during the participant's lifetime and lifetime payments to the spouse following the participant's death in the amount of 60% of the reduced payments. With the spouse's consent, a married participant may alternatively elect to receive benefits in the form of a single life annuity, a 100% joint and survivor annuity, a five-year certain annuity, a 10-year certain annuity or in a lump sum. Our Salaried Employees Pension Investment Plan provides guarantees that at least the first 12 monthly payments will be paid to either the participant or his beneficiary if the participant dies during the 12-month period following retirement. We do not normally grant additional years of service credit.

The 1% contribution credit is converted into units to account for the participant's benefit attributable to this portion of the retirement benefit. The participant's benefit is determined based upon hypothetical returns achieved on the allocation of units among investments in various mutual fund alternatives as directed by the participant.

For purposes of determining the present value of Mr. Seitz's accumulated benefit, the following assumptions were used:

Mortality Table: RP2000;

Interest Rate: 6.1% (2009), 6% (2008);

Age at 1/1/2009: 60 years and 1 month;

2008 pay: \$787,177;

Benefit Commencement at age 62 (earliest unreduced);

25% elect lump sum option/75% elect annuity;

Lump Sum Mortality Table: GAM-94 Basic Table Projected to 2002 Using Scale AA (50% Male/50% Female); and

Lump Sum Interest Rate: 6.1% (2009), 6% (2008).

Both the RP2000 and the GAM-94 Basic Table are commonly accepted actuarial tables published by the IRS for purposes of determining mortality in connection with the determination of retirement benefits, among other things.

Table of Contents**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The following table provides information about our common stock that may be issued under our equity compensation plans at December 31, 2008.

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to Be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a) | Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b) | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c) |
|---|--|--|--|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1, 2) | 10,270,899 | \$ 46.48 | 4,613,129 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | -0- | | |
| Total | 10,270,899 | \$ 46.48 | 4,613,129 |

¹ Column (a) represents the number of shares of common stock that may be issued in connection with the exercise of outstanding stock options granted under The Sherwin-Williams Company 1994 Stock Plan, The Sherwin-Williams Company 1997 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors, The Sherwin-Williams Company 2003 Stock Plan and The Sherwin-Williams Company 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan. Our 1994 Stock Plan, 1997 Stock Plan and 2003 Stock Plan have expired or have been terminated, although outstanding stock options and restricted stock continue in force in accordance with their terms.

² Column (c) includes 4,439,829 shares of common stock remaining available for future awards under our 2006 Equity and Performance Incentive Plan and 173,300 shares of common stock remaining available for future awards under our 2006 Stock Plan for Nonemployee Directors.

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POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

The following information and table set forth the amount of payments to each of our named executives in the event of a termination of employment as a result of normal and early retirement, involuntary termination, death, disability, voluntary termination (not for cause), termination for cause, and termination following a change in control. The table also sets forth the amount of payments to each of our named executives in the event of a change in control without a termination of employment.

We do not have employment agreements with any of our named executives and do not have a formal severance policy or arrangement that provides for payments to a named executive in the event of a termination of employment (other than with respect to a termination of employment following a change in control as described below). The Compensation and Management Development Committee has sole discretion to determine the amount, if any, of severance payments and benefits that will be offered to a named executive in the event of a termination. The Compensation Committee believes that it is in the best interests of Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders that executives are treated fairly and equitably on a termination.

Assumptions and General Principles. The following assumptions and general principles apply with respect to the following table and any termination of employment of a named executive.

The amounts shown in the table assume that each named executive was terminated on December 31, 2008. Accordingly, the table reflects amounts earned as of December 31, 2008 and includes estimates of amounts that would be paid to the named executive upon the occurrence of a termination or change in control. The actual amounts to be paid to a named executive can only be determined at the time of the termination or change in control.

A named executive is entitled to receive amounts earned during his term of employment regardless of the manner in which the named executive's employment is terminated. These amounts include base salary, unused vacation pay and annual cash incentive compensation. These amounts are not shown in the table, except for potential prorated annual cash incentive compensation as described below.

A named executive must be employed on December 31 to be entitled to receive annual cash incentive compensation pursuant to our 2007 Executive Performance Bonus Plan. In the event a termination occurs on a date other than December 31, the Compensation Committee has discretion to award the named executive an annual cash incentive compensation payment. Typically, this payment would approximate a prorated amount of the payment the named executive would have received under the plan and takes into consideration the named executive's performance and contributions to achieving the performance criteria under the plan to the date of termination. These annual cash incentive payments have not typically been awarded in the event of a voluntary termination or a termination for cause.

Because we have assumed a December 31, 2008 termination date, each of our named executives is entitled to receive the annual cash incentive compensation payment earned under the plan for 2008. As described under the heading Compensation Discussion and Analysis, no annual cash incentive compensation was earned or paid to our named executives under the plan for 2008. Therefore, the amount set forth in the table for prorated annual cash incentive compensation is zero.

A named executive may exercise any stock options that are exercisable prior to the date of termination and is entitled to receive unrestricted shares of common stock with respect to any restricted stock awards for which

the vesting period has expired prior to the date of termination. The number of unrestricted shares to be received by a named executive will be determined by the Compensation Committee pursuant to the applicable plan. Any payments related to these stock options and restricted stock awards are

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not included in the table because they are not severance payments.

A named executive will be entitled to receive all amounts accrued and vested under our retirement and savings programs including our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan and any pension plans and deferred compensation plans in which the named executive participates. These amounts will be determined and paid in accordance with the applicable plan and are not included in the table because they are not severance payments.

Normal Retirement. A named executive is eligible to elect normal retirement at age 65. All of our full-time salaried employees hired prior to January 1, 1993 are eligible for health care and life insurance benefits upon normal retirement subject to the terms of the plans. In addition, all outstanding stock options will continue to vest in accordance with their terms, and all outstanding restricted stock awards will continue to vest as if the named executive had continued employment throughout the restriction period. The number of unrestricted shares that the named executive will be entitled to receive will be determined in accordance with the plan as if the named executive had remained employed throughout the restriction period.

At December 31, 2008, none of our named executives were eligible for normal retirement.

Early Retirement. A named executive is eligible to elect early retirement upon satisfying the criteria for early retirement (age 55-59 with at least 20 years of vesting service or age 60 or older if the combination of age and years of vesting service equal at least 75). In the event of early retirement, all outstanding stock options will continue to vest in accordance with their terms. The Compensation Committee has the discretion to cancel all of the named executive's rights to outstanding restricted stock, continue all rights in full, or prorate the number of shares of restricted stock for the portions of the restricted periods completed as of the date of retirement. The number of unrestricted shares that the named executive will be entitled to receive if the named executive's rights continue in full or prorata will be determined in accordance with the plan as if the named executive had remained employed throughout the restriction period.

At December 31, 2008, Messrs. Oberfeld and Seitz were eligible for early retirement.

Involuntary Termination. In the event of an involuntary termination not for cause, the Compensation Committee has the sole discretion to determine the amount, if any, of severance payments and benefits that will be offered to a named executive. In making this determination, the Compensation Committee may consider a number of factors including the reasons for the termination, the named executive's tenure and performance, the named executive's personal circumstances and the amount of severance payments, if any, generally offered to executives at other companies in similar positions. Because we do not have sufficient experience with involuntary terminations of executives at the positions of the named executives, we cannot reasonably estimate the amount or range of amounts of severance payments and benefits that would be offered to our named executives. Therefore, although it is reasonably likely that we will offer a severance payment and benefits to a named executive in the event of an involuntary termination not for cause, these amounts are not included in the table.

Death and Disability. In the event of the death or disability of a named executive, all outstanding stock options will immediately vest and become exercisable, and all shares of restricted stock will immediately vest and become unrestricted. The amounts set forth in the table for stock options reflect the difference between the average of the high and low market price of our common stock (\$59.415) on December 31, 2008 and the exercise prices for each option for which vesting accelerated. The amounts set forth in the table for restricted stock reflect the number of shares of restricted stock for which the vesting accelerated multiplied by the average of the high and low market price of our common stock (\$59.415) on December 31, 2008.

In addition, each named executive participates in our executive life insurance program. Under our executive life insurance program, the beneficiary of a named executive is entitled to receive a death benefit based upon the following formulas: (a) if the event occurs prior to age 62, then the death benefit will equal 4.0 times (for Messrs. Connor, Morikis and Hennessy) or 3.5

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times (for Messrs. Oberfeld and Seitz) the named executive's base salary; (b) if the event occurs on or after age 62 and before age 65, then the death benefit will equal 4.0 times (for Messrs. Connor, Morikis and Hennessy) or 3.5 times (for Messrs. Oberfeld and Seitz) the named executive's base salary at age 62; and (c) if the event occurs at age 65 or older, then the death benefit will equal 2.5 times (for Messrs. Connor, Morikis and Hennessy) or 2.0 times (for Messrs. Oberfeld and Seitz) the named executive's base salary at age 62. All of our named executives were less than 62 years of age on December 31, 2008.

Each named executive also participates in our executive long-term disability program. Upon the occurrence of a disability under the program, a named executive will receive an annual benefit equal to 60% of base salary until the earlier of: (a) age 65; (b) recovery from the disability; (c) the date the named executive begins receiving retirement plan benefits; or (d) death. The amounts set forth in the table reflect the amount of the first annual payment (60% multiplied by the named executive's current base salary) under the program.

Voluntary Termination and Termination for Cause. A named executive is not entitled to receive any additional forms of severance payments or benefits upon his voluntary decision to terminate employment with Sherwin-Williams prior to being eligible for retirement or upon termination for cause.

Change in Control. Upon the occurrence of a change in control, as generally defined below, all outstanding stock options will immediately vest and become exercisable and all shares of restricted stock will immediately vest and become unrestricted for all participants under the applicable stock plans, including the named executives. The amounts set forth in the table for stock options reflect the difference between the average of the high and low market price of our common stock (\$59.415) on December 31, 2008 and the exercise prices for each option for which vesting accelerated. The amounts set forth in the table for restricted stock reflect the number of shares of restricted stock for which vesting accelerated multiplied by the average of the high and low market price of our common stock (\$59.415) on December 31, 2008. In addition, each named executive who participates in our executive automobile program will receive the automobile provided to him under such program paid in full. Messrs. Connor, Oberfeld and Seitz do not participate in the executive automobile program.

We have also entered into change in control severance agreements with each of our named executives. Forms of these agreements have been filed as Exhibit 10(b) to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 21, 2007. Generally, pursuant to these agreements, a change in control occurs:

(a) if any person becomes the beneficial owner of 20% or more of Sherwin-Williams' then-outstanding voting securities (other than acquisitions of voting securities (i) directly from Sherwin-Williams and approved by the Board of Directors, (ii) by Sherwin-Williams or any subsidiary, (iii) by the trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by Sherwin-Williams or any subsidiary, and (iv) in connection with a business transaction as proscribed in the agreement);

(b) if a majority of members of Sherwin-Williams' incumbent Board of Directors during any two year period are replaced other than in specific circumstances;

(c) upon the consummation of any reorganization, merger or consolidation of Sherwin-Williams, or the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of Sherwin-Williams, other than any transaction in which, immediately following the transaction, (i) the voting securities of Sherwin-Williams immediately prior to the transaction represent more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities of the entity resulting from the transaction, (ii) no person beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 20% or more of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding voting securities of the entity resulting from the transaction, and (iii) at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the entity resulting from the transaction were members of Sherwin-Williams' incumbent Board of Directors at the time of initiating the transaction; or

(d) upon the liquidation or dissolution of Sherwin-Williams (other than pursuant to a

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transaction that complies with clauses (c)(i), (c)(ii) and (c)(iii) above).

The severance agreements provide that upon a termination of employment following a change in control (other than termination for cause or by reason of death or disability) or if the named executive terminates his employment in certain circumstances defined in the agreement which constitutes good reason, in addition to the accelerated vesting of stock options and restricted stock described above, each will receive:

a lump sum severance payment in an amount equal to 3 times (with respect to Messrs. Connor, Morikis and Hennessy) or 2.5 times (with respect to Messrs. Oberfeld and Seitz) the sum of (a) the named executive's highest rate of base salary during the three-year period prior to termination and (b) an amount equal to the greater of (i) the average of the annual cash incentive pay received by the named executive for each of the three years prior to the date of termination or (ii) the named executive's target incentive pay for the year in which the termination occurs;

a lump sum amount equal to the prorata portion of any annual cash incentive compensation earned by the named executive through the date of termination, assuming achievement of the target level of the performance goals;

eighteen months of continued health care benefits;

outplacement services in an amount not to exceed 10% of the named executive's then-current base salary; and

an amount equal to the excise tax and taxes thereon charged, if any, to the named executive as a result of any change in control payments (provided, however, in the event the aggregate change in control payments do not exceed 115% of the amount which would cause the excise tax to be assessed, the severance payments shall be reduced to a level which would cause no excise tax to apply).

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| Event | C.M. Connor | J.G. Morikis | S.J. Oberfeld | S.P. Hennessy | T.W. Seitz |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Normal and Early Retirement | | | | | |
| Prorated annual cash incentive compensation | N/A | N/A | \$ -0- | N/A | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Involuntary Termination | | | | | |
| Prorated annual cash incentive compensation | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Total | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Death | | | | | |
| Prorated annual cash incentive compensation | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Accelerated stock options | 665,625 | 266,250 | 191,700 | 191,700 | 111,825 |
| Accelerated restricted stock | 11,831,012 | 4,245,202 | 2,436,015 | 3,045,019 | 2,260,741 |
| Life insurance proceeds | 4,887,947 | 2,822,263 | 1,795,496 | 2,156,508 | 1,578,173 |
| Total | \$ 17,384,584 | \$ 7,333,715 | \$ 4,423,211 | \$ 5,393,227 | \$ 3,950,739 |
| Disability | | | | | |
| Prorated annual cash incentive compensation | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Accelerated stock options | 665,625 | 266,250 | 191,700 | 191,700 | 111,825 |
| Accelerated restricted stock | 11,831,012 | 4,245,202 | 2,436,015 | 3,045,019 | 2,260,741 |
| Disability benefits | 733,192 | 423,339 | 307,799 | 323,476 | 284,344 |
| Total | \$ 13,229,829 | \$ 4,934,791 | \$ 2,935,514 | \$ 3,560,195 | \$ 2,656,910 |
| Voluntary Termination and Termination for Cause | | | | | |
| No payments | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Change in Control | | | | | |
| Accelerated stock options | \$ 665,625 | \$ 266,250 | \$ 191,700 | \$ 191,700 | \$ 111,825 |
| Accelerated restricted stock | 11,831,012 | 4,245,202 | 2,436,015 | 3,045,019 | 2,260,741 |
| Total | \$ 12,496,637 | \$ 4,511,452 | \$ 2,627,715 | \$ 3,236,719 | \$ 2,372,566 |

Change in Control with Termination

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Prorated annual cash incentive compensation | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- | \$ -0- |
| Accelerated stock options | 665,625 | 266,250 | 191,700 | 191,700 | 111,825 |
| Accelerated restricted stock | 11,831,012 | 4,245,202 | 2,436,015 | 3,045,019 | 2,260,741 |
| Cash severance payment | 7,127,541 | 3,694,610 | 2,022,334 | 2,855,381 | 1,799,532 |
| Continued health care benefits | 16,889 | 18,407 | 17,057 | 18,407 | 11,940 |
| Outplacement services | 122,199 | 70,557 | 51,300 | 53,913 | 45,091 |
| Automobile transfer | -0- | 39,593 | -0- | 22,401 | 12,697 |
| Excise tax | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| Total | \$ 19,763,266 | \$ 8,334,619 | \$ 4,718,406 | \$ 6,186,821 | \$ 4,241,826 |

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**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT
OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM
(PROPOSAL 2)**

The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009. Ernst & Young LLP acted as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. Additional information regarding the services provided to us by Ernst & Young LLP during 2008 is set forth under the caption entitled Matters Relating to the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if they wish and to respond to appropriate shareholder questions.

Although shareholder ratification is not required under the laws of the State of Ohio, we are submitting the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP to our shareholders for ratification at the Annual Meeting as a matter of good corporate practice in order to provide a means by which our shareholders may communicate their opinion to the Audit Committee. If our shareholders do not ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will reconsider the appointment.

*The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote **FOR** Proposal 2 relating to the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.*

**MATTERS RELATING TO THE INDEPENDENT
REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Fees Paid to Ernst & Young LLP. The following table sets forth the fees for services provided by Ernst & Young LLP during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2008.

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Audit Fees | \$ 1,851,100 | \$ 1,735,500 |
| Audit-Related Fees | 125,000 | 120,000 |
| Tax Fees | 15,900 | 5,000 |
| All Other Fees | -0- | -0- |
| Total | \$ 1,992,000 | \$ 1,860,500 |

The following is a description of the nature of the services comprising the fees disclosed in the table above for each of the four categories of services. The Audit Committee has considered whether providing non-audit services is compatible with maintaining Ernst & Young LLP's independence.

Audit Fees. These are fees for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP for the integrated audit of our annual consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting; the review of financial statements included in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q; audits of foreign subsidiary financial statements required by local statutes; and services that are typically rendered in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit-Related Fees. These are fees for assurance and related services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or the review of our financial statements that are not included as audit fees. These services include employee benefit plan audits, consultation on accounting matters in foreign jurisdictions, and consultation on financial accounting and reporting.

Tax Fees. These are fees for professional services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP with respect to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning. These services include the review of certain tax returns, tax audit assistance in foreign jurisdictions, and consulting on tax planning matters.

All Other Fees. These are fees for other services rendered by Ernst & Young LLP that do not meet the above category descriptions and are permissible under applicable laws and regulations.

Audit Committee Pre-approval Policy. The Audit Committee is responsible for pre-

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approving all audit services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and retention terms) to be performed for us by Ernst & Young LLP prior to their engagement for such services. The Audit Committee has adopted a pre-approval policy pursuant to which the Audit Committee establishes detailed pre-approved categories of non-audit services that may be performed by Ernst & Young LLP during the fiscal year, subject to dollar limitations set by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has also delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee the authority to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services when the entire Audit Committee is unable to pre-approve services. The Chairman must report to the Audit Committee at its next meeting all such services pre-approved since the last meeting.

None of the fees paid to Ernst & Young LLP under the categories Audit-Related, Tax and All Other were approved by the Audit Committee after the services were rendered pursuant to the de minimis exception established by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL RELATING TO
MAJORITY VOTING (PROPOSAL 3)**

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters Pension Fund, 101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, beneficial owner of 1,613 shares of Sherwin-Williams common stock, has submitted the following proposal. **The Board of Directors recommends a vote AGAINST this proposal.**

Director Election Majority Vote Standard Proposal

Resolved: That the shareholders of The Sherwin-Williams Company (Company) hereby request that the Board of Directors initiate the appropriate process to amend the Company s articles of incorporation to provide that director nominees shall be elected by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast at an annual meeting of shareholders, with a plurality vote standard retained for contested director elections, that is, when the number of director nominees exceeds the number of board seats.

Supporting Statement: In order to provide shareholders a meaningful role in director elections, our Company s director election vote standard should be changed to a majority vote standard. A majority vote standard would require that a nominee receive a majority of the votes cast in order to be elected. The standard is particularly well-suited for the vast majority of director elections in which only board nominated candidates are on the ballot. We believe that a majority vote standard in board elections would establish a challenging vote standard for board nominees and improve the performance of individual directors and entire boards. Our Company presently uses a plurality vote standard in all director elections. Under the plurality vote standard, a nominee for the board can be elected with as little as a single affirmative vote, even if a substantial majority of the votes cast are withheld from the nominee.

In response to strong shareholder support for a majority vote standard in director elections, a strong majority of the nation s leading companies, including Intel, General Electric, Motorola, Hewlett-Packard, Morgan Stanley, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Gannett, Marathon Oil, and Safeway have adopted a majority vote standard in company bylaws or articles of incorporation. Additionally, these companies have adopted director resignation policies in their bylaws or corporate governance policies to address post-election issues related to the status of director nominees that fail to win election. However, our Company has responded only partially to the call for change, simply adopting a post-election director resignation policy that sets procedures for addressing the status of director nominees that receive more withhold votes than for votes. The plurality vote standard remains in place.

We believe that a post-election director resignation policy without a majority vote standard in Company bylaws or articles is an inadequate reform. The critical first step in establishing a meaningful majority vote policy is the adoption of a majority vote standard. With a majority vote standard in place, the Board can then consider action on developing

post-election procedures to address the status of directors that fail to win election. A majority vote standard combined with a post-election director resignation policy would establish a meaningful right for shareholders to elect directors, and reserve for the Board an important post-election role in determining the continued status of an unelected

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director. We feel that this combination of the majority vote standard with a post-election policy represents a true majority vote standard.

Sherwin-Williams Response

The Board of Directors recommends a vote *AGAINST* Proposal 3.

This proposal requests that we adopt a voting standard for director elections that differs from the plurality voting standard, the current default standard under Ohio law. The plurality voting standard provides that the nominees who receive the most affirmative votes are elected to serve as directors.

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors recommends a vote against this proposal because:

- our shareholders rejected this proposal at last year's Annual Meeting;
- we have already implemented a policy that addresses the proponent's concerns;
- our current corporate governance practices already ensure that our directors are highly qualified;
- the shareholder proposal creates uncertainty; and
- the ramifications of majority voting are not completely understood.

Our Shareholders Rejected This Proposal At Our 2008 Annual Meeting.

This shareholder presented this proposal at last year's Annual Meeting, and our shareholders rejected the proposal. Notwithstanding the clear vote of our shareholders, this shareholder is presenting the proposal again this year.

We Have Already Implemented A Majority Voting Policy

Like a number of other large public companies facing this issue, in order to address concerns relating to director candidates who do not receive a majority of the votes cast, we have adopted a majority voting policy. Our policy was adopted on July 19, 2006 and is posted in the Corporate Governance section on the Investor Relations page of our website at www.sherwin.com.

Our policy provides that, in an uncontested election, any director nominee who receives a greater number of withheld votes than for votes is required promptly to submit his resignation to the Board of Directors. In addition:

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will promptly consider the tendered resignation and will recommend to the Board of Directors whether to accept the tendered resignation or take some other action.

The Board of Directors will act on the Nominating Committee's recommendation no later than the next scheduled Nominating Committee meeting (within 120 days from the shareholder vote).

The director who tendered his resignation will not participate in the Nominating Committee's recommendation or the Board of Directors' consideration of the tendered resignation.

We will promptly disclose publicly the Board of Directors' decision and process in a report filed with the SEC.

We believe our policy strikes an appropriate balance in ensuring that our shareholders continue to have a meaningful role in electing directors while preserving the ability of the Board of Directors to exercise its independent judgment and to consider all relevant factors in accepting the resignation of a director opposed by shareholders.

Our Current Process Elects Highly Qualified Directors

Adoption of a strict majority voting standard seems especially unwarranted in our case. We have a strong corporate governance process designed to identify and propose director nominees who will best serve the interests of Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders. The Board of Directors maintains a Nominating Committee that is composed entirely of independent directors, and all of the members of the Board of Directors, other than the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, are independent.

The Nominating Committee applies a rigorous set of criteria in identifying director nominees and has established procedures to consider and evaluate persons recommended by

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shareholders. Our strong corporate governance has been recognized by RiskMetrics Group. According to its February 1, 2009 rankings, RiskMetrics has ranked Sherwin-Williams ahead of 94.7% of the companies in the Retailing group, as measured by RiskMetrics Corporate Governance Quotient.

As a result of these practices, our shareholders have consistently elected, by a plurality, highly qualified directors from diverse business backgrounds, substantially all of whom have been independent within standards adopted by the New York Stock Exchange. Changing our current voting system to majority voting would have had no effect on director elections during the past ten years. The Board of Directors believes that the votes over this period reflect our shareholders confidence in the Board of Directors and in the governance protections the Board of Directors has implemented.

The Proposal Causes Uncertainty

In contrast to our majority voting policy, the majority voting standard requested by the proposal causes uncertainty. Under Ohio law, an incumbent director who is not re-elected holds over and continues to serve with the same voting rights and powers until his or her successor is elected and qualified. Therefore, even if the proposal were adopted, we could not force a director who failed to receive a majority vote to leave the Board of Directors until his or her successor is elected at a subsequent shareholder meeting.

In contrast, under our existing majority voting policy, a director who receives more withhold votes than for votes is required promptly to tender his or her resignation. The Board of Directors in turn will act on the tendered resignation after considering all relevant facts and circumstances in a process that will be completed and publicly disclosed promptly.

The Ramifications Are Not Completely Understood

Ohio law requires the plurality voting standard in director elections unless the corporation's articles of incorporation provide otherwise. Our Board of Directors cannot adopt majority voting in our Code of Regulations, an approach that other companies have recently taken. We can adopt majority voting only through shareholder approval of an amendment to our Articles of Incorporation.

The legal community, shareholder advocates, governance experts, public companies and other groups continue to evaluate the consequences of majority voting. Plurality voting has long been the accepted standard, and the rules governing plurality voting are well established and widely understood. A majority voting standard involves potential issues for which there is little precedent. Any change in voting standards should not be undertaken without a complete understanding of the full ramifications of its adoption.

We have been monitoring, and we will continue to monitor, developments on this topic. We do not believe that our interests, or our shareholders' interests, would be best served by adopting majority voting at this time.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote *AGAINST* Proposal 3 relating to majority voting.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth, as to each director and nominee, each named executive and all directors and executive officers as a group, information regarding the amount and nature of shares of our common stock beneficially owned at December 31, 2008. All of the directors, nominees and executive officers have sole voting and investment power over the shares of common stock listed or share voting and investment power with his or her spouse, except as otherwise provided below. No director, nominee or executive officer beneficially owns any shares of ESOP serial preferred stock.

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Common Stock Beneficially Owned ^(1,2,3,4,5) | Percent of Common Stock Beneficially Owned |
|---|--|--|
| A. F. Anton | 4,670 | * |
| J. C. Boland | 10,284 | * |
| C. M. Connor | 1,357,233 | 1.15% |
| D. E. Evans | 22,736 | * |
| S. P. Hennessy | 247,512 | * |
| D. F. Hodnik | 7,670 | * |
| S. J. Kropf | 14,420 | * |
| R. W. Mahoney | 23,170 | * |
| G. E. McCullough | 27,625 | * |
| A. M. Mixon, III | 43,352 | * |
| C. E. Moll ⁽⁶⁾ | 31,440 | * |
| J. G. Morikis | 228,566 | * |
| S. J. Oberfeld | 161,491 | * |
| T. W. Seitz | 145,256 | * |
| R. K. Smucker | 24,885 | * |
| All directors and executive officers as a group | 2,915,611 | 2.46% |

* Represents less than 1% of the total number of shares of common stock outstanding.

¹ The amounts listed include shares of common stock held under plans offered by Sherwin-Williams for which the directors and executive officers have the right to direct the vote, including the following approximate number of shares included in units held under our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan: Mr. Connor (44,370), Mr. Hennessy (16,304), Mr. Morikis (14,688), Mr. Oberfeld (24,358), Mr. Seitz (12,163), and all executive officers as a group (183,819). Shares of common stock held under our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan are not directly allocated to individual participants of the plan, but instead are held in a separate fund. Participants acquire units of this fund. The fund also holds short-term investments, the amount of which fluctuates on a daily basis. The number of shares of common stock shown as being held by the executive officers in the plan is the approximate number of shares in the fund allocable to each of the executive officers. The number of shares allocable to each of the executive officers fluctuates on a daily basis based upon the amount of short-term investments held in the fund and the market value of our common stock.

² The amounts listed include the following number of shares of common stock owned by immediate family members of the directors and executive officers, for which each such person disclaims beneficial ownership: Mr. Moll (340)

and all directors and executive officers as a group (340).

- ³ The amounts listed include shares of restricted stock owned.
- ⁴ The amounts listed include the following number of shares of common stock for which the directors and executive officers have the right to acquire beneficial ownership, within sixty days from December 31, 2008, through the exercise of stock options: Mr. Connor (882,734), Mr. Evans (11,000), Mr. Hennessy (143,795), Mrs. Kropf (7,000), Mr. Mahoney (11,000), Mr. McCullough (9,000), Mr. Mixon (15,000),

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Mr. Moll (1,167), Mr. Morikis (96,667), Mr. Oberfeld (77,847), Mr. Seitz (72,066), Mr. Smucker (3,500), and all directors and executive officers as a group (1,653,644).

- ⁵ The amounts listed do not include the following approximate number of shares of shadow stock owned by directors under our Director Deferred Fee Plan: Mr. Boland (19,970), Mrs. Kropf (8,055), Mr. Mixon (29,460), and all directors as a group (57,485). Under our Director Deferred Fee Plan, nonemployee directors may defer payment of all or a portion of their directors' fees into a shadow stock account. Shares of shadow stock are credited to a separate account in which directors acquire units. Units are payable only in cash. The number of shares of shadow stock allocable to the directors fluctuates on a daily basis based upon the market value of our common stock. Directors have no voting rights associated with shadow stock, and ownership of shadow stock does not result in any beneficial ownership of common stock.
- ⁶ Includes 2,000 shares owned by the MTD Holdings Inc pension fund, of which Mr. Moll is a trustee.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table sets forth, as to each beneficial owner known to us to own more than five percent of each class of voting securities, information regarding shares owned by each as of the most recent practicable date.

Common Stock

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| The Sherwin-Williams Company Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan 101 West Prospect Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115 | 17,991,799 ⁽¹⁾ | 15.37% |

ESOP Serial Preferred Stock

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| The Sherwin-Williams Company Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan 101 West Prospect Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115 | 216,753 ⁽²⁾ | 100% |

¹ The shares of common stock reflected in the table are owned at December 31, 2008. Shares of common stock owned pursuant to our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan are voted by the trustee in accordance with written instructions of plan participants. If no instructions are received by the trustee, the trustee votes such shares (along with any unallocated shares held in the plan) in the same proportion as it votes those shares for which it receives proper instructions.

² The shares of ESOP serial preferred stock reflected in the table are owned at December 31, 2008. Shares of ESOP serial preferred stock are held in an unallocated suspense account in our Employee Stock Purchase and Savings

Plan. Shares are voted by the trustee in the same proportion as unallocated shares of common stock are voted, as described in footnote 1 above.

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**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors and executive officers to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership of our equity securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange. To our knowledge, based solely on information furnished to us and written representations by such persons, all of our directors and executive officers complied with their filing requirements in 2008.

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS
AND TRANSACTIONS
WITH RELATED PERSONS**

We have operated under a Business Ethics Policy for many years. As part of our Business Ethics Policy, directors and employees are expected to make business decisions and take actions based upon the best interests of Sherwin-Williams and not based upon personal relationships or benefits.

The Board of Directors has recognized that some transactions, arrangements and relationships present a heightened risk of an actual or perceived conflict of interest and has adopted a written policy governing these transactions. This policy governs any transaction, arrangement or relationship (or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships) in which Sherwin-Williams was, is or will be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any of the following persons had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest:

Our directors, nominees for director or executive officers;

any person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of our voting securities;

any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons; and

any entity in which any of the foregoing persons is employed or is a partner or principal or in a similar position or in which such person has a 5% or greater beneficial ownership interest.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible to review and approve these transactions.

In response to an annual questionnaire, directors, director nominees and executive officers are required to submit to the Nominating Committee a description of any current or proposed transaction and provide updates during the year. In addition, we will provide any similar available information with respect to any known transactions with beneficial owners of 5% or more of our voting securities. At each calendar year's first regularly scheduled Nominating Committee meeting, management shall provide information regarding transactions to be entered into by Sherwin-Williams for that calendar year.

If management becomes aware of any transactions subsequent to that meeting, such transactions may be presented for approval at the next meeting, or where it is not practicable or desirable to wait until the next meeting, to the Chair of the Nominating Committee (who will possess delegated authority to act between meetings) subject to ratification by the Nominating Committee at its next meeting. In the event management becomes aware of any transaction that was not approved under the policy, management will present the transaction to the Nominating Committee for its action, which may include termination, amendment or ratification of the transaction.

The Nominating Committee (or the Chair) will approve only those transactions that are in, or are not inconsistent with, the best interests of Sherwin-Williams and our shareholders, as is determined in good faith in accordance with its business judgment. In addition, the transaction must be on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm's length dealings with an unrelated third party.

Sherwin-Williams will disclose all related person transactions in its securities filings. No reportable transactions existed during 2008, and there are currently no such proposed transactions.

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**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR
THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING**

Proposals to Be Included in the Proxy Statement. Under SEC rules, shareholder proposals must be received at our principal executive offices, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075, Attention: Corporate Secretary, on or before November 5, 2009 in order to be considered for inclusion in the proxy materials relating to the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Upon timely receipt of any such proposal, we will determine whether or not to include such proposal in the proxy materials in accordance with applicable regulations governing the solicitation of proxies.

Proposals Not to Be Included in the Proxy Statement. Under our Regulations, shareholders must follow certain procedures to nominate a person for election as a director or to introduce an item of business at an Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which is not intended to be included in our proxy materials. These procedures provide that nominations for director nominees and/or an item of business to be introduced at an Annual Meeting must be timely submitted in writing to us at our principal executive offices at 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

To be timely, a shareholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received at our principal executive offices not fewer than 60 nor more than 90 calendar days prior to the Annual Meeting. In the event that public announcement of the date of the Annual Meeting is not made at least 75 calendar days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting is held on a date more than ten calendar days before or after the first anniversary of the date on which the prior year's Annual Meeting was held, notice by the shareholder, to be timely, must be received not later than the close of business on the 10th calendar day following the day on which public announcement is first made of the date of the Annual Meeting.

These time limits also apply in determining whether notice is timely for purposes of SEC rules relating to the exercise of discretionary voting authority. If we do not receive timely notice, or if we meet other SEC requirements, the persons named as proxies in the proxy materials for that meeting will use their discretion in voting at the meeting.

Our Regulations set forth specific requirements for the notice. You can access a copy of our Regulations in the Corporate Governance section on the Investor Relations page of our website at www.sherwin.com. You may also receive a copy of our Regulations by writing to us at: The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075, Attention: Investor Relations.

HOUSEHOLDING INFORMATION

Some banks, brokers and other nominees are participating in the practice of householding proxy statements and annual reports. This means that beneficial holders of our common stock who share the same address or household may not receive separate copies of this proxy statement and our 2008 Annual Report. We will promptly deliver an additional copy of either document to you if you write or call us at: The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075, Attention: Investor Relations, (216) 566-2000.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

We will provide to each shareholder who is solicited to vote at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, upon the request of such person and without charge, a copy of our 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Please write or call us at: The Sherwin-Williams Company, 101 West Prospect Avenue, 12th Floor, Midland Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1075, Attention: Investor Relations, (216) 566-2000.

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APPENDIX A

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY

Board of Directors

Director Independence Standards

The Board of Directors of The Sherwin-Williams Company has adopted the following Director Independence Standards to assist the Board in determining the independence of a director. To be considered independent, the Board must affirmatively determine that the director has no material relationship with Sherwin-Williams (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with Sherwin-Williams). In each case, the Board shall broadly consider all relevant facts and circumstances, including the director's commercial, industrial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting, charitable and familial relationships. The Board shall also consider such other criteria as the Board may determine from time to time.

1. In no event will a director be considered independent if such director fails to qualify as an independent director under Rule 303A.02(b) of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual. In addition, a director will not be independent if: (i) the director is, or has been within the last three years, an employee of Sherwin-Williams; (ii) an immediate family member of the director is, or has been within the last three years, an executive officer of Sherwin-Williams; (iii) the director has received, or an immediate family member of the director has received, during any twelve-month period within the last three years, more than \$120,000 in direct compensation from Sherwin-Williams, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service); (iv) the director is a current partner or employee of Sherwin-Williams independent auditor, or an immediate family member of the director is a current partner of Sherwin-Williams independent auditor; (v) an immediate family member of the director is a current employee of Sherwin-Williams independent auditor and personally works on Sherwin-Williams audit, or the director or an immediate family member of the director was within the last three years a partner or employee of Sherwin-Williams independent auditor and personally worked on Sherwin-Williams audit within that time; or (vi) the director or an immediate family member of the director is, or has been within the last three years, employed as an executive officer of another company where any of Sherwin-Williams present executive officers at the same time serves or served on that company's compensation committee.
2. In addition to the relationships described in paragraph 1, audit committee members may not (i) directly or indirectly accept any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from Sherwin-Williams or any of its subsidiaries or (ii) be an affiliated person of Sherwin-Williams or any of its subsidiaries. Audit committee members may receive directors' fees, in the form of cash, stock, stock units, stock options or other consideration ordinarily available to directors, as well as regular benefits that other directors receive.
3. The following relationships will not be considered to be material relationships that would impair a director's independence: (i) if the director is a current employee, or an immediate family member of the director is a current executive officer, of another company that, has made payments to, or received payments from, Sherwin-Williams for property or services in an amount which, in any of the last three fiscal years, is less than \$1 million or two percent, whichever is greater, of such other company's annual consolidated gross revenues; (ii) if the director, or an immediate family member of the director, is an executive officer of another company which is indebted to Sherwin-Williams, or to which Sherwin-Williams is indebted, in an amount which is less than five percent of such other company's total consolidated assets; (iii) if the director, or an immediate family member of the director, serves as an officer, director or trustee of a foundation, university, charitable or other

not for profit organization,

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and Sherwin-Williams or Sherwin-Williams Foundation's discretionary charitable contributions (Sherwin-Williams Foundation matching of employee charitable contributions will not be included in the amount of the Foundation's contributions for this purpose) to the organization, in the aggregate, are less than \$500,000 or five percent, whichever is greater, of that organization's latest publicly available annual consolidated gross revenues; (iv) if the director serves as a director or executive officer of another company that also uses Sherwin-Williams independent auditor; (v) if the director is a member of, or associated with, the same professional association, or social, educational, civic, charitable, fraternal or religious organization or club as another Sherwin-Williams director or executive officer; or (vi) if the director serves on the board of directors of another company at which another Sherwin-Williams director or executive officer also serves on the board of directors (except as set forth in paragraph 1 above regarding compensation committee interlocks).

4. For relationships not covered by the categorical standards in paragraphs 1 and 3, the determination of whether the relationship is material or not, and therefore whether the director would be independent or not, shall be made by the directors who satisfy the standards set forth in paragraphs 1 and 3. Sherwin-Williams will explain in its next proxy statement the basis for any Board determination that a relationship is immaterial despite the fact that it does not meet the categorical standards set forth in paragraphs 1 and/or 3 above.
5. The Board shall undertake an annual review of the independence of all directors. In advance of the meeting at which this review occurs, each director shall be asked to provide the Board with full information regarding the director's (including immediate family members') business, charitable and other relationships with Sherwin-Williams to enable the Board to evaluate the director's independence.
6. Directors have an affirmative obligation to inform the Board of any material changes in their circumstances or relationships that may impact their designation by the Board as independent. This obligation includes all business, charitable and other relationships between directors (including immediate family members) and Sherwin-Williams and its affiliates.

For purposes of these Director Independence Standards, "immediate family member" includes a person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, mothers and fathers-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, and anyone (other than domestic employees) who shares such person's home.

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Mark Here for Address Change or Comments SEE REVERSE Signature Signature Date Please sign exactly as your name appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or in other representative capacity, please give your full title. FOLD AND DETACH HERE WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTERNET OR TELEPHONE VOTING, BOTH ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. Internet and telephone voting is available through 11:59 PM Eastern Time the day prior to Annual Meeting day. INTERNET <http://www.eproxy.com/shw> Use the Internet to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site. OR TELEPHONE 1-866-580-9477 Use any touch-tone telephone to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you call. If you vote your proxy by Internet or by telephone, you do NOT need to mail back your proxy card. To vote by mail, mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your Internet or telephone vote authorizes the named proxies Important notice regarding the availability of proxy to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to signed and returned your proxy card. be held on April 15, 2009. The Proxy Statement and the 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders are available at: <http://proxymaterials.sherwin.com> 43417

PROXY/VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS APRIL 15, 2009 The undersigned hereby appoints C.M. CONNOR, S.P. HENNESSY and L.E. STELLATO, and each of them, with power to act without the other and with power of substitution, as proxies and attorneys-in-fact and hereby authorizes them to represent and vote, as provided on the other side, all the shares of common stock and ESOP serial preferred stock of The Sherwin-Williams Company which the undersigned is entitled to vote, and, in their discretion, to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held April 15, 2009 or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, with all powers which the undersigned would possess if present at the Meeting. This card also provides voting instructions for shares of common stock, if any, held for the account of the undersigned by The Bank of New York Mellon, as agent of the Stock Ownership and Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan, and by Fidelity Management Trust Company, as trustee of the Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan. This card is solicited jointly by the Board of Directors, The Bank of New York Mellon (with respect to shares held under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan) and Fidelity (with respect to shares held under the Stock Purchase and Savings Plan). If you do not timely sign and return this card, the proxy holders cannot vote your shares (or, in the case of the Employee Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, if you do not sign and return this card by the close of business on April 10, 2009, your shares will be voted in the same proportion as Fidelity votes those shares for which it receives proper instructions). BNY MELLON SHAREOWNER SERVICES Address Change/Comments P.O. BOX 3550 (Mark the corresponding box on the reverse side) SOUTH HACKENSACK, NJ 07606-9250 (Continued and to be marked, dated and signed, on the other side) FOLD AND DETACH HERE ADMISSION TICKET 2009 ANNUAL MEETING 2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY Wednesday, April 15, 2009 9:00 A.M. Landmark Conference Center 927 Midland Building 101 West Prospect Avenue Cleveland, Ohio At the Annual Meeting, shareholders will act upon the proposals outlined in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, including the election of directors, the ratification of the appointment of Sherwin-Williams independent registered public accounting firm, the consideration of a shareholder proposal relating to majority voting if presented at the Annual Meeting, and the consideration of such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting. This Admission Ticket only admits the shareholder identified on the reverse side and is non-transferable. We may also ask you to present valid photo identification to enter the Annual Meeting. Choose MLinkSM for fast, easy and secure 24/7 online access to your future proxy materials, investment plan statements, tax documents and more. Simply log on to Investor ServiceDirect® at www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd where step-by-step instructions will prompt you through enrollment. 43417

