THOR INDUSTRIES INC Form DEF 14A October 27, 2016 Table of Contents

#### **UNITED STATES**

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### **SCHEDULE 14A**

(Rule 14a-101)

#### **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

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Thor Industries, Inc.

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

Letter from the Board of

**Directors** 

#### **Dear Fellow Shareholders of Thor Industries:**

As the custodians of your Company, we appreciate the opportunity to report our Fiscal Year 2016 results in this year s Proxy Statement. In our role as the Board of Directors, our mission is to focus on the consistency of your Company s performance over the long-term and to ensure the creation of shareholder value by guiding and overseeing Management in the execution of its strategic vision. In so doing, we focus our efforts on risk management, talent development, succession planning, and Thor s commitment to its culture of ethics and compliance.

In 2016, Thor continued its streak of delivering record results in both sales and profitability. In doing so, Thor maintained its unbroken streak of profitability since its inception in 1980. Continuing Operations surpassed its previous records in both sales and earnings by 14.4% and 27.7%, respectively. Management continued to deliver upon its strategic plan and not only set records for Fiscal Year 2016, but also made major investments in the future to support its mission of long-term value creation.

Over the course of our Fiscal Year 2016, Thor successfully integrated the operations of its first vendor acquisition, Postle Aluminum Company. Management s attention to this process and the outstanding performance of Postle s management team drove its success.

Late in our fiscal year, Thor acquired Jayco, a major competitor and long-time industry leader. According to Statistical Surveys, this acquisition established Thor as the industry market share leader in both the towable and motorized segments. Our decentralized model ensures that Jayco will continue to compete against its sister companies and offers the necessary entrepreneurial challenges to each of our subsidiaries to continue to drive industry-leading innovation. We believe that Thor can support Jayco in such a way as to maximize its long-term growth and drive increased value to our Shareholders.

As part of the Jayco transaction, Thor took on debt for the first time in its modern history. As a long-time holder of the view that minimal or no debt is preferred in our cyclical industry, Thor also announced an aggressive payoff plan by which it anticipates retiring the entire indebtedness within three (3) years of the date of the closing of the Jayco deal.

In the wake of the Jayco deal, questions over whether Thor was done growing through acquisition abounded. The answer is no. Thor s Management team has a unique talent at identifying opportunities, and then managing those opportunities into becoming significant contributors to the long-term growth of your Company. Rest assured, neither this Board nor our Management team sees any hard stop to our acquisition strategy, which has long been a centerpiece to our strategic growth plan. We will remain disciplined in our strategy of growing both organically and through acquisitions that fit within our strategic vision of the Company. In addition to the Jayco acquisition, Thor acquired multiple facilities to better position it to meet the already high yet increasing demand for its subsidiaries products. As a result of these capital allocation decisions, we are well positioned to continue our outstanding performance provided that our general economy can remain steady.

The successful performance of your Company drove outstanding shareholder return in Fiscal Year 2016 as we saw the markets begin to appreciate the value of your Company more accurately than they did last year. We are proud of our decision to continue our history of annual dividend increases as we recently announced a 10% increase in our

quarterly dividend for our first quarter Fiscal Year 2017. We believe that our performance and our positioning for the future provide great reason for optimism amongst our fellow shareholders.

In this year s Proxy Statement, in addition to the recurring voting matters, we solicit your favorable support for our new Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity and Incentive Plan that will authorize the issuance of 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock to be used, over time, as a compensation to our key managers. Our last Plan dates back to 2010, and per applicable rules, it is time to approve a new plan. As it is a vital tool for our ability to attract and retain key talent in our people-driven industry, we strongly encourage each of you to vote in favor of the Plan.

We thank you our Shareholders for the trust and confidence that each of you place in Thor, and we hope to see you at the Meeting.

The Board of Directors of Thor Industries, Inc.

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Letter from the Executive
Chairman of the Board
October 27, 2016
Dear Fellow Shareholders:
I am pleased to invite you to attend our Annual Meeting of Shareholders that will be held on December 9, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, at the Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065. We hope that you will attend our Meeting. In the event that you cannot attend, we strongly urge you to vote your shares by following the instructions on the included Notice card.
Thor Industries values the input of its Shareholders tremendously. Your vote, every vote, is important to us. Please take the time to review our Proxy Statement and submit your votes. I thank you for your support of our Company.
Sincerely,
Peter B. Orthwein
Executive Chairman of the Board
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#### **Notice of Annual Meeting**

Notice Of Annual Meeting Of Shareholders of Thor Industries, Inc.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Thor Industries, Inc. Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be Held on December 9, 2016

The Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at www.proxyvote.com

#### **DATE**

December 9, 2016

**TIME** 

1:00 p.m.

#### **PLACE**

Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065

#### **AGENDA**

Item 1 Election of directors named in the Proxy Statement;

Item 2 Ratification of appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our Fiscal Year 2017;

Item 3 Advisory vote to approve named executive officer compensation;

Item 4 Approval of the Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity and Incentive Plan; and

Item 5	Transaction	of other	business	that may	properly	v come	before the	Meeting.

The Board of Directors

recommends a vote FOR

items 1,2,3, and 4.

#### **Record Date**

You are entitled to vote at the Meeting if you were a holder of record of Thor Industries, Inc. stock, \$0.10 par value (Common Stock), at the close of business on October 14, 2016. At the close of business on that date, 52,586,041 shares of our Common Stock were outstanding and entitled to vote.

#### **Proxy Voting**

Your vote is very important. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please submit your vote as soon as possible so that your shares may be represented at our Meeting. You may submit your vote by internet or telephone. You may also vote by mail by requesting a paper copy of the materials which will include a proxy card or voting instruction form.

#### Admission

If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you will be required to present photo identification and verification of the amount of shares held as of October 14, 2016, to gain access to the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Todd Woelfer

Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

October 27, 2016

Notice to Shareholders: Our 2016 Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K are available free of charge on our website at www.thorindustries.com.

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**Proxy Summary** 

This summary highlights certain information contained in our Fiscal Year 2016 Proxy Statement. While it does not contain all of the information in this Proxy Statement, it provides an overview of the information discussed herein. You should carefully review the entire Proxy Statement before voting.

Voting Matters	Board Recommendation
PROPOSAL 1: Election of Directors	

**Peter B. Orthwein**: Mr. Orthwein is a co-founder of our Company and currently serves as Executive Chairman of the Board. He has served as a director since its founding in 1980. Prior to serving as Executive Chairman, Mr. Orthwein served as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Orthwein has also served as our Vice Chairman and Treasurer previously. Mr. Orthwein s extensive experience with our Company and the industry as a whole make him an asset to our Board.

**FOR** 

**Robert W. Martin**: Mr. Martin currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of our Company. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer from August 2012 to July 2013. Mr. Martin served as President of our RV Group as well as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Keystone RV as well as various other positions at Keystone RV. Mr. Martin s extensive experience with our Company and the RV industry as a whole make him an asset to our Board.

**FOR** 

**FOR** 

**James Ziemer**: Mr. Ziemer has been a director since 2010. He was the President, Chief Executive Officer, and a director of Harley-Davidson, Inc. from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Ziemer held various positions at Harley- Davidson from 1969 to 2009 including positions in manufacturing, engineering, accounting, parts and accessories, and finance. He is a director of Textron, Inc. Mr. Ziemer s substantial management experience and his financial expertise and training make

him an asset to our Board.

PROPOSAL 2: Ratification Of Appointment Of Independent Registered Accounting Firm For Fiscal Year 2017	FOR
PROPOSAL 3: Non-Binding Advisory Vote To Approve The Compensation Of Our Named Executive Officers ( NEOs )	FOR
PROPOSAL 4: Approval Of The Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity And Incentive Plan	FOR

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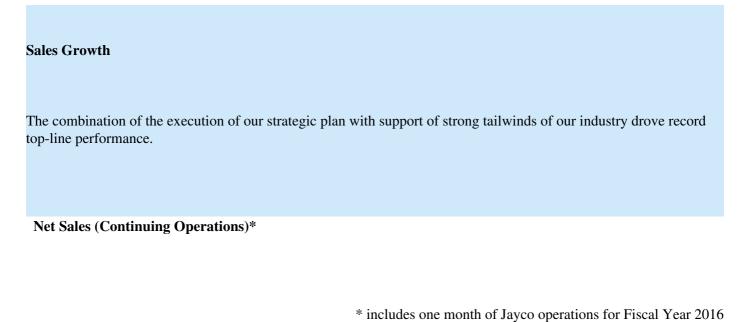
**Growing Gross Margins** 

Proxy Summary
Business Highlights
In Fiscal Year 2016, Management s continued execution of our strategic plan produced a year of record performance for Thor. We set record levels for sales from continuing operations as we surpassed \$4.58 billion in sales. Our top line drove records in both net income and earnings per share.
During the year, we acquired Jayco, a manufacturer of both towable and motorized RVs. This acquisition will drive significant top and bottom line growth.
Our one-year Total Shareholder Return was just over 39%, putting us near the top of peer group.
Strong Market Presence
Maintaining our share in an aggressively growing market.
*According to Statistical Surveys, Inc., for the six months ended June 30, 2016, combined U.S. and Canada, excluding Jayco



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\* includes one month of Jayco operations for Fiscal Year 2016



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#### **Proxy Summary**

Compensation Highlights

#### Alignment Between Pay and Performance.

Since its inception, Thor has utilized a compensation plan heavily reliant upon variable incentives determined by the Company s net profit before tax (NBT), resulting in a strong linkage between pay and performance. The impact of this compensation plan upon our performance over the years is undeniable and, for this reason, the Company remains confident that it offers the best pay plan to drive performance and aligns CEO pay with our earnings better than alternative plans.

In Fiscal Year 2016, a predominant percentage of our CEO and other Named Executive Officers pay was variable incentive pay as demonstrated by the following charts:

Fiscal Year 2016 Compensation Breakdown

#### **Key Compensation Actions Taken in Fiscal Year 2016**

No increase in base salary or incentive metrics for our CEO, Mr. Martin

Decrease in base and incentive compensation for our Executive Chairman, Mr. Orthwein, a decision made in light of his strong equity position in the Company and made despite his continued outstanding performance

Increase in base salary for our Vice President of Administration and Human Resources, Mr. Julian, to recognize an expansion in his responsibilities, to award him for outstanding performance, and to better align his pay to benchmarks

Increase in base salary for our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Zuhl, to better align her pay to benchmarks and recognize her outstanding performance

Use of compensation advisory firm, Willis Towers Watson, for benchmarking

Instituted a double trigger on all Change in Control obligations arising from grants issued in or after Fiscal Year 2016

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**Governance Highlights** 

Good corporate governance is essential to the continued long-term success of our business. The following list identifies certain governance practices at Thor in Fiscal Year 2016:

Increased Shareholder and Advisory Firm Engagement

6 of our 8 Directors are Independent

Independent Lead Director

Annual Board Self Assessment

Independent Directors Meet Without Management Present
No Fault Return of Incentive Compensation when Financial Restatement is Required

Disclosure of Company Governance Guidelines

Anti-Hedging, Short Sale, and Pledging Policies

No Directors Serve on Excessive Number of Outside Boards

Appropriate Mix of Lesser and Longer Tenured Board Members

Bifurcated Chairman and CEO Roles

Board Committees Comprised Entirely of Independent Members of the Board Executives Do Not Sit on Outside For- Profit Boards

All Current Directors Attended 97% of Board and Committee Meetings In Fiscal Year 2016

Board Committees Possess Right to Hire Advisors

No Poison Pill or Similar Feature

Share Ownership and Retention Guidelines for Directors (increased in Fiscal Year 2015) and Officers

Added Double Trigger Control to 2010 Plan

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#### **Proxy Statement**

This Proxy Statement is provided in connection with the solicitation of proxies, by order of the Board of Directors (the Board or Board of Directors) of Thor Industries, Inc. (the Company or Thor), to be used at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company. The proxy card or voting instruction form represents your holdings of Common Stock of the Company. We expect that, on or after October 27, 2016, this Proxy Statement will be available through the Internet.

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#### **Voting Instructions and**

#### **Information**

#### **General Information About Our Annual Meeting**

A copy of this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2016 (Fiscal Year 2016), will be sent to any Shareholder by requesting a copy through any of the following methods:

Internet: www.proxyvote.com Telephone: 1-800-579-1639

E-mail: sendmaterial@proxyvote.com

The Annual Report is not to be considered a part of this proxy soliciting material.

#### **Voting Instructions and Information**

#### WHO CAN VOTE

You are entitled to vote if our records show that you held shares in our Company as of the record date, October 14, 2016. At the close of business on that date, 52,586,041 shares of our Common Stock were outstanding and entitled to vote. Each share of our Common Stock is entitled to one vote. A list of Shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available for examination by Shareholders at the Meeting.

#### **HOW TO VOTE**

In accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each Shareholder of record, we may furnish our proxy materials, including this Proxy Statement and our Annual Report to Shareholders, by providing access to these documents on the Internet. Generally, Shareholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless they request them.

If your Common Stock is held through a broker, bank, or other nominee (held in street name), you will receive instructions from the entity holding your stock that you must follow in order to have your shares voted. If you want to vote in person, you must obtain a legal proxy from the entity holding your shares and bring it to the Meeting.

If you hold shares in your own name as a holder of record with our transfer agent, Computershare, you may instruct the proxies how to vote by following the instructions listed on the Notice of Internet Availability ( Notice Card ) or the proxy card (if printed materials were requested). Of course, you can always come to the Meeting and vote your shares in person.

Shareholders may vote their shares by proxy in any of the following ways:

- 1.By Internet: You may vote by internet 24 hours a day through 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on December 8, 2016, by following the instructions listed on the Notice Card.
- 2. By Telephone: You may vote by telephone 24 hours a day through 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on December 8, 2016, by following the instructions listed on the Notice Card.
- 3. By Mail: You can only vote by mail if you request and receive a paper copy of the proxy materials and proxy card. You may request proxy materials by following the instructions listed on the Notice Card. You may then vote by completing, signing, dating, and returning a proxy card.
- 4. Attend the Meeting in person.

A proxy submitted by mail that is properly executed and timely returned to our Company that is not revoked prior to

the Meeting will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If no instructions are given with respect to the proposal to be voted upon at the Meeting, proxies will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of our Board of Directors on such proposals. You may revoke your proxy at any time until exercised by giving written notice to the Secretary of our Company, by voting in person at the Meeting, or by timely submitting a later-dated proxy by mail, internet, or telephone. At our Meeting, a representative of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. will tabulate the votes and act as the inspector of election.

#### HOW VOTES ARE COUNTED

A quorum is required to transact business at our Meeting. Shareholders of record holding shares of stock constituting a majority of the shares entitled to cast votes shall constitute a quorum. If you have returned valid proxy instructions or attend the Meeting in person, your shares will be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum, even if you abstain from voting on some or all matters voted upon at the Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be treated as present for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

#### **VOTING**

Your vote may be for or withhold on the proposal relating to the election of directors. Your vote may be for , against or abstain on each of the other proposals. The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast is required to approve each proposal, except for the election of our directors, which requires a plurality of the votes duly cast. Broker non-votes and abstentions do not impact the outcome of the vote as they are not counted as votes

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#### **Voting Instructions and Information**

cast. It is important to be aware that if you hold shares in street name with a broker, bank, or other nominee, and you do not submit voting instructions, then your broker, bank, or nominee will not be permitted to vote your shares in its discretion on any of the matters set for vote at our Meeting other than Proposal 2 relating to the ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm, which is considered a routine matter.

#### COST OF PROXY SOLICITATION

The cost of solicitation is being borne by our Company.

#### SHAREHOLDERS SHARING AN ADDRESS

We will deliver only one Annual Report and one Proxy Statement, if requested, to multiple Shareholders sharing an address unless we receive contrary instructions from one or more of such Shareholders. We will undertake to deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, separate copies of the Annual Report and/or Proxy Statement to a Shareholder at a shared address to which single copies of the Annual Report and Proxy Statement are delivered. A Shareholder can notify us either in writing or by phone that the Shareholder wishes to receive separate copies of the Annual Report and/or Proxy Statement, or Shareholders sharing an address can request delivery of single copies of the Annual Report and/or Proxy Statement if they are receiving multiple copies by contacting us at Thor Industries, Inc., 601 East Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46514, Attention: Corporate Secretary, (574) 970-7460.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote <u>FO</u>R each of the director nomine<u>es</u>, <u>FO</u>R the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm, <u>FO</u>R the advisory vote approving the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, and <u>FO</u>R the approval of our 2016 Equity and Incentive Plan.

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#### **Proposal 1**

#### **Election of Directors**

Our Board of Directors nominated three (3) directors for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting: Our Executive Chairman and co-founder, Peter B. Orthwein, our CEO, Robert W. Martin, and the Chair of our Audit Committee, James L. Ziemer. All of the nominees currently serve as members of the Board of Directors. These individuals have agreed to be named in our Proxy Statement as nominees and to serve as members of the Board of Directors if elected by the Shareholders. In making this nomination, our Board recognizes that it is of critical importance to the Company that the nominees be individuals who bring critical skills and unique voices to our boardroom. In making this nomination for re-election, the Board carefully considered their contributions to the Board and their unique skills and qualifications.

Up for election this year are the Class B directors, Peter B. Orthwein, Robert W. Martin, and James L. Ziemer. Andrew E. Graves and Alan Siegel represent our Class C directors and have been elected to serve until the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Jan H. Suwinski, J. Allen Kosowsky, and Wilson Jones currently serve as our Class A directors; their terms will expire at the 2017 meeting.

The representatives designated to vote by proxy intend to vote FOR the election of the nominees listed below. In the event that any nominee becomes unavailable for election (a situation our Board does not now anticipate),

the shares represented by proxies will be voted, unless authority is withheld, for such other person as may be designated by our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Each nominee, as set forth below, is now a Director of our Company and has continuously served in such capacity since his first election or appointment to our Board.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCESS FOR NOMINEES**

Our Board believes that it is necessary for each of our directors to possess many diverse qualities and skills. When searching for new candidates, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers the evolving needs of our Board, which are defined by our need for guidance in our business, and searches for candidates who fill any current or anticipated future gap. Our Board also believes that all directors must possess a considerable amount of business management experience. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also evaluates candidates on, as applicable, the satisfaction of any independence requirements imposed by law, regulation, the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE), and/or our Corporate Governance Guidelines. When evaluating Director candidates, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee first considers a candidate s business management experience and then considers that candidate s issues of judgment, background, stature, conflicts of interest, integrity, ethics, and commitment to the goal of maximizing shareholder value. In addition, our Board and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believe that it is essential that our Board members represent diverse

viewpoints. In considering candidates for our Board, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers the entirety of each candidate s credentials in the context of these standards as they fit with the current composition of the Board. We consider our Board of Directors to be a valuable strategic asset of our Company. To maintain the integrity of this asset, our Board of Directors has been carefully crafted to ensure that its expertise covers the many areas of importance to our Company. Diversity of experience and perspective has been and will continue to be an

attribute considered when nominating individuals to serve on our Board. With respect to the nomination of continuing directors for re-election, the individual s contributions to our Board are also considered.

The Board of Directors recommends that the Shareholders vote FOR all of the Nominees.

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#### **Election of Directors**

#### **Current Nominees For Board Of Directors**

**Executive** 

Chairman of the

**Board** 

#### Peter B. Orthwein

Age: 70

Director Since: 1980

Mr. Orthwein, a co-founder of our Company, currently serves as Executive Chairman of the Board, having been appointed to this position in August of 2013 and having previously served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from November of 2009 to July of 2013. Mr. Orthwein has served as a director of our Company since its founding in 1980, Chairman of our Company from 1980 to 1986, Vice Chairman of our Company from 1986 to November of 2009, and Treasurer of our Company from 1980 to November of 2009. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his extensive experience with our Company and the industry make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

Management

**Business Operations** 

Finance/Capital Allocation

Financial Expertise/Literacy

Mergers & Acquisitions

Strategy

**President and** 

**Chief Executive** 

**Officer** 

#### Robert W. Martin

Age: 47

Director Since: 2013

Mr. Martin has been with our Company since 2001 when we acquired Keystone RV where he worked since July of 1998. Mr. Martin currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer. From August of 2012 to July of 2013, Mr. Martin served as the Company s President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Martin previously served as President of our RV Group from January of 2012 to August of 2012. Prior to becoming President of our RV Group, Mr. Martin was President of Keystone RV from January of 2010 to January of 2012 and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Keystone RV from January of 2007 to January of 2010. Mr. Martin has held various positions with Keystone RV, including Vice President of Sales and General Manager of Sales. Prior to joining Keystone RV, Mr. Martin held positions at Coachmen Industries, Inc., a former recreational vehicle and manufactured housing company. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his extensive experience with our Company and the industry make him an asset to our Board.

#### Skills and Qualifications:

Management

**Business Operations** 

Marketing/Sales

Risk Management

Talent Management

Mergers & Acquisitions

Strategy

**Business Ethics** 

Thor Committees:
Audit (Chair)

Outside Directorships: Textron, Inc.

(2007 Present) Harley-Davidson, Inc.

(2004 2009)

James L. Ziemer

Age: 66

Director Since: 2010

Mr. Ziemer, who became a director in December of 2010, was the President, Chief Executive Officer, and a director of Harley-Davidson, Inc. from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Ziemer joined Harley-Davidson in 1969 and held a series of positions in manufacturing, engineering, accounting, parts and accessories, and finance. From 1991 until his election as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Harley-Davidson in 2005, he served as the Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Ziemer also served as President of The Harley-Davidson Foundation, Inc. from 1993 to 2006. Mr. Ziemer is currently a director of Textron, Inc. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that Mr. Ziemer s substantial management experience as a chief executive officer of a public company and his financial expertise and training, which qualify him as an audit committee financial expert , make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:
Management
<b>Business Operations</b>
Corporate Governance
Finance/Capital Allocation
Financial Expertise/Literacy
International
Finance
Marketing/Sales
Risk Management
Strategy

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#### **Election of Directors**

#### **Current Directors Not Up For Re-Election**

# Thor Committees: Compensation and Development

**Nominating and Corporate Governance** 

#### **Andrew E. Graves**

Age: 57

Director Since: 2010

Mr. Graves, who became a director in December of 2010, is the Chief Executive Officer of Motorsport Aftermarket Group, a leading manufacturer, distributor, and on-line retailer of aftermarket products for the powersports industry. He joined this privately-held group in January of 2015. Previously, Mr. Graves served as the President of Brunswick Boat Group, a division of the Brunswick Corporation, an NYSE company. He was with Brunswick from 2005-2014. Prior to his time with Brunswick, Mr. Graves was President of Dresser Flow Solutions, a maker of flow control products, measurement systems, and power systems, from 2003 to 2005, and before that he was President and Chief Operating Officer of Federal Signal Corporation. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his extensive management experience in a related consumer durable business whose products are distributed through a dealer network makes him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

Management

**Business Operations** 

Finance/Capital Allocation

Financial Expertise/Literacy

Financial Services Industry

International

Marketing/Sales

Talent Management

Mergers & Acquisitions

Strategy

Thor Committees:
Audit
Compensation and Development

Outside Directorships:
Assoc. of Equipment Manufacturers

(2010 Present)

**Wilson Jones** 

Age: 55

Director Since: 2014

Mr. Jones, who became a director in August of 2014, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Oshkosh Corporation. Mr. Jones joined Oshkosh Corporation in 2005 and held senior leadership positions in the Fire & Emergency Segment until July of 2007 when he became President of Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. From September of 2008 to September of 2010, Mr. Jones held the position of Executive Vice President and President of the Fire & Emergency segment. From September of 2010 to August of 2012, Mr. Jones led the Access Equipment Segment as Executive Vice President and President, the largest business segment of the company, until his appointment to President and Chief Operating Officer. He was named President and Chief Executive Officer in January of 2016. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believe his experience in specialty vehicles and management experience make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

**Business Ethics** 

Management

**Business Operations** 

Corporate Governance

Financial/Capital Allocation

Government/Public Policy

International

Marketing/Sales

Risk Management

Talent Management

Technology/Systems

Mergers & Acquisitions

Strategy

**Thor Committees:** 

**Audit** 

**Nominating and Corporate Governance (Chair)** 

**Outside Directorships:** 

Naugatuck Valley Corporation (2014 2015) On2 Technologies, Inc. (2003 2010)

#### J. Allen Kosowsky

Age: 68

Director Since: 2010

Mr. Kosowsky, who became a director in March of 2010, is a certified public accountant who since 1985 has conducted business through his own advisory firm. The firm provides services that include business and intellectual property valuations, forensic accounting and financial analysis, and alternative dispute resolutions. From January of 2003 to February of 2010, Mr. Kosowsky served as the Chairman of the board of directors and Chairman of the audit committee for ON2 Technologies Inc., a U.S. based video compression software company, which was acquired by Google, Inc. On September 17, 2016, Mr. Kosowsky became a National Association of Corporate Directors fellow. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his extensive accounting experience and his financial expertise and training, which qualify him as an audit committee financial expert , make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

**Business Ethics** 

Management

**Business Operations** 

Corporate Governance

Financial/Capital Allocation

Financial Expertise/Literacy

Financial Services Industry

International

Finance
Real Estate
Risk Management
Technology/Systems
Mergers & Acquisitions
Strategy
Taxation
Litigation

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#### **Election of Directors**

#### **Current Directors Not Up For Re-Election**

#### **Thor Committees:**

**Nominating and Corporate Governance** 

#### **Outside Directorships:**

The Thompson Family Foundation, Inc.

(2009 Present)

Woodstock School of Art (2002 Present)

Maverick Concerts, Inc. trustee (2002 Present)

#### Alan Siegel

Age: 81

Director Since: 1983

Mr. Siegel, who became a director in September of 1983, is a retired partner of the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and currently serves as an officer and director of The Thompson Family Foundation, Inc., a charitable foundation created by Wade F. B. Thompson, the deceased co-founder of the Company. Mr. Siegel previously served as non-executive Chairman of the board of directors of The Wet Seal, Inc., a national retailer. He has also served on the board of directors of several other public and private companies, including Ermenegildo Zegna, AXA RE, and Southern Starr Broadcasting Group, Inc. Mr. Siegel is currently a Trustee of the Museum of the City of New York. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his experience with our Company and his legal and business background make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

**Business Ethics** 

Management

Corporate Governance

Government/Public Policy

**Insurance Industry** 

Real Estate

Risk Management

Mergers & Acquisitions

Legal

Strategy

LEAD DIRECTOR
Thor Committees:
Audit
Compensation and Development (Chair)

Outside Directorships:
ACI Worldwide, Inc (2007 Present)
Tellabs, Inc. (1997 2013)

Jan H. Suwinski

Age: 75

Director Since: 1999

Mr. Suwinski, who became a director in July of 1999, joined the faculty of the Samuel-Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University in July of 1996 and served as its Clinical Professor of Management and Operations, where he co-taught the Strategic Operations Immersion course, as well as courses in Business Strategy and Strategic Alliances. Mr. Suwinski retired from the faculty in June of 2016. Starting in 1965, Mr. Suwinski served in a variety of managerial roles at Corning, Incorporated, a global manufacturing company. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Suwinski was Executive Vice President, Opto Electronics Group at Corning, Incorporated and, from 1992 to 1996, Mr. Suwinski was Chairman of Siecor, a Siemens/ Corning joint venture. Mr. Suwinski is currently a director of ACI Worldwide, Inc. and formerly a director of Tellabs, Inc. Mr. Suwinski served on the board of directors of Ohio Casualty Group, Inc. from 2002 to 2007. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Board believe that his management experience and his significant public company board experience make him an asset to our Board.

Skills and Qualifications:

Academia/Education

**Business Ethics** 

Management

**Business Operations** 

Corporate Governance

Finance/Capital Allocation

Risk Management

Talent Management

Strategy

International

Strategic Alliances

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**Our Board of Directors and** 

**Board Committees** 

Our Board has three committees with the principal functions described below. The charters of each of these committees are posted on our website at www.thorindustries.com and are available in print to any Shareholder who requests them.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The principal functions of our Audit Committee are to:

Recommend engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm

Maintain communications among our Board, our independent registered public accounting firm, and our internal accounting staff with respect to accounting and auditing procedures, implementation of recommendations by such independent registered public accounting firm, the adequacy of our internal controls, and related matters

Oversee the selection and removal of the internal audit director

# **Committee Members**

James L. Ziemer\*, Chair J. Allen Kosowsky\* Jan H. Suwinski Wilson Jones

\*Our Board has determined that Mr. Kosowsky and Mr. Ziemer are audit committee financial experts as defined in Section 407 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Met in person, by telephone, or took action by unanimous written consent during Fiscal Year 2016:

## 7 times

Each member of each committee is independent in accordance with the rules of the NYSE and our Director Independence Standards, which are available on our website, **www.thorindustries.com** 

#### COMPENSATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The principal functions of our Compensation and Development Committee are to:

Establish and review executive compensation policies and guiding principles

Review and approve the compensation of our Executive Chairman and our Chief Executive Officer and evaluate their performance in light of such compensation

Review and approve the compensation of our other executive officers

Evaluate and approve the design of compensation and benefit programs for our executive officers

Assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs

Review management and leadership development, succession planning, and retention for our Company **Committee Members** 

Jan H. Suwinski, Chair Andrew Graves Wilson Jones

Met in person, by telephone, or took action by unanimous written consent during Fiscal Year 2016:

# 10 times

## NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The principal functions of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are to:

Address all matters of corporate governance

Evaluate qualifications and candidates for positions on our Board using the criteria set forth under the heading Proposal 1 Election of Directors

Review succession plans, including policies and principles for the selection and performance review of the Chief Executive Officer

Establish criteria for selecting new directors, nominees for Board membership, and the positions of Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Review all components of compensation for independent directors

Determine whether a director should be invited to stand for re-election

# **Committee Members**

J. Allen Kosowsky, Chair Andrew Graves Alan Siegel

Met in person, by telephone, or took action by unanimous written consent during Fiscal Year 2016:

# 4 times

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## **Our Board of Directors**

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

Good corporate governance is the foundation upon which our Company operates. Thor s Board-adopted Governance Guidelines serve as the framework for consistently effective governance of the Company. The Guidelines are regularly reviewed and updated and are available for you to review on our website, www.thorindustries.com.

# **BOARD SELECTION PROCESS**

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee screens candidates and recommends nominees to the full Board. Our By-laws provide that our Board may set the number of directors at no less than one (1) and no more than fifteen (15). Our Board currently consists of eight (8) directors who are divided into three (3) classes. The Board is well aware that a classified Board is not a favored practice by shareholder advisory firms. Careful consideration of the current classified structure is made on an annual basis. Through this process, the Board has determined that the business of Thor is such that a classified board allows for continuity of understanding of our unique industry that is essential to the ultimate mission of driving long-term shareholder value. While it maintains the classified structure, the Board's recognition of the importance of the injection of fresh points of view is demonstrated by the fact that there is a broad range of ages of our board members, providing for planned and stable succession opportunities that have brought fresh points of view to our Board and will continue to do so in the years to come.

# Our Nominating and Corporate

Governance Committee has relied upon board search firms in identifying suitable

candidates. During this process, the Board engages in evaluation of a widely-diverse set of candidates. An important consideration in our prospective Board member evaluation includes his or her obligation to their primary company and/ or to other boards that would detract from their obligation to fully serve on our Board. Further, the Committee may consider Shareholder nominations of candidates for our Board provided that any such nominee possesses the requisite business, management, and educational experience.

## **BOARD LEADERSHIP**

Currently, our Board leadership consists of an Executive Chairman, our founder Peter Orthwein, a Lead Independent Director, Jan Suwinski, and strong committee chairs: Jim Ziemer (Audit), Jan Suwinski (Compensation and Development), and Allen Kosowsky (Nominating and Corporate Governance).

# **DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

Two of our eight directors are employed by our Company (Messrs. Orthwein and Martin). With the exception of these two individuals, our Board is comprised entirely of independent directors as that term is defined by both NYSE listing standards and our own Governance Guidelines. The Board conducts an annual review to determine the continued independence of all of our independent directors (Messrs. Suwinski, Ziemer, Graves, Kosowsky, Siegel, and Jones).

## INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Thor s independent directors, as an entire body or part thereof, meet in executive session at the conclusion of each Audit Committee meeting and Compensation and Development Committee meeting as well as upon the conclusion of each Board meeting.

## **DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE**

During our Fiscal Year 2016, the Board of Directors held eight (8) meetings. In the aggregate, current Directors attended 97% of the combined total meetings of the full Board and the Committees on which they served during our Fiscal Year 2016 year. No current Director attended less than 92% of the combined total meetings of the full Board and the Committees on which the Director served during this past year.

## ANNUAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE EVALUATION

Each year, our Board conducts evaluations of each Committee and the Board as a whole. This process includes evaluation of the individual members of Committees and the Board. The evaluation process includes a process of dynamic feedback designed to identify areas of increased focus.

#### **BOARD RISK OVERSIGHT**

At both the full Board and Committee level, a primary function of our Board of Directors is to oversee the Company s risk profile and the processes established by Management for managing risk. Our Board and its Committees regularly evaluate these risks and the mitigation strategies employed by Management. In general terms, our Committees oversee the following risks:

**Audit Committee**: All risks related to financial controls, including all applicable legal, regulatory, and compliance risks, as well as the overall risk management governance structure, including evaluating and responding to the assessments of both our Internal Audit Department and our External Auditors.

Compensation and Development Committee: All risks associated with the design and elements of our compensation program and related compliance issues.

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## **Our Board of Directors**

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee:** All risks that are managed by the Company s governance programs and the applicable compliance issues.

In performing its oversight responsibilities, the Board relies, in part, upon the results and information gained through the Company s Enterprise Risk Management Program, and considers the program for amendment, as appropriate. The program is robust and designed to ensure appropriate risk monitoring and controls on risks associated with our business. Risks evaluated through the program include, but are not limited to, strategic risk, acquisitions integration risk, legal risk, compliance risk, human resources risk, mergers & acquisitions risk, IT & cyber risk, operations risk, and finance risk.

The Board receives regular reports from Management regarding the status of its risk management programs, and provides input and direction designed to keep the risk management programs effective against dynamic and ever-evolving risks applicable generally to commercial enterprises and specifically to our Company.

The Board and Management have developed a culture of risk awareness and risk management that includes annual company-wide ethics training. Through this constant process, the Company gains input from a great number of its employees as it evaluates the risks and updates its management plan accordingly.

# SUCCESSION PLANNING

Our Board is actively engaged and involved in talent management. Our succession plan and talent management programs are reviewed semi-annually with the Compensation and

Development Committee and then reviewed and considered by the full Board. These discussions include an on-going evaluation of our talent and leadership bench and the succession plan that envisions those individuals advancement to key positions in our Company.

In addition, high potential employees are regularly evaluated and engaged in comprehensive training, both on the job and in the classroom. During our Fiscal Year 2016, we instituted a program of executive studies through the University of Notre Dame where high potential employees and top level management participated in a series of comprehensive programs designed to provide further education that is relevant to their job functions.

# SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

We encourage shareholder communication with the Company. Any communications from interested parties directed toward independent directors specifically may be sent to Alan Siegel, one of our independent Directors, who forwards to each of the other independent directors any such communications that, in the opinion of Mr. Siegel, deal with the functions of our Board or the Committees thereof or that he otherwise determines require their attention. Mr. Siegel s address for this purpose is c/o Thor Industries, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 601 East Beardsley Avenue,

Elkhart, IN 46514.

#### **CODE OF ETHICS**

We have adopted a written code of ethics, the Thor Industries, Inc. Business Ethics Policy , which is applicable to all of our directors, officers, and employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, and other executive officers identified in this Proxy Statement who perform similar functions

(collectively, the Selected Officers ). Our code of ethics is posted on our website found at www.thorindustries.com and is available in print to any Shareholder who requests it. Each year members of the management teams at each of our subsidiaries as well as our NEOs engage in training on our Business Ethics Policy. We intend to disclose any changes in, or waivers from, our code of ethics applicable to any Selected Officer on our website or by filing a Form 8-K with the SEC.

# **OUR GOVERNANCE PRACTICES**

Thor is committed to governance principles that are designed to be in the best interest of our Shareholders. In doing so, our Board evaluates each governance opportunity as it uniquely applies to Thor. In some instances, this leads our Board to adopt and/or maintain policies that it deems in the best interest of Thor that may not be fully consistent with the views held by others. These decisions and determinations are not made lightly; instead, great consideration is given to the adoption of principles best suited to Thor s long-term success. Controlling governance principles include:

Our Board has a total of eight (8) members, six (6) of whom are independent, and all of whom have significant business operations and/or management experience.

Directors are elected by a majority of votes cast.

The Board conducts an annual self-evaluation as does each Committee of the Board.

Our Board and NEOs have stock ownership and retention guidelines. In our Fiscal Year 2015, the guidelines applicable to Directors were increased to an amount equal to three (3) times the annual retainer paid to the Directors.

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## **Our Board of Directors**

We closely monitor the alignment of our NEO compensation with our long-term shareholder return.

We maintain a policy prohibiting derivative trading, hedging, and pledging by our Section 16 officers and directors.

In our Fiscal Year 2013, we adopted a no-fault clawback policy that requires all recipients of incentive compensation to repay any compensation awarded for earnings that are subsequently restated.

The Board regularly reviews the Company s succession plan and talent management program.

There is no shareholder rights plan.

Thor maintains no poison pill.

We operate as a classified Board.

There is no enhancement of executive compensation upon a change in control.

In our Fiscal Year 2015, Thor s Board approved (for implementation in Fiscal Year 2016) a double trigger for all future awards and grants before any change in control would result in the accelerated vesting of such award and/or grant.

In our Fiscal Year 2015, Management and the Board adopted a shareholder engagement strategy that resulted in direct communications with many of our Shareholders and created the opportunity and expectation of a continuation of such outreach in the coming years.

# **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

Each of our non-employee directors receives an annual cash retainer of \$170,000, payable quarterly, plus expenses. Our Lead Director and the Chair of our Audit Committee each receive an additional annual cash retainer of \$20,000, payable quarterly. The Chair of the Compensation and Development Committee receives an additional annual cash retainer of \$20,000 and the Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee receives an additional annual retainer of \$10,000, all of which is payable quarterly. The following table summarizes the compensation paid to our non-employee directors in Fiscal Year 2016.

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Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Option Awards (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) <sup>2</sup>	Total (\$)
Andrew E. Graves	\$170,000		\$55,370	\$225,370
Wilson Jones	\$170,000		\$55,370	\$225,370
J. Allen Kosowsky	\$180,000		\$55,370	\$235,370
Alan Siegel	\$170,000		\$55,370	\$225,370
Jan H. Suwinski	\$210,000		\$55,370	\$265,370
James L. Ziemer	\$190,000		\$55,370	\$245,370

<sup>(1)</sup> Fees consist of an annual cash retainer for Board and Committee service and an additional annual cash retainer paid to the Lead Director and the Committee Chairs.

<sup>(2)</sup> Stock Awards consist of a restricted stock unit award of 1,000 units each on October 9, 2015, under our 2010 Plan, which award vests on the anniversary date of the date of grant.

**Executive Officers Who Are** 

**Not Directors** 

# **Executive Officers Who Are Not Directors**

The following is a list of the names, ages, titles, and certain biographical information of our current executive officers who are not directors as of October 27, 2016. Executive officers serve at the discretion of our Company.

### **Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

# Colleen Zuhl

Age: 50

Mrs. Zuhl, a Certified Public Accountant, joined our Company in June of 2011, currently serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to accepting her role as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in October of 2013, Mrs. Zuhl served the Company as Vice President and Controller from February of 2013 to October of 2013, Interim Chief Financial Officer from October of 2012 to February of 2013, and Director of Finance from June of 2011 to October of 2012. Prior to joining our Company, Mrs. Zuhl served as Chief Financial Officer of All American Group, Inc. (formerly known as Coachmen Industries, Inc.), then a recreational vehicle and manufactured housing company listed on the NYSE, from August of 2006 to June of 2011.

Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

# **Todd Woelfer**

Age: 49

Mr. Woelfer joined our Company in August of 2012, serving as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary. Prior to joining our Company, Mr. Woelfer served as managing partner of May Oberfell Lorber where his practice focused on advising corporate clients. From May of 2007 through May of 2010, Mr. Woelfer served as General Counsel to All American Group, Inc. (formerly known as Coachmen Industries, Inc.), then a

recreational vehicle and manufactured housing company listed on the NYSE.

**Vice President of Administration and Human Resources** 

# Kenneth D. Julian

Age: 49

Mr. Julian has been with our Company since March of 2004, currently serving as Vice President of Administration and Human Resources. Mr. Julian served as Vice President, Human Resources from July of 2009 until August of 2014. Mr. Julian previously served as Vice President of Administration of Keystone RV from March of 2004 to June of 2009. Prior to joining our Company, Mr. Julian served as the Director of Operations and Human Resources, as well as Corporate Secretary, for Ascot Enterprises, Inc. from February of 1989 to March of 2004.

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## **Proposal 2**

# **Ratification Of Our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Audit Committee of the Board has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP ( Deloitte ) as our independent registered public accounting firm to perform the audits of our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting for the Fiscal Year ending July 31, 2017. Deloitte was our independent registered public accounting firm for the Fiscal Year ended July 31, 2016. Unless a Shareholder directs otherwise, proxies will be voted FOR the approval of the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm for the Fiscal Year ending July 31, 2017.

Representatives of Deloitte will be present at the Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so, and will be available to respond to any Shareholder questions that may be asked.

We are asking our Shareholders to ratify the selection of Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm. Although ratification is not required, the Board is submitting the selection of Deloitte to our Shareholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interest of the Company and our Shareholders.

The Board of Directors recommends that the Shareholders vote FOR the ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

# Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees (Paid To Deloitte & Touche LLP)

The following table represents the aggregate fees billed to us for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2015 by Deloitte:

	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2015
Audit Fees	\$1,654,500	\$1,484,000

Audit-Related Fees \$385,573

Subtotal	\$2,040,073	\$1,484,000
Tax Fees	\$392,675	\$779,809

All Other Fees

Total Fees \$2,432,748 \$2,263,809

**Audit Fees.** Represents fees for professional services provided for the audit of our annual financial statements, the audit of our internal control over financial reporting, the review of our quarterly financial statements, and audit services provided in connection with other statutory or regulatory filings.

**Audit-Related Fees.** Represents fees for assurance and related services which are reasonably related to the audit of our financial statements. For Fiscal Year 2016, the Audit-Related Fees category primarily related to the Jayco acquisition for which Deloitte was a crucial advisor.

**Tax Fees.** Represents fees for professional services related to taxes, including the preparation of domestic and international returns, tax examinations assistance, and tax planning.

All Other Fees. Represents fees for products and services provided to us not otherwise included in the categories above.

Our Audit Committee has considered whether performance of services other than audit services is compatible with maintaining the independence of Deloitte.

Our Audit Committee has adopted a formal policy concerning the approval of audit and non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to us. The policy requires that all services Deloitte, our independent registered public accounting firm, may provide to us, including audit services and permitted audit-related and non-audit services, be pre-approved by our Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee pre-approved all audit and non-audit services provided by Deloitte during Fiscal Year 2016.

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# Report of the

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee serves as the representative of the Company s Board of Directors for general oversight of the Company s financial accounting and reporting, systems of internal control and audit process, monitoring compliance with laws, regulations, and standards of business conduct. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, a copy of which is available on our Company s website at www.thorindustries.com and is available in print to any Shareholder who requests it.

Management of the Company has the primary responsibility for the financial reporting process, including the system of internal control. In Fiscal Year 2016, the Company s internal audit department performed extensive diligence and intensive review of the Company s internal control processes. Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm acting as the Company s independent auditor, is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company s consolidated financial statements and an assessment of the Company s internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the United States Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and issuing reports thereon.

In carrying out its duties, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the Company s audited consolidated financial statements for the Fiscal Year ended July 31, 2016, with the Company s Management and Deloitte. The Audit Committee has also discussed with Deloitte the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 16, Communications with Audit Committees, as amended, as adopted by the PCAOB. In addition, the Audit Committee has received the disclosures from Deloitte required by the applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding Deloitte s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence and has discussed with Deloitte its independence from the Company. Based on the foregoing reports and discussions and subject to the limitations on the role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee referred to above and in the Charter of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors has approved, that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year ended July 31, 2016.

The Board of Directors has affirmatively determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is independent as defined under the rules of the NYSE.

# **The Audit Committee**

James L. Ziemer, Chair

J. Allen Kosowsky

Jan H. Suwinski

Wilson Jones

The foregoing report of our Audit Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any previous or future documents filed by our Company with the SEC under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we incorporate the report by reference in any such document.

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**Proposal 3** 

**Advisory Vote To Approve** 

The Compensation Of Our

**NEOs** 

In accordance with SEC rules and consistent with our Board's goal of transparency to our Shareholders, we provide our 2016 Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Our compensation program for our Named Executive Officers is designed to: (i) closely align compensation with our profitability and performance and thereby with the objectives of long-term holders of our stock; (ii) link compensation to specific, measurable, and long-term value-creating results; and (iii) enable us to attract and retain key executive talent. Our Shareholders are asked to approve our compensation program through what is commonly called the Say on Pay vote and, through their vote of approval, endorse the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company s named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including disclosures in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section, the compensation tables, and any related material disclosed in this Proxy Statement, is hereby APPROVED.

The Board of Directors recommends that the Shareholders vote FOR the resolution approving the compensation of our Named Executive Officers.

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# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

In our Compensation Discussion and Analysis, we describe the compensation plan for our Named Executive Officers (our NEOs ) for our Fiscal Year 2016. These NEOs include:

Peter B. Orthwein, our Executive Chairman

Robert W. Martin, our President and Chief Executive Officer

Colleen Zuhl, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Todd Woelfer, our Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

Ken Julian, our Vice President of Administration and Human Resources

In addition to telling you what the compensation plan is, we explain why the Compensation and Development Committee of our Board of Directors believes our plan to be in the best interest of each of you, our Shareholders.

# **Executive Summary**

#### **OUR BUSINESS**

Thor is the owner of operating subsidiaries that, combined, form one of the largest manufacturers of recreational vehicles in the world. In addition, Thor is the owner of one of the largest suppliers of aluminum extrusions to the recreational vehicle industry. For more information about our business, please see Business and Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on September 26, 2016.

**2016** Business Highlights In our Fiscal Year 2016, Management continued to implement our strategic plan, which drove record levels of sales and earnings. Net sales from continuing operations increased 14.4% to a record \$4.58 billion and net income from continuing operations increased 27.7% to a record \$258 million, or \$4.91 per diluted share. Our capital allocation strategy, which includes investments in organic growth as well as acquisitions, was a significant factor in our outstanding year. Near the end of our Fiscal Year, we completed the acquisition of Jayco, manifesting our intent to remain steadfast to the core of our strategy. Our one-year Total Shareholder Return (TSR) of

over 39% placed us second in our peer group. In a longer term view, using a 3-year measure as shown in the chart below, our annualized TSR of 27.9% places us in the top 5 of our compensation peer group. The horizontal line depicts the mean annualized TSR for the same group.

**TSR Annualized** 

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Compensation Discussion
and Analysis
Key Accomplishments from this Past Fiscal Year Include:
Sales
Record total sales of \$4.58 billion from continuing operations, up 14.4% from our prior record year in Fiscal Year 2015
Increased Towable RV and Motorized RV sales 7.8% and 25.7%, respectively
Net Income (Continuing Operations)
Net income of \$258 million from continuing operations, up 27.7% from Fiscal Year 2015 s prior record level
Diluted EPS (from Continuing Operations)
Diluted EPS from continuing operations of \$4.91, up 29.6% from Fiscal Year 2015
Acquisitions

The acquisition of Jayco and the acquisition or expansion of a number of facilities designed to provide the operating footprint necessary to sustain our long-term growth objectives

The successful integration of our first RV-related supplier, Postle Aluminum Company

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

We also maintained an effective capital management strategy, which is a strong priority to us in the cyclical business environment of the recreational vehicle industry that can be highly sensitive to macro-economic influences. It has long been our philosophy to minimize long-term debt and manage our cash position to allow for a protective cushion for operations and the ability to pursue strategic acquisitions, issue dividends, and/or buy back stock when prudent to do so. While we utilized debt to acquire Jayco, we have a short-term repayment strategy and anticipate the debt being fully retired within three (3) years. The incurrence of debt for the Jayco acquisition does not indicate a shift in our strategy to avoid long-term debt; instead, it was a conscious decision to take advantage of a significant acquisition opportunity that promises to deliver value to our Shareholders for years to come. Even with our current debt balance, we maintain our protective cash cushion, ensuring our ability to navigate through any unexpected economic tightening in our industry.

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Highlights of our compensation practices for Fiscal Year 2016 included:

No upward adjustment in the base compensation or incentive compensation formula for our CEO;

Continued input and advice from a compensation consultant;

Continued analysis of and reliance upon benchmarking data;

Continued implementation of a comprehensive no fault clawback policy;

Continuation of our Long Term Incentive Plan (the LTI );

Maintenance of our Stock Ownership and Retention Guidelines;

No awards of stock options;

No perquisites awarded to our NEOs other than an annual physical;

No written employment contracts, severance agreements, or golden parachutes with our current NEOs; and

Dedication to our transparent and true pay for performance philosophy driven by profit before tax. CEO COMPENSATION (MR. MARTIN)\*

	FY 2016	Metric*	FY 2015	% Metric*	Change
Base Salary	\$750,000		\$750,000		0.0%
Annual Incentive Award	\$6,665,681	1.75%	\$5,041,822	1.75%	32.2%
Long Term Incentive	\$1,904,480	0.50%	\$1,440,520	0.50%	32.2%
<b>Total Compensation</b>	\$9,320,161		\$7,232,342		28.9%

<sup>\*</sup> The formula for Mr. Martin s compensation remained unchanged for Fiscal Year 2016. The increase in the amount of his incentive compensation was solely related to the increase in the Company s profits.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

It is our goal to conduct our business in an environment defined by good governance practices. The following policies and practices are central to our governance practices at Thor:

Effective August 1, 2013, Thor separated the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles. Due to the fact that our Chairman is an Executive Chairman, Thor will continue to utilize an independent Lead Director as mandated by our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which are available on our website at www.thorindustries.com. Thor believes this structure is optimal at this time because it allows our CEO, Robert Martin, to focus on setting the strategy and vision of the Company and leading their execution while allowing our Executive Chairman, co-founder Peter Orthwein, to focus on leading the Board of Directors and providing Thor with direction on capital allocation (including acquisitions).

Thor maintains a classified Board. A repeated point of proxy advisory evaluation, this structure has intentionally been maintained to ensure continuity. The uniqueness of our industry, as outlined in more depth below, and the importance of the Board having members with a firm understanding of its nuances drive the decision to maintain the classified board structure. It is Thor s philosophy to maintain a small, active board, which further necessitates the need for continuity of the Board and supports the maintenance of our classified structure.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Board will seek amendment to our bylaws to require a majority vote for the election of our directors, foregoing the plurality standard that has been in place since our inception.

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

The Compensation and Development Committee is composed solely of independent directors.

Willis Towers Watson, the Compensation and Development Committee s independent consultant, is retained directly by the Committee.

The Compensation and Development Committee conducts an annual review of Thor s compensation practices, considers the alignment of the compensation program with Thor s strategic objectives, including attracting and retaining industry leading talent, measures the risks that may be presented by our compensation practices, measures our executive compensation against appropriate benchmarks, and ensures that the Company s pay practices are aligned with the interests of our Shareholders.

In Fiscal Year 2013, we adopted stock ownership and retention guidelines for both our executive officers and our Board. In Fiscal Year 2015, we increased our retention requirements for our directors to three (3) times their annual cash retainer.

Thor prohibits our executives and directors from engaging in hedging, pledging, or short transactions with respect to Thor shares.

Thor has no perquisites for our executive officers other than an annual physical.

Thor maintains a clawback policy that applies to both our equity and non-equity incentive compensation programs and requires recoupment of any incentive compensation paid within the last three (3) years that is subsequently determined

to have been paid upon erroneous financial statements that require a restatement regardless of the cause of the restatement (i.e. fraud is not required before recoupment is mandated).

Thor has no agreements with its executives requiring golden parachute cash payments upon a change in control.

Thor does not provide for golden parachute excise tax gross-ups or cash severance payments upon a change in control of the Company. In Fiscal Year 2016, Thor implemented a double trigger requirement for all change in control provisions.

Thor manages shareholder dilution, share usage, and overhang rates by limiting participation in our LTI, not using stock options as part of our compensation plan, and engaging in periodic stock buybacks.

# Our Compensation Philosophy: Tying Pay to Performance

Our compensation philosophy is as simple as it is transparent. We believe our management team should be rewarded when, in an environment of good corporate governance and compliance, it delivers strong profitability that drives long-term shareholder value. In economically-challenged times, if earnings are suppressed and, consequently, our Shareholders do not realize the return in our stock that they reasonably expect, we believe our management s compensation should be similarly affected. This philosophy was implemented as a cornerstone of the overall corporate strategy when Thor was founded in 1980. Our founders, Wade Thompson and Peter Orthwein, were the sole shareholders in 1980, and their objectives were well-founded when it came to compensating

their management team: pay was largely incentive-based and was tied to the most important metric in our industry, net profit before tax (NBT). Messrs. Thompson and Orthwein were visionaries when it came to Thor's basic pay for performance compensation philosophy. They also stressed the importance of simplicity, consistency, and transparency. Instead of a multi-tiered program that is subject to annual re-engineering, they devised a plan that was straightforward and transparent. Their rationale was clear: when properly incentivized, good managers will manage the various inputs that maximize profits and, in turn, create long-term shareholder value. On this premise, our founders developed the pay program that forms the core of Thor's current pay program, our Management Incentive Program or MIP.

## WE ARE DIFFERENT

Thor s pay program calls for a reasonable base salary plus an opportunity for awards under our MIP and LTI. Both the MIP and LTI awards are based on Thor s NBT. Our continued use of this single-factor system (discussed in greater detail below) reinforces the idea that simplicity and transparency are the hallmarks of our program. While our program is an outlier from the multi-factored, multi-tiered programs used by many publicly-traded companies that are seemingly under constant revision and reconsideration, it is time-tested to attract and retain essential talent in our people-driven industry, to deliver results to our Shareholders, and to align well with benchmarking with companies in our industry and of our size. As it s a pay philosophy that has driven, and continues to drive, results for our Shareholders, we are reticent to change it without a firm belief and convincing indications that the change would somehow be for the better of our Shareholders. Our Compensation and

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# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

Development Committee, our entire Board, and our management team take this very seriously. Adjusting our plan simply to match what other public companies do just to be able to say that our plans are similar will never be an option for us.

Not only do complicated pay structures that are ever-shifting in design and the factors they use fail to offer the transparency upon which we insist for our management team and for our Shareholders, but they also have been tried in our industry, and have failed as often as they have been tried. The resultant impact of those programs has been the demise of what were once great competitors, proving the crucial importance of a simple, fair compensation program to the long-term success of an RV company. In the RV industry, if a company loses its key asset, its people, due to its pay program being viewed as being more complicated and/or being beyond the control of the employees, the company falters. When you consider this reality in context of the geographic concentration that defines our industry, the potential loss to a company that offers a program that is not favored by its employees will be both devastating and immediate. The loss of a talented employee typically delivers twice the blow to Thor or any other RV company as that talented employee not only leaves, causing a decline in talent at the former employer, but, most often, that individual becomes employed by a competitor who is intent on taking market share. Undeniably, our compensation program is an essential element of our success. History has proven its ability to deliver results to our Shareholders, and the future success of the Company depends, in many ways, on its maintenance.

Thor s compensation philosophy has driven a string of 36 unbroken years of profitability in a cyclical industry that is particularly sensitive to the national economic climate due to the highly discretionary demand for our products. We believe we are the only Company in our industry that can claim this, and we believe our compensation program, which immediately adjusts downward when profits decline, is a major reason. In recent years, benefitting from strong growth in our industry as well as from our own performance, we have set record upon record in both the top and bottom lines. Both management and our Board believe that the MIP has been a consistent and instrumental force in delivering these positive results. The MIP incentivizes key employees to think and manage like owners seeking to maximize earnings within the confines of good corporate governance. The ultimate objective of the implementation of our philosophy is the same as it was when we started in 1980 and our Shareholder body was limited to our two founders: to inspire management to maximize long-term shareholder value.

While the MIP is a single-factor system, any notion that the multiple contributing factors to our Company s success, both long-term and short-term, are therefore underappreciated is belied by our Company s history, which includes a continued investment in our future through both capital expenditures and strategic acquisitions. In Fiscal Year 2016, for example, our capital expenditures exceeded \$51 million. We also invested nearly \$600 million in the Jayco acquisition, which is intended to offer significant long-term return for our Shareholders. Investments benefiting both short-term performance and the long-term horizon are the core of our strategic plan.

# **Acquisitions**

# **Capital Expenditures**

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

Our MIP program is transparent. We do not change the metrics used in our system to fit the economic times of our Company. We do not believe that a dynamic pay plan that adjusts metrics to increase or decrease compensation paid to our NEOs would offer a better solution for our Shareholders. We count on our MIP to incentivize our team. And it works. Unless and until we become convinced that an alternate design would increase our results to the Shareholders, we have stayed true, and will stay true, to the program that has contributed so significantly to our success. Our compensation plan links our management team s pay directly to the earnings of our Company, and, in so doing, aligns itself most closely with the long-term return to our Shareholders.

In Fiscal Year 2012, our incentive compensation was revised to include a long-term element awarded in Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) that vest over three (3) years. This program was established using the same factor as MIP, net income before taxes. Thor is well aware of a predominating view that multiple factors should be included when determining incentive-based compensation. While great consideration has been given to adjusting Thor s programs to add additional factors, no changes have been made. As it has done in prior years, our Compensation Committee engaged in a thorough evaluation of alternative LTI programs. This process led to the conclusion that our current program best aligns with the return to our Shareholders and that any factor that would be added as a component to the LTI program is already a focus of management because any such factor is essential to driving NBT. Ultimately, our Compensation Committee determined that, at this time, it is in the best interest of our Shareholders to make no changes to the LTI.

Overall, the design of our compensation program remains as it was in prior fiscal years, but the lack of change should not

be understood as a suggestion that either our Compensation Committee or our management team has not engaged in a thorough evaluation of alternative solutions. Instead, it should be understood that after a very critical evaluation of our system and various alternative solutions, it was concluded that, at this time, there simply was not a better solution to improve alignment with our Shareholders. A tried and true system that has proven its ability to drive results for our Shareholders is not one that should be disregarded lightly even when the popular trend is to gravitate to multi-factored programs. Unless and until a program design change promises to better align our compensation with our Shareholders, neither the Compensation Committee nor management feels compelled to make a change solely to fall in line with current popular practices that work very well for other publicly-traded companies who exist in more typical commercial environments. Our industry is unique. And our program works very well in our industry.

Why is the RV industry unique? The vast majority of the operations of our competitors in the RV industry are located within 50 miles of any one of our Indiana facilities. This creates an ease of job transferability for nearly all employees within the industry. A job change within our industry rarely demands relocating, changing schools, or leaving family and/or established friends, making the threat of losing key personnel omni-present. When this reality is considered with the fact that our industry is fundamentally a people-driven industry where the difference between success and failure is often defined by the people employed, the combination of those factors make our pay plan an essential element of our success. While only one of our competitors (Winnebago: WGO) is

publicly-traded and, therefore, discloses its compensation program, we nevertheless become well aware of the compensation practices of our privately-held competitors as a result of the ever-

present migration of employees within in our industry. In the RV industry, cash-based incentive plans predominate, and given that most of our competitors are indeed private, equity awards are rarely a significant factor in their compensation plans.

Finally, because Thor strue competitors, save one who is of a markedly smaller size and does not offer a meaningful comparison, do not publicly disclose their pay programs or financial performances, no peer group that would offer a reasonable basis for comparison exists. A comparison against Thor s compensation pay group on various factors such as ROA, ROE, Earnings, Margins, Cash Flow, or TSR would lead to a comparison of the incomparable, yielding results that offer questionable benefit to our Shareholders. The RV industry marches to the beat of its own drummer. It is often the first to feel recessionary effects and the first to recover when the economy bounces back. Comparing an RV company s performance by any measure to a company not in our industry is simply not a realistic measure of how our Management team has performed. For this reason, we have not altered our program.

While we appreciate that a history of successful Say on Pay votes does not suggest any favorable votes in the future, our history of high votes of approval (our lowest is approximately 96%) sends a message that our Shareholders agree with our philosophy and understand its importance to our future. Because we always welcome Shareholder input on our compensation program, in Fiscal Year 2014, we established a dedicated shareholder outreach program. Consistent with our prior Say On Pay voting results, we have received overwhelming support from our Shareholders on our unique plan.

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

# Shareholder Understanding and Feedback is Important to Us

During Fiscal Year 2014, we began to solicit input and feedback on our compensation program from our Shareholders. The response to date has been overwhelmingly supportive of our program. We will continue to take advantage of opportunities to do so in the future as Shareholder understanding and feedback is important to us. Our Director of Corporate Development and Investor Relations, Jeff Tryka, coordinates these discussions for us. Feel free to contact Jeff if you have questions or wish to provide feedback about our compensation program. He can be reached at (574) 970-7912 or investors@thorindustries.com.

In addition to the pay for performance principles first adopted by our founders in 1980, our Compensation and Development Committee is guided by the following principles:

- 1. **Use of Benchmarking.** We benchmark our executive compensation levels to our compensation peer group and to the market generally to ensure that our pay practices are in line with recognized practices of like-sized manufacturing companies.
- 2. Work with Compensation Consultant.
- 3. **Seek to Attract and Retain Top Level Talent.** The Committee ensures that our pay practices are competitive with industry competitors who are our local competition for talent.
- 4. **Align the Pay Plan with Shareholder Interests.** The Committee supports a pay plan that places a significant portion of our executives pay at risk, making it variable and dependent upon the pre-tax profits of our business.
- 5. **Incentivize Sustained Profitability.** The Committee promotes a pay plan that incentivizes our executives to deliver sustained profitability for our Shareholders within the guidelines of good corporate governance. The three year vesting schedule for LTI not only helps retain key talent, but also incentivizes Management to perform over the long term.

- 6. **Identify and Manage Risk.** Our Committee evaluates and seeks to minimize risk exposure that is inherent in any pay for performance plan. A strong no fault clawback policy, discussed below, helps mitigate the risk as does diligent review and audit of the process that results in compensation decisions.
- 7. Review and Evaluate Tally Sheets.
- 8. Avoid Change in Control or Post-Employment Obligations for our Top Executives.
- 9. Avoid Significant Perquisites for our Executives.
- 10. Maintaining a Simplistic, Transparent Pay Program. Options are not awarded. Our NEOs get no other compensation and/or perqs that are not paid to all of Thor s full-time employees other than an annual physical.
  Our NEO Compensation For Fiscal Year 2016

#### **BASE SALARY**

Base salaries are part of a comprehensive compensation package paid to our executives and are determined accordingly so that the overall compensation package payable to an executive in any given year is commensurate with relevant factors such as benchmarking, experience, talent, contribution, industry standards, expectations, and performance.

On an annual basis, all employees base salaries are reviewed for possible adjustments. Adjustments, though, are not automatic. Instead, they are determined in conjunction with available benchmarking data and/or merit-based factors, driven either by exceptional performance or promotion that often is rooted in experience with our Company. For our executives, the Compensation and Development Committee considers the market practices of our peer group as a guide for recognized ranges of compensation.

For Fiscal Year 2016, Ken Julian, received a base salary increase which was intended to align his base salary with available benchmarking data and to recognize him not only for his outstanding performance, but also for a significant increase in his responsibility extending far beyond the scope of responsibility typically managed by Vice Presidents of Administration and Human Resources.

For Fiscal Year 2016, Colleen Zuhl, received a base salary increase which was intended to align her base salary with available benchmarking and to recognize her for her outstanding performance.

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

## VARIABLE INCENTIVE COMPENSATION

For Fiscal Year 2016, our NEOs , including our CEO, compensation was approximately 83% incentive-based pay. Our philosophy promotes this type of heavy reliance on variable performance-based pay.

Cash Incentive Awards Cash incentive compensation consists of our MIP outlined above. In Fiscal Year 2015, we eliminated all planned discretionary awards for our NEOs. The financial metrics for the performance-based cash incentive compensation for our NEOs are determined prior to our Fiscal Year or within the abbreviated window allotted by Section 162(m) of the Code. Our Compensation and Development Committee considers non-financial, compliance, and other qualitative performance factors in determining actual compensation payouts for executive officers. The amount of cash incentive compensation for our NEOs is generally determined and paid on a quarterly basis. As discussed below, our Board of Directors also has the ability, on a no-fault basis, to seek recoupment or clawback of any incentive-based compensation paid within the last three (3) years that is ultimately determined to have been based upon financial statements that require a subsequent restatement.

For Fiscal Year 2016, the incentive formulas for our MIP and cash payouts for our NEOs were as follows:

Name	Performance Metric <sup>1</sup>	Award
Peter B. Orthwein	0.25% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$952,241
Robert W. Martin	1.75% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$6,665,681
Colleen Zuhl	0.2% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$761,792
Todd Woelfer	0.175% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$666,568

Kenneth D. Julian

0.12% of Company Pre-Tax Profit

\$457,075

The receipt of the cash incentive compensation is contingent upon the executive being employed with the Company or an operating subsidiary at the time of payment and certification by our Compensation and Development Committee that the amount proposed to be paid under the Plan is consistent with the pre-determined formulas and that there is no cause to consider payment of a lesser amount.

**Long-Term Equity Incentive Plan** In 2012, our Compensation and Development Committee approved a performance-based equity incentive plan, our LTI, for certain corporate executives and key managers at Thor s subsidiaries.

Like the MIP, the LTI uses net profit before taxes adjusted for certain items as the metric to determine the awards granted under the plan. The LTI creates incentive among not just certain corporate executives, but also our management teams at our operating subsidiaries. The inclusion of key management personnel at the operating subsidiary levels acts to further

incentivize pre-tax net profit improvement, all to the benefit of our Shareholders. As referenced above, we are mindful that our LTI uses the same metric as our MIP. Like all elements of our compensation program, we evaluate the LTI annually. In this process, we have considered adding additional metrics to this program. After a thorough review, and for the reasons outlined above, we elected to leave the LTI as a single metric.

The LTI awards restricted stock units instead of cash. Participants remaining as employees of our Company or one of its subsidiaries through the vesting period described below will become owners of Company stock, further aligning their interests with those of our Shareholders.

Importantly, the restricted stock units will vest in three (3) equal annual installments on the first, second, and third anniversary dates of the grant. This incentivizes management to think like owners and focus on long-term performance to the benefit of our Shareholders. If the participant ceases to be employed by the Company or one of its subsidiaries, he or she will immediately forfeit all restricted stock units awarded under the LTI that have not vested, in the absence of a discretionary adjustment by the Compensation and Development Committee. This vesting provision will further assist us in our efforts to retain our key talent.

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# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

In Fiscal Year 2016, the LTI awards for our NEOs were as follows:

Name	Performance Metric <sup>1</sup>	Award
Peter B. Orthwein (2)		
	N/A	
Robert W. Martin	0.5% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$1,904,480
Colleen Zuhl	0.2% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$761,792
Todd Woelfer	0.175% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$666,568
Kenneth D. Julian	0.175% of Company Pre-Tax Profit	\$666,568

<sup>(1)</sup> The calculation for determining the awards issued under the LTI plan is based upon pre-tax profits.

# ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION ELEMENTS

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Orthwein was not granted an equity award under our LTI due to his significant equity holdings as a founder of our Company

Benefits and Perquisites True to our simplistic and transparent compensation philosophy, our executives generally do not receive perquisites. Our NEOs participate in the same benefit plans available to all full-time employees of the Company. There are no benefits offered to our NEOs that are not available to our broader employee population with the singular exception of a requested annual physical to track the health of our NEOs.

**Retirement Plans** Our Company does not offer retirement plans to our NEOs. Furthermore, our NEOs are excluded from eligibility in our company-sponsored 401(k) plan, but may participate in our Deferred Compensation Program that is available to all full-time employees who are precluded from participating in our 401(k) program.

**Stock Ownership and Retention Guidelines** In Fiscal Year 2013, our Board adopted stock ownership guidelines for our NEOs and our Board. In Fiscal Year 2015, our Board s ownership guideline was increased to three (3) times the Board retainer amount. The guidelines require retention of the following levels of stock:

Title	Stock Level
Chief Executive Officer	5 times base salary
Other NEOs	3 times base salary

Board of Directors 3 times base annual retainer

Our NEOs and Board of Directors must satisfy the requirement within five (5) years of, in the case of our NEOs, the date of their first LTI award at their current position or, in the case of the Board of Directors, the date of their first annual award.

Clawback Policy As mentioned above, on a no fault basis, our Board of Directors is required to claw back any incentive-based compensation paid to any employee within three (3) years of the issuance of any restated financial statement if such restated financial statement impacts the amount of incentive compensation that should have been paid under any incentive based pay program.

**Anti-Hedging and Pledging Policy** Our Company prohibits our executive officers and members of its Board of Directors from engaging in any hedging transactions, transacting short sales, or pledging any Company stock.

Severance Plans and Change in Control Agreements Our Company does not typically enter into written employment agreements for severance or for compensation in the event of a change in control. Our key employees are important to the Company s long-term success and their value is determined by their efforts to improve our performance. From those efforts, these employees create their own protection in the event of a change in control or employment circumstance. Currently, none of our NEOs have such an agreement with the Company.

The Thor Industries, Inc., 2010 Equity and Incentive Plan (our 2010 Plan ) specifies that, upon the occurrence of a change in control, all options and/or restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards will automatically become vested and exercisable in full and all restrictions or conditions, if any, on any restricted stock or restricted stock unit awards will automatically lapse. In Fiscal Year 2015, the Board voted to amend this plan commencing with restricted stock units awarded based on Fiscal Year 2016 results to require a double trigger before

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#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

such shares would vest. The double trigger provides that vesting would occur only in the occurrence of both a Change in Control (as defined in the 2010 Plan) and a corresponding change in employment status. This double trigger requirement is a key element to the 2016 Plan that is submitted to the Shareholders as a voting matter at this year s Annual Meeting.

The aggregate value of change in control and termination benefits for each NEO is summarized below under the subheading, Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control and Agreements with Resigning Officers on page 45.

Tax Deductibility Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code ( Code ) denies a federal income tax deduction for certain compensation in excess of \$1 million per year paid to the chief executive officer and the three other most highly-paid executive officers (other than the chief executive officer and chief financial officer) of a publicly-traded corporation. Certain types of compensation, including compensation based on performance criteria that are approved in advance by Shareholders, are excluded from the deduction limit. Our Compensation and Development Committee s policy is to qualify compensation paid to our executive officers for deductibility for federal income tax purposes to the extent it believes it is practical and in our best interests and the best interests of our Shareholders. However, to retain highly skilled executives and remain competitive with other employers, our Compensation and Development Committee has the right to authorize compensation that would not be deductible under Section 162(m) of the Code or otherwise.

Section 409A of the Code Our compensation plans and programs are designed to comply with Section 409A of the Code, which places strict restrictions on plans that provide for the deferral of compensation.

## HOW WE MAKE COMPENSATION DECISIONS AND WHY WE MADE THEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

**The Compensation Committee** As referenced above, our Compensation and Development Committee is responsible for the oversight of our compensation plan. Each year, the Compensation and Development Committee engages in a thorough evaluation of the performance of our NEOs.

The Board of Directors conducts a review of Mr. Orthwein as Executive Chairman and Mr. Martin as CEO. These evaluations are significant factors to the Committee as it determines the base salary and incentive compensation elements of the compensation plans for the Executive Chairman and CEO. It should be noted, however, that Mr. Orthwein s compensation, particularly in the LTI component where he receives no award, is intentionally suppressed despite his outstanding performance. This is done because, as a founder of the Company, Mr. Orthwein enjoys a strong position in our Company s stock.

For the other NEOs, the Executive Chairman and CEO evaluated each NEO s individual performance and recommended a tailored compensation plan for that individual to the Compensation and Development Committee. Messrs. Orthwein and Martin work together to conduct such evaluations and develop appropriate recommendations. The Compensation and Development Committee then reviews and votes to approve or modify these recommendations.

For more information on the Compensation and Development Committee, view our Corporate Governance Section of this Proxy Statement. Additionally, the Compensation and Development Committee s charter can be found on our website at www.thorindustries.com.

Our Independent Compensation Consultant In Fiscal Year 2016, The Compensation and Development Committee directed an extensive bidding and interview process through which it reviewed information from and interviewed the top compensation consulting firms in the country. Through this process, the Committee determined that Willis Towers Watson was best-suited to serve the Committee. Willis Towers Watson reports directly to the Committee, and the Committee is empowered to retain or replace Willis Towers Watson or hire additional consultants at any time. A representative of Willis Towers Watson regularly attends the Committee meetings and provides data and advice to the Committee throughout the year. Additionally, a representative from Willis Towers Watson regularly meets in executive session with the Committee.

Willis Towers Watson s role is to provide market and peer group data and to advise the Committee on compensation-related decisions.

During Fiscal Year 2016, the Compensation Consultant provided the following services to the Committee:

Provided periodic reports of executive compensation trends;

Provided peer group analysis, including benchmarking data, supporting recommendations for the Company s executive compensation;

Reviewed drafts and commented on elements of the Company's Compensation Discussion and Analysis;

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

Advised the Committee of regulatory developments (e.g. pay ratio rule); and

Modeled and evaluated alternative pay programs.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the total fees and expenses attributable to the Compensation Consultant were \$122,209.

Our Compensation Peer Group Importantly, Willis Towers Watson assists the Committee in determining an appropriate compensation peer group. Our Company has a unique challenge in its peer review process as, with the single exception of Winnebago, none of the companies with whom we compete for talent are publicly-traded and, therefore, our competitors do not publicly disclose their compensation practices. Geographic proximity to our competitors makes the competition for key talent an ever-present challenge. Our compensation plans are developed with the knowledge of the plans of these key, non-public competitors in mind and are designed to attract and retain industry-leading talent through a program that is reasonable and heavily tied to our Company s performance. In Fiscal Year 2016, as it has previously, Thor benchmarked its executive pay against a peer group of publicly-traded companies and used this data in conjunction with our own industry-specific knowledge in evaluating its executive compensation practices. The Compensation and Development Committee periodically reviews and, as indicated, updates the peer group. Our general guidelines for our peer group are to include companies that are one-half to two times our revenue; however, our current makeup of peers is slightly more conservative. None of our competitors that fall in that range of revenue publicly disclose their compensation data so

none of our competitors are included in this group. However, our peer group represents manufacturing companies of similar size, profitability, and market capitalization. Additionally, we sought to identify manufacturing firms that introduce their products to market through dealerships or franchises. Beyond these factors, however, there is no true basis for comparison between Thor and these companies. While the compensation peer group is not comprised of our market competitors, it nevertheless provides a somewhat meaningful basis for market comparison of our executive compensation packages particularly now that we have three years of data to help monitor trends within the group. We believe the peer group below represents as good a comparator group as can currently be found for our Company.

Our peer group for Fiscal Year 2016 consisted of the following companies:

**Actuant Corporation** 

**Briggs & Stratton Corp.** 

FLIR Systems, Inc.

Leggett & Platt, Inc.

Armstrong World Industries, Inc.

Fortune Brands Home & Security, Inc.

Polaris Industries, Inc.

Brunswick Corporation

Harley-Davidson, Inc.

AO Smith Corp.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

Lennox International, Inc.

Regal Beloit Corporation

Toro Co.

American Axle Manufacturing, Inc.

In evaluating the competitiveness and reasonableness of our executive compensation practices, we analyze the peer group s compensation data as reported in their most recent proxy

statements. In this process, we measure actual pay data with comparable NEOs and the aggregate NEO compensation. We also evaluate the fixed and incentive-based variables of our compensation program as compared to the peer group. This information is then presented to the Committee for its consideration as it determines the appropriate compensation of our executive officers.

The Impact of Our CEO Transition Upon Proxy Advisory Firms Analytics In Fiscal Year 2013, we put a succession plan in motion that, effective as of August 1, 2013, triggered the separation of our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles. Peter Orthwein stepped down as CEO and assumed the role of Executive Chairman of the Board while Robert Martin, our former Chief Operating Officer, ascended to the CEO position. During the CEO tenures of our founders, Wade Thompson and Peter Orthwein, the Company paid its CEOs far below benchmarking norms because they were significant shareholders of the Company. With the change in leadership from our co-founder, Mr. Orthwein, to Mr. Martin, Thor sought to pay Mr. Martin in a manner consistent with both its compensation philosophy and our compensation peer group benchmarks, and in doing so normalized our CEO pay to our peer group benchmarks.

This process of normalizing our CEO pay results in a short-lived anomaly that yields misleading analytics that suggests a much greater disconnect between our TSR and our CEO pay. The CEO pay grew at a higher rate simply because the pay was normalized to the industry from the under-market pay of our co-founder, Peter Orthwein, when he was CEO. In addition to a thorough benchmarking process, Thor regularly performs analysis of its pay program to measure the alignment between the relative changes to TSR

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and CEO pay. To test Mr. Martin s pay package against the Company s recent TSR performance over the last five (5) years, Thor ran comparisons between the TSR trend and our CEO pay trend, assuming Mr. Martin s pay package was in place during all three years, eliminating the anomaly created by the transition from Mr. Orthwein s below-market pay. The resultant measure showed a number well within the low concern threshold level for Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS). Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC utilizes alternative analytics and Thor attempted to model these as well and received similar favorable results. Use of Mr. Martin s package as the CEO pay model shows that the pay yielded by his pay package is extremely well-aligned with our TSR performance. The favorable results are reassuring but not unexpected as our Compensation and Development Committee, with the assistance of its compensation consultant, follows these analytics closely to ensure proper alignment.

# MEASURING THE ALIGNMENT: EVALUATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERFORMANCE AND OUR COMPENSATION

As noted above, our founders developed a pay strategy that was specifically intended to align pay with Company performance, which, in turn and assuming a rational marketplace over time, aligns the pay with TSR. In application, this philosophy has worked exceedingly well. Last year was no exception. Our Company had a great 2016 and results from continuing operations include:

Company Record Total Sales of \$4.58 billion, up nearly 14.4% from Fiscal Year 2015 s prior record level; Record High Net Income from continuing operations of \$258 million, up nearly 27.7% from Fiscal Year 2015 s prior record level;

Towable RV sales up 7.8% over Fiscal Year 2015;

Motorized RV sales up 25.7% over Fiscal Year 2015; and

Diluted Earnings Per Share from continuing operations of \$4.91, up nearly 29.6% from Fiscal Year 2015 s prior record level.

The success of our philosophy is demonstrated by the relationship between Company performance and NEO compensation. The chart below compares the percentage growth of our CEO s (Mr. Martin) compensation to the percentage growth of our net income from continuing operations before taxes for Fiscal Year 2016. Mr. Martin s base salary and performance metrics for incentive compensation remain unchanged year over year. In Fiscal Year 2016, earnings before tax from continuing operations increased by 30.9%. Driven solely by an increase in NBT, the compensation of Mr. Martin increased by 28.9%.

# **Year Over Year Comparison**

Application of our compensation philosophy results in NEO compensation that is heavily determined by variable incentive-based pay. The graphs below depict the relative breakdown between base salary and variable incentive pay as reported in the Summary Compensation Table.

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**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

Fiscal Year 2016 Compensation Breakdown

As demonstrated in the charts above, implementation of our philosophy resulted in approximately 92% of our CEO compensation and over 71% of our other NEO compensation being variable performance-based compensation for Fiscal Year 2016. Keeping in mind that our founder, Peter Orthwein, receives no incentive-based LTI award given his large share holdings in Thor, the charts above still reveal a heavy dependency of the pay program on variable, performance-based compensation. While our Compensation and Development Committee maintains discretion to issue appropriate and necessary bonuses to our NEOs to ensure retention of key talent and also to ensure that formulaic bonuses are earned in the context of good governance, ethics, and business practices, the performance-based incentive compensation portion of the NEO compensation generally increases and decreases based upon the profitability of the Company.

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Report of the

**Compensation and** 

**Development Committee** 

We, the Compensation and Development Committee of the Board of Directors of Thor Industries, Inc., have reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this Proxy Statement with Management. After its review and discussion, we have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference into the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Fiscal Year ended July 31, 2016.

## The Compensation and Development Committee

Jan H. Suwinski, Chair

Andrew E. Graves

Wilson Jones

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**Interlocks, Insider Participation, and Risk Assessment** 

#### **Compensation Committee Interlocks And Insider Participation**

The Compensation and Development Committee is comprised entirely of the three (3) independent directors listed on the previous page. No member of the Compensation and Development Committee is a current or, during our Fiscal Year 2016 or anytime before, was a former officer or employee of the Company or any of its operating subsidiaries. During Fiscal Year 2016, no member of the Compensation and Development Committee had a relationship that must be described under SEC rules relating to disclosure of related person transactions. In Fiscal Year 2016, none of our executive officers served on the board of directors or compensation committee of any entity that had one or more of its executive officers serving on the Board or the Compensation and Development Committee of the Company.

#### **Compensation Risk Assessment**

As our Compensation and Development Committee evaluates our compensation programs, it considers many areas of risk potentially associated with the various programs as well as steps that can be taken to mitigate those risks. This process includes consideration of many factors, including:

Oversight of the business and our MIP and LTI provided to our NEOs and our Board.

Our entrepreneurial culture, which we believe encourages employees to think like owners. Our internal controls, which we believe have been strengthened over the past several years and are consistently reviewed for further opportunity of improvement.

Rigorous internal audits that are conducted throughout our Company on a regular basis.

Our enterprise risk management program, an annual assessment of the risks facing our Company led by senior management.

Stock Ownership Guidelines that encourage long-term value creation.

The performance criteria of our MIP and LTI programs which emphasizes overall business results over individual performance.

Linear award calculations under our MIP and LTI, with no steep payout curves or disproportionate increases in compensation payout thresholds that might create incentives to take greater risks for greater rewards.

The same metric pre-tax profits used each year; this metric has not been changed to take advantage of any benefits associated with short-term circumstances.

Our ability to consider non-financial, compliance, and other qualitative performance factors in determining actual compensation payouts for executive officers.

Our ability to use downward discretion and claw back payments.

Finance officers of each of our operating subsidiaries report to our Chief Financial Officer.

The relative performance of the pay program as assessed through the analytics utilized by shareholder advisory firms, which allows for dynamic monitoring of the pay program s alignment with our compensation group peers and our own performance.

Management and the Compensation and Development Committee will continue to regularly evaluate the risks associated with our compensation programs and will consider changes necessary to prevent incentives to take excessive risk. As a result of our most recent evaluation, we do not believe that our compensation programs created risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse affect on the Company. To the contrary, we believe that the programs promote sound business judgment and align employee performance with the realization of the Company s strategic plan and maximization of shareholder value.

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## **Executive Compensation**

## **Executive Compensation**

The following tables, narrative, and footnotes disclose the compensation paid to the Named Executive Officers of the Company. The Named Executive Officers include the: Executive Chairman; Chief Executive Officer; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary; and Vice President of Administration and Human Resources.

#### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following Summary Compensation Table summarizes the total compensation awarded to our Named Executive Officers in Fiscal Year 2016, Fiscal Year 2015, and Fiscal Year 2014.

fame and rincipal Position	Year	Salary \$1	Bonus \$2	Share Awards \$	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation \$	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings \$	All Other Compensation \$	Total \$
ter B. thwein	2016	500,000			952,421 <sup>3</sup>			1,452,24
ecutive airman	2015	750,000			1,440,520			2,190,52
	2014 2016	750,000 750,000		1,904,480 <sup>4</sup>	1,238,970 6,665,681 <sup>5</sup>			1,988,97 9,320,16

bert W. artin						
esident and ief	2015	750,000		1,440,520	5,041,822	7,232,34
ecutive Officer	2014	750,000		1,238,970	4,336,396	6,325,36
lleen Zuhl	2016	600,000	75,000 <sup>6</sup>	761,792 <sup>7</sup>	761,792 <sup>8</sup>	2,198,58
nior Vice esident	2015	500,000		432,156	432,158	1,364,31
d Chief nancial Officer	2014	454,423	150,000	247,794	185,846	1,038,06
dd Woelfer	2016	500,000	75,000 <sup>9</sup>	666,568 <sup>10</sup>	666,56811	1,908,13
nior Vice esident, General	2015	500,000		432,156	432,158	1,364,31
unsel, and Corp. cretary	2014	496,923	150,000	247,794	185,846	1,080,56
enneth D. lian	2016	500,000		666,568 <sup>12</sup>	457,076 <sup>13</sup>	1,623,64
P of Iministration	2015	400,000		432,156	259,294	1,091,45
1						

(1) All compensation figures in this table are rounded to the nearest dollar amount.

247,794

(2) The amounts in this column reflect the payment of discretionary bonuses.

100,000

d Human

sources

2014

345,692

(3) This amount consists of a non-equity incentive plan award paid to Mr. Orthwein for Fiscal Year 2016 equal to 0.25% of our pre-tax profits for each fiscal quarter during the Fiscal Year.

123,628

817,11

- (4) This amount consists of an equity incentive plan award paid to Mr. Martin for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.5% of our pre-tax profits.
- (5) This amount consists of an non-equity incentive plan award to Mr. Martin in Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 1.75% of our pre-tax profits for each fiscal quarter during the Fiscal Year.
- (6) This amount consists of a discretionary award to Mrs. Zuhl in recognition of her efforts related to the Jayco transaction.
- (7) This amount consists of an equity incentive plan award to Mrs. Zuhl for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.20% of our pre-tax profits.
- (8) This amount consists of a non-equity incentive plan award to Mrs. Zuhl for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.20% of our pre-tax profits for each fiscal quarter during the Fiscal Year.
- (9) This amount consists of a discretionary award to Mr. Woelfer in recognition of his efforts related to the Jayco transaction.
- (10) This amount consists of an equity incentive plan award to Mr. Woelfer for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.175% of our pre-tax profits.
- (11) This amount consists of a non-equity incentive plan award to Mr. Woelfer for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.175% of our pre-tax profits for each fiscal quarter during the Fiscal Year.
- (12) This amount consists of an equity incentive plan award to Mr. Julian for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.175% of our pre-tax profits.
- (13) This amount consists of a non-equity incentive plan award to Mr. Julian for Fiscal Year 2016 which was based on a formula equal to 0.12% of our pre-tax profits for each fiscal quarter during the Fiscal Year.

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## **Executive Compensation**

#### GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The following table summarizes the grants made to each of our NEOs for Fiscal Year 2016 under our 2010 Plan or other plans or arrangements.

	Estimated Future			
	Payouts Under	Estimated F	uture	All All
	Non Equity	Payouts U	nder	Other Exercise Other Option or Grant Date
	Incentive	Equity Ince	ntive	Share Awards: Base Fair Value Awards: Number Price
	Plan Awards	Plan Awa		Number of of of Share and
	Grafihresholdrget Max	Threshold Target	Max	Shares Shares Option Options or Underlyin&wards
Name	Date (\$) (\$) (\$)	(#) (#)	(#)	UnitsOptions (#)(\$/Sh) Awards <sup>1</sup>
Peter B. Orthwein <sup>2</sup>				
Robert W. Martin		(3) (3)	(3)	\$1,904,480
Colleen Zuhl		(4) (4)	(4)	\$761,792
Todd Woelfer		(5) (5)	(5)	\$666,568
Kenneth D. Julian		(6) (6)	(6)	\$666,568
(1) Represents the fair	value per share of awards	as of the grant d	ate pursu	ant to FASB ASC Topic 718.

- (2) Mr. Orthwein was not granted an equity award under our LTI due to his significant equity holdings as a founder of our Company.
- (3) As shown under the column Share Awards in the Summary Compensation Table and as described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis , Mr. Martin was granted a performance-based equity incentive award under the 2010 Plan payable in restricted stock units equal to 0.5% of our pre-tax profits during Fiscal Year 2016 (the actual amount of this award was \$1,904,480). The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the date of issuance of such stock units. Because this award is based on a percentage of our pre-tax profits, it is impossible to calculate thresholds, targets, or maximum amounts for such award.
- (4) As shown under the column Share Awards in the Summary Compensation Table and as described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis , Mrs. Zuhl was granted a performance-based equity incentive award under the 2010 Plan payable in restricted stock units equal to 0.20% of our pre-tax profits during Fiscal Year 2016 (the actual amount of this award was \$761,792). The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the date of issuance of such stock units. Because this award is based on a percentage of our pre-tax profits, it is impossible to calculate thresholds, targets, or maximum amounts for such award.
- (5) As shown under the column Share Awards in the Summary Compensation Table and as described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis , Mr. Woelfer was granted a performance-based equity incentive award under the 2010 Plan payable in restricted stock units equal to 0.175% of our pre-tax profits during Fiscal Year 2016 (the actual amount of this award was \$666,568). The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the date of issuance of such stock units. Because this award is based on a percentage of our pre-tax profits, it is impossible to calculate thresholds, targets, or maximum amounts for such award.
- (6) As shown under the column Share Awards in the Summary Compensation Table and as described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis , Mr. Julian was granted a performance-based equity incentive award under the 2010 Plan payable in restricted stock units equal to 0.175% of our pre-tax profits during Fiscal Year 2016 (the actual amount of this award was \$666,568). The restricted stock units vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the date of issuance of such stock units. Because this award is based on a percentage of our pre-tax profits, it is impossible to calculate thresholds, targets, or maximum amounts for such award.

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#### **Executive Compensation**

#### **Executive Employment Agreements**

Currently, none of our NEOs have written employment agreements.

#### **Summary of Equity Compensation Plan**

## THOR INDUSTRIES, INC. 2010 EQUITY AND INCENTIVE PLAN

We adopted, and our Shareholders approved, our 2010 Plan. Our 2010 Plan is designed to enable us to obtain and retain the services of the types of employees and directors who will contribute to our long range success and to provide incentives that are linked directly to increases in share value which will inure to the benefit of our Shareholders. Our Board approved our 2010 Plan on October 25, 2010. The maximum number of shares issuable under our 2010 Plan is 2,000,000 (subject to adjustment) of which a maximum of 1,000,000 shares can be awarded as restricted stock or restricted stock units.

Our 2010 Plan is administered by the Compensation and Development Committee (our Committee ). Our Committee may consist solely of two or more members of our Board who qualify as outside directors within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code, and as non-employee directors under Rule 16b-3 as promulgated under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

**Eligibility** Awards may be granted to our employees and directors and those individuals whom our Committee determines are reasonably expected to become employees or directors following the date of the grant of the award ( Participants ), provided that incentive stock options may be granted

only to employees. Awards may be in the form of options (incentive stock options and nonstatutory stock options), restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance compensation awards, and stock appreciation rights (collectively, Awards ).

Options Options may be granted as incentive stock options (stock options intended to meet the requirements of Section 422 of the Code) or nonstatutory stock options (stock options not intended to meet such requirements) and will be granted in such form and will contain such terms and conditions as our Committee deems appropriate. The term of each option will be fixed by our Committee, but no incentive stock option may be exercisable after the expiration of ten (10) years from the grant date; provided, that, in the case of incentive stock options granted to a 10% shareholder, the term of such option may not exceed five (5) years from the grant date. The exercise price of each incentive stock option may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the Common Stock subject to the option on the date of grant; provided, that, in the case of incentive stock options granted to a 10% shareholder, the exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant. The exercise price of each nonstatutory stock option may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the Common Stock subject to the option on the date of grant. Our Committee will determine the time or times at which, or other conditions upon which, an option

will vest or become exercisable. Payment in respect of the exercise of an option may be made in cash or by certified or bank check, or our Committee may, in its discretion and to the extent permitted by law, allow such payment to be made by surrender of unrestricted shares of Common Stock (with a fair market value equal to the exercise price) that have been held by the Participant for any period deemed necessary by our accountants to

avoid an additional compensation charge, or by means of attestation whereby the Participant identifies for delivery specific shares of Common Stock that have a fair market value equal to the exercise price, or through a broker-assisted cashless exercise program, a net exercise method, or in any other form of legal consideration that may be acceptable to our Committee.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units Our Committee may award actual shares of our Common Stock (Restricted Stock) or hypothetical common stock units having a value equal to the fair market value of an identical number of shares of our Common Stock (Restricted Stock Units), which award may, but need not, provide that such Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units may not be sold, assigned, transferred, or otherwise disposed of, pledged, or hypothecated as collateral for a loan or as security for the performance of an obligation or for any other purpose for such period (the Restricted Period) as our Committee shall determine. Subject to the restrictions set forth in the Award, Participants who are granted Restricted Stock generally will have the rights and privileges of a shareholder as to such restricted stock, including the right to vote such restricted stock. Cash dividends and stock dividends with respect to Restricted Stock may be withheld by our Company for the Participant s account, and interest may be credited on the amount of the cash dividends withheld at a rate and subject to such terms as determined by our Committee. The cash dividends or stock dividends so withheld by our Committee and attributable to any particular share of Restricted Stock will be distributed to the Participant in cash or, at the discretion of our Committee, in shares of Common Stock having a fair market value equal to the amount of such dividends, if applicable, upon the release of restrictions on such shares. The Restricted Period shall

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## **Executive Compensation**

commence on the date of the grant and end at the time or times set forth on a schedule established by our Committee in the applicable Award agreement. At the discretion of our Committee, cash dividends and stock dividends ( Dividend Equivalents ) also may be paid with respect to Restricted Stock Units which, if credited, shall be withheld for the Participant s account and distributed upon the settlement of the Restricted Stock Unit. If the Restricted Stock or the Restricted Stock Units, as applicable, are forfeited, the Participant shall have no right to such dividends and/or Dividend Equivalents.

Performance Compensation Awards Our 2010 Plan provides our Committee with the authority, at the time of grant of any Award (other than options and stock appreciation rights granted with an exercise price or grant price equal to or greater than the fair market value per share of stock on the date of the grant), to designate such Award as a performance compensation award in order to qualify such Award as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. In addition, our 2010 Plan provides our Committee with the authority to make an Award of a cash bonus to any Participant and designate such Award as a performance compensation award in order to qualify such Award as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

The maximum performance compensation award payable to any one Participant under our 2010 Plan for a Performance Period is 2,000,000 shares of our Common Stock or, in the event such performance compensation award is paid in cash, the equivalent cash value thereof, as determined by our Committee. If the performance compensation award is in the form

of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, then the maximum performance compensation award payable to any one Participant for a Performance Period is 1,000,000 shares of our Common Stock. The maximum amount that can be paid in any calendar year to any Participant pursuant to a performance compensation award in the form of a cash bonus is \$10,000,000.

Stock Appreciation Rights Stock appreciation rights may be granted either alone (Free Standing Rights) or, provided the requirements of our 2010 Plan are satisfied, in tandem with all or part of any option granted under our 2010 Plan (Related Rights). Upon exercise thereof, the holder of a stock appreciation right would be entitled to receive from our Company an amount equal to the product of (i) the excess of the fair market value of our Common Stock on the date of exercise over the exercise price per share specified in such stock appreciation right or its related option, multiplied by (ii) the number of shares for which such stock appreciation right is exercised. The exercise price of a Free Standing Right shall be determined by our Committee, but shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of our Common Stock on the date of grant of such Free Standing Right. A Related Right granted simultaneously with or subsequent to the grant of an option shall have the same exercise price as the related option, shall be transferable only upon the same terms and conditions as the related option, and shall be exercisable only to the same extent as the related option. A stock appreciation right may be settled, at the sole discretion of our Committee, in cash, shares of our Common Stock, or a combination thereof.

Change in Control In the event of a Change in Control (as defined in our 2010 Plan) of our Company, and either in or not in combination with another event

such as a termination of the applicable Participant s service by our Company without cause, unless otherwise provided in an Award agreement, all options and stock appreciation rights will become immediately exercisable with respect to 100% of the shares subject to such option or stock appreciation rights, and the restrictions will expire immediately with respect to 100% of such shares of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units subject to such Award (including a waiver of any applicable Performance Goals). In addition, unless otherwise provided in an Award agreement, all incomplete Performance Periods in respect of a performance compensation award will end upon a Change in Control, and our Committee will (a) determine the extent to which performance goals with respect to each such Performance Period have been met, and (b) cause to be paid to the applicable Participant partial or full performance compensation awards with respect to performance goals for each such Performance Period based upon our Committee s determination of the degree of attainment of performance goals or assuming that applicable target levels of performance have been attained or on such other basis as determined by our Committee. Further, in the event of a Change in Control, our Committee may in its discretion and upon advance notice to the affected persons, cancel any outstanding Awards and pay to the holders thereof, in cash or stock, or any combination thereof, the value of such Awards based upon the price per share of our Common Stock received or to be received by other Shareholders of our Company in the event.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Board voted to amend this plan commencing with Fiscal Year 2016 to require a double trigger before shares would vest. This change will be applicable to new grants only. Grants outstanding before the Board approved the change will continue to be single trigger.

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## **Executive Compensation**

# Outstanding Equity Awards at 2016 Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth information concerning option awards and share awards held by our NEOs as of July 31, 2016.

		OPTION AV	VARDS			
		Number of				
						Market Value
	Number of	Securities			Number	of Shares
	Securities	Underlying			of Shares	
	Underlying		Option		or	or Units
	Unexercised	Unexercised	Exercise		Units	
	Options	Options	Price	Option	That Have	That Have
	Exercisable	Unexercisable		Expiration	Not Vested	Not Vested
Name	(#)	(#)	(S)	Date	(#)	(\$)

Peter B. Orthwein

Robert W. Martin	58,456 <sup>1</sup>	\$4,474,222
Colleen Zuhl	11,7572	\$899,881
Todd Woelfer	12,465 <sup>3</sup>	\$954,071

Kenneth D. Julian

12,465<sup>4</sup> \$954,071

(1) Mr. Martin received a restricted stock award of 10,041 shares on June 8, 2012, which vests on the anniversaries of the date of grant. The remaining 2,008 shares vest on the fifth anniversary of the date of grant. On September 7, 2012, Mr. Martin received a restricted stock award of 9,498 shares and the remaining shares that vest as follows: 1,899 shares on each of the fourth and fifth anniversaries of the date of grant. On August 1, 2013, Mr. Martin received a restricted stock unit award of 10,000 shares that vest in three equal annual installments commencing on October 1, 2014. Mr. Martin received a restricted stock unit award on October 9, 2013 of 21,262 shares; October 9, 2014 of 24,317 shares; and October 9, 2015 of 26,016 shares. These units vest in three equal annual installments commencing on the one year anniversary date of each of the awards respectively.

- (2) Mrs. Zuhl received a restricted stock unit award of 2,126 units on October 9, 2013; an award of 4,863 units on October 9, 2014; and an award of 7,804 units on October 9, 2015. These units vest in three equal annual installments commencing on the one year anniversary date of each of the awards respectively.
- (3) Mr. Woelfer received a restricted stock unit award on October 9, 2013 of 4,252 units; an award of 4,863 units on October 9, 2014; and 7,804 units on October 9, 2015. These units vest in three equal annual installments commencing on the one year anniversary date of each of the awards respectively.
- (4) Mr. Julian received a restricted stock unit award of 4,252 units on October 9, 2013; an award of 4,863 units on October 9, 2014; and an award of 7,804 units on October 9, 2015. These units vest in three equal annual installments commencing on the one year anniversary date of each of the awards respectively.

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## **Executive Compensation**

## Option Exercises and Shares Vested in Fiscal Year 2016

There were no options exercised by our NEOs in Fiscal Year 2016. None of our NEOs own options and none were awarded in Fiscal Year 2016. The following table summarizes information regarding the vesting of share awards for each NEO in Fiscal Year 2016.

OPTION A	WARDS	STOCK	AWARDS
Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares Aquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
(#)	(\$) 1	(#)	(\$)

# Peter B. Orthwein

Robert W. Martin	22,432	\$1,252,621
Colleen Zuhl	2,748	\$152,157
Todd Woelfer	3,037	\$168,159
Kenneth D. Julian	4,697	\$253,997

(1) Represents the amount realized based on the difference between the market price of the Company s Common Stock on the date of exercise and the exercise price.

## Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation for Fiscal Year 2016

The following table shows the contributions, earnings, and account balances for Fiscal Year 2016 for the NEOs participating in our Deferred Compensation Plan.

	Executive Contributions in Fiscal Year 2016 <sup>1</sup>	Registrant Contributions in Fiscal Year 2016	Aggregate Earnings in Fiscal Year 2016	Aggregate Withdrawls / Distributions	Aggregate Balance at 7/31/16
Colleen Zuhl	\$37,000		\$3,439		\$94,902
Todd Woelfer	\$58,056		\$3,041		\$107,495
Kenneth D. Julian	\$28,446		\$3,470		\$108,933

<sup>(1)</sup> The amounts shown as contributions are also included in the amounts shown as Fiscal Year 2016 salary column of the Summary Compensation Table above.

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**Executive Compensation** 

#### **Summary of Deferred Compensation Plan**

On December 9, 2008, our Board approved and adopted the amended and restated Thor Industries, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (our Deferred Compensation Plan ), which was amended and restated primarily to comply with Section 409A of the Code. The general purpose of our Deferred Compensation Plan is to provide our eligible employees with the benefits of an unfunded, non-qualified deferred compensation program.

Under our Deferred Compensation Plan, participants may elect to defer portions of their salary and bonus amounts. The amounts are credited to the participant s individual account, which is credited with earnings and losses based on the performance of certain investment funds selected by us and elected by the participant. The Company does not make any contributions to our Deferred Compensation Plan.

Participants are vested in their elective deferrals at all times. Vested benefits become payable under our Deferred Compensation Plan (i) upon the participant s separation from service, (ii) upon the occurrence of a change in control, (iii) upon the participant s death or disability, or (iv) in connection with a severe financial hardship due to an unforeseen emergency (but in this case amounts payable are limited to the amount necessary to satisfy the emergency plus anticipated taxes). In each case, payment will be made within ninety (90) days following the event triggering the payment unless the participant is determined by our Board to be a specified employee under Section 409A of the Code and the payment trigger is the participant s separation from

service, in which case the payment will be delayed for a period of six (6) months.

Prior to a participant s attainment of age fifty-five (55), all benefits are paid in lump sum. Benefits paid following the participant s attainment of age fifty-five (55) may be paid in lump sum or in equal installments not to exceed five (5) years, as elected by the participant in his or her initial election. Payments of amounts under our Deferred Compensation Plan are paid in cash from our general funds and any right to receive payments from us under our Deferred Compensation Plan will be no greater than the right of one of our unsecured creditors.

Our Compensation and Development Committee administers our Deferred Compensation Plan. Our Compensation and Development Committee has the ability to modify or terminate the plan, provided that any modification or termination does not adversely affect the rights of any participant or beneficiary as to amounts under the plan. Our Compensation and Development Committee also has the ability to terminate our Deferred Compensation Plan and accelerate the payments of all vested accounts in connection with certain corporate dissolutions or changes of control, provided that the acceleration is permissible under Section 409A of the Code. Our Deferred Compensation Plan is intended to comply with Section 409A of the Code.

POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL AND AGREEMENTS WITH RESIGNING OFFICERS

Except for (i) potential payments under our Deferred Compensation Plan and (ii) the previously discussed lapsing of restrictions on certain restricted awards, as of July 31, 2016, there were no potential obligations

owed to our NEOs or their beneficiaries under existing plans or arrangements, whether written or unwritten, in the event of a change in control or termination of employment, including because of death, disability, or retirement.

The Company has no employment or similar agreements with any NEO with provisions regarding severance or change in control benefits.

Our Deferred Compensation Plan provides for payment of the vested deferred amounts upon termination of employment and following a change in control. Under our Deferred Compensation Plan, if an NEO s employment terminated on or before July 31, 2016, or if the NEO died or became disabled, the entire vested account balance (reported in the Aggregate Balance at 7/31/16 column of the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation table above) would be paid. A change in control would also trigger payment to the NEO.

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#### **Proposal 4**

Approval of the Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity And Incentive Plan

We are asking our Shareholders to approve the terms of our Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity and Incentive Plan (our 2016 Plan ). Your approval of the key terms of our 2016 Plan permits the Company to structure awards to certain NEOs under the 2016 Plan in a manner designed to assure that the awards will be deductible by the Company under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). We designed our 2016 Plan in a way that enables us to not only obtain and retain the services of the types of employees and directors who will contribute to our long-term success, but also provide incentives that are linked directly to increases in which will inure to the benefit of you, our Shareholders. Our Board approved our 2016 Plan on October 11, 2016, and we request that you do the same at our annual meeting.

As you read the summary of our 2016 Plan below, you will notice a major change in how it handles the vesting of awards in a change in control situation: our 2016 Plan establishes double trigger vesting which provides that vesting would occur only in the occurrence of both a Change in Control (as defined in the 2010 Plan) and a corresponding change in employment status, whereas our Thor Industries, Inc. 2010 Equity and Incentive Plan included single trigger vesting (amended in Fiscal Year 2016 to include double trigger vesting). We believe such a change further aligns the interests of our NEOs, management, and employees with those of our Shareholders.

A copy of our 2016 Plan is attached to this Proxy Statement as Appendix A. The description of our 2016 Plan that follows is qualified in its entirety by reference to our 2016 Plan that is attached.

Our 2016 Plan will be administered by our Board or a committee designated

by our Board (our Committee ). While we are a publicly traded company, our Committee may consist solely of two or more members of our Board who qualify as outside directors within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code, and as non-employee directors under Rule 16b-3 as promulgated under Section 16 of the Exchange Act. Our Committee will have the power and authority to select Participants (as defined below) in our 2016 Plan and grant Awards (as defined below) to such Participants pursuant to the terms of our 2016 Plan. In addition, our Committee will have the authority to (a) construe and interpret our 2016 Plan and apply its provisions, (b) promulgate, amend, and rescind the rules and regulations relating to the administration of our 2016 Plan, (c) authorize any person to execute, on behalf of our Company, any instrument required to carry out the purposes of our 2016 Plan, (d) delegate its authority to one or more officers of our Company with respect to Awards that do not involve certain executive officers of our Company, (e) determine when Awards are to be granted under our 2016 Plan and the applicable date of grant, (f) select those Participants to whom Awards shall be granted, (g) determine the number of shares of our Common Stock to be made subject to each Award, (h) determine whether each option is or is not intended to qualify as an incentive stock option, (i) prescribe the terms and conditions of each Award, (j) designate an Award (including a cash bonus) as a performance compensation award and select the performance criteria that will be used to establish the performance goals, (k) amend any outstanding Awards subject to certain limitations, (l) determine the duration and purpose of leaves of absences which may be granted to a Participant without constituting termination of their employment for purposes of our 2016 Plan, (m) make decisions with respect to outstanding

Awards that may become necessary upon a change in corporate control or an event that triggers anti-dilution adjustments, and (n) exercise discretion to make any and all other determinations which it determines to be necessary

or advisable for the administration of our 2016 Plan. All decisions made by our Committee pursuant to the provisions of our 2016 Plan shall be final and binding on our Company and the Participants.

Subject to adjustment, the total number of shares of our Common Stock that will be available for the grant of Awards under our 2016 Plan may not exceed 2,000,000 shares; provided, that, for purposes of this limitation, any stock subject to an Award that is canceled, forfeited, or expires prior to exercise or realization will again become available for issuance under our 2016 Plan. Subject to adjustment, no Participant will be granted, during any one year period, options to purchase common stock or stock appreciation rights with respect to more than 1,000,000 shares of our Common Stock and no Participant will be granted, during any one year period, restricted stock or restricted stock units with respect to more than 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock. Stock available for distribution under our 2016 Plan will be authorized and unissued shares, treasury shares, or shares reacquired by our Company in any manner.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Awards may be granted to our employees and directors and those individuals whom our Committee determines are reasonably expected to become employees or directors following the date of the grant of the Award ( Participants ), provided that incentive stock options may be granted only to employees. Awards may be in the form of options (incentive stock options and nonstatutory stock options), restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance compensation awards, and stock appreciation rights (collectively, Awards ).

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#### **Proposal 4**

Approval of the Thor Industries, Inc. 2016 Equity And Incentive Plan

#### **OPTIONS**

Options may be granted as incentive stock options (stock options intended to meet the requirements of Section 422 of the Code) or nonstatutory stock options (stock options not intended to meet such requirements) and will be granted in such form and will contain such terms and conditions as our Committee deems appropriate. The term of each option will be fixed by our Committee but no incentive stock option may be exercisable after the expiration of ten years from the grant date; provided, that, in the case of incentive stock options granted to a 10% shareholder, the term of such option may not exceed five years from the grant date. The exercise price of each incentive stock option may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the Common Stock subject to the option on the date of grant; provided, that, in the case of incentive stock options granted to a 10% shareholder, the exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant. The exercise price of each nonstatutory stock option may not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the Common Stock subject to the option on the date of grant. Our Committee will determine the time or times at which, or other conditions upon which, an option will vest or become exercisable. Payment in respect of the exercise of an option may be made in cash or by certified or bank check, or our Committee may, in its discretion and to the extent permitted by law, allow such payment to be made by surrender of unrestricted shares of Common Stock (with a fair market value equal to the exercise price) that have been held by the Participant for any period deemed necessary by our accountants to avoid an additional compensation charge,

or by means of attestation whereby the Participant identifies for delivery specific shares of common stock that have a fair market value equal to the exercise price, or through a broker-assisted cashless exercise program, a net exercise method, or in any other form of legal consideration that may be acceptable to our Committee. A participant will have no rights as a shareholder with respect to the shares of Common Stock subject to an option (including the rights to receive dividends) unless and until that option is exercised

#### RESTRICTED STOCK AND RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS

Our Committee may award actual shares of our Common Stock (Restricted Stock) or hypothetical Common Stock units having a value equal to the fair market value of an identical number of shares of our Common Stock (Restricted Stock Units), which award may, but need not, provide that such Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units may not be sold, assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed of, pledged or hypothecated as collateral for a loan or as security for the performance of an obligation or for any other purpose for such period (the Restricted Period) as our Committee shall determine. Subject to the restrictions set forth in the Award, Participants who are granted Restricted Stock generally will have the rights and privileges of a shareholder as to such Restricted Stock, including the right to vote such Restricted Stock. Cash dividends and stock dividends with respect to Restricted Stock shall be withheld by our Company for the Participant is account, and not paid by the Company unless and until the restrictions on the Restricted Stock have lapsed. Interest may be credited on the amount of the cash dividends withheld at a rate and subject to such terms as

determined by our Committee. The cash dividends or stock dividends so withheld by our Committee and attributable to any particular share of Restricted Stock will be distributed to the Participant in cash or, at the discretion of our Committee, in shares of Common Stock having a fair market value equal to the amount of such dividends, if

applicable, upon the release of restrictions on such shares. The Restricted Period shall commence on the date of the grant and end at the time or times set forth on a schedule established by our Committee in the applicable Award agreement. At the discretion of our Committee, cash dividends and stock dividends ( Dividend Equivalents ) also may be paid with respect to Restricted Stock Units which, if credited, shall be withheld for the Participant s account and distributed upon the settlement of the Restricted Stock Unit. Such dividend equivalents shall not be paid by the Company unless and until the restrictions on the Restricted Stock Units have lapsed. If the Restricted Stock or the Restricted Stock Units, as applicable, are forfeited, the Participant shall have no right to such dividends, Dividend Equivalents, and/or interest (if any).

#### PERFORMANCE COMPENSATION AWARDS

Our 2016 Plan provides our Committee with the authority, at the time of grant of any Award (other than options and stock appreciation rights granted with an exercise price or grant price equal to or greater than the fair market value per share of stock on the date of the grant), to designate such Award as a performance compensation award in order to qualify such Award as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. In addition, our 2016 Plan provides our Committee with the authority to make an Award of a cash bonus to any Participant and

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designate such Award as a performance compensation award in order to qualify such Award as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

During the first 90 days of a performance period (or, if longer or shorter, within the maximum period allowed under Section 162(m) of the Code), which period may not be less than one fiscal quarter (the Performance Period ), our Committee may, in its sole discretion, select which Participants will be eligible to receive performance compensation awards in respect of such Performance Period. Our 2016 Plan provides that, with regard to a particular Performance Period our Committee has full discretion to select the length of the Performance Period, the type(s) of performance compensation awards to be issued, the performance criteria that will be used to establish the performance goal(s), the kind(s) and/ or level(s) of the performance goal(s) that is (are) to apply to our Company, and the performance formula to be applied against the relevant performance goal to determine, with regard to the performance compensation award of a particular Participant, whether all, some portion or none of the performance compensation award has been earned for the Performance Period.

The maximum performance compensation award payable to any one Participant under our 2016 Plan for a Performance Period is 2,000,000 shares of our Common Stock or, in the event such performance compensation award is paid in cash, the equivalent cash value thereof, as determined by our Committee. If the performance compensation award is in the form of Restricted Stock or Restricted Stock Units, then the maximum performance

compensation award payable to any one Participant for a Performance Period is 2,000,000 shares of our Common Stock. The maximum amount that can be paid in any calendar year to any Participant pursuant to a performance compensation award in the form of a cash bonus is \$20,000,000.

Performance compensation awards shall be based on the attainment of specific levels of performance of our Company (or affiliate, division, or operational unit of our Company) and shall be limited to the following:

- (a) net earnings or net income (before or after taxes);
- (b) basic or diluted earnings per share (before or after taxes);
- (c) net revenue or net revenue growth;
- (d) gross revenue;
- (e) gross profit or gross profit growth;
- (f) net operating profit (before or after taxes);
- (g) pre-tax profits (before or after LIFO adjustments);
- (h) return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, capital, invested capital, equity, or sales);

- (i) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, and cash flow return on capital);
  (j) earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation and/or amortization;
  (k) gross or operating margins;
  (l) productivity ratios;
  (m) share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total stockholders return);
  (n) expense targets;
  (o) margins;
  (p) operating efficiency;
  (q) objective measures of customer satisfaction;
  (r) working capital targets;
  (s) measures of economic value added;
- STOCK APPRECIATION RIGHTS

(t) inventory control; and

(u) enterprise value.

Stock appreciation rights may be granted either alone (Free Standing Rights) or, provided the requirements of our 2016 Plan are satisfied, in tandem with all or part of any option granted under our 2016 Plan (Related Rights). Upon exercise thereof, the holder of a stock appreciation right would be entitled to receive from our Company an amount equal to the product of (i) the excess of the fair market value of one share of our Common Stock on the date of exercise over the exercise price per share specified in such stock appreciation right or its related option, multiplied by (ii) the number of shares for which such stock appreciation right is exercised. The exercise price of a Free Standing Right shall be determined by our Committee, but shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of one share of our Common Stock on the date of grant of such Free Standing Right. A Related Right granted simultaneously with or subsequent to the grant of an option shall have the same exercise price as the related option, shall be transferable only upon the same terms and conditions as the related option, and shall be exercisable only to the same extent as the related option. A stock appreciation right may be settled, at the sole discretion of our Committee, in cash, shares of our Common Stock, or a combination thereof. A stock appreciation right shall not entitle the Participant to receive any dividends declared on the Common Stock prior to the exercise of that stock appreciation right for shares of Common Stock.

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#### **CHANGE IN CONTROL**

Our 2016 Plan provides that, unless otherwise provided in an Award agreement or pursuant to our 2016 Plan, or prohibited under applicable laws or by the rules and regulations of any governing governmental agencies or national securities exchanges, upon the occurrence of a Change in Control, (a) all options and stock appreciation rights will become immediately exercisable unless such Awards are assumed, converted, replaced, or continued by the continuing entity; provided, however, that in the event of a Participant s termination of employment without Cause (as defined in our 2016 Plan) or resignation for Good Reason (as defined in our 2016 Plan) within twenty-four (24) months following consummation of a Change in Control, all Awards so assumed, converted, replaced, or continued will become immediately exercisable, (b) all restrictions imposed on a restricted award or performance compensation award shall lapse unless such Awards are assumed, converted, replaced, or continued by the continuing entity; provided, however, that in the event of a Participant s termination of employment without Cause or for Good Reason within twenty-four (24) months following consummation of a Change in Control, the restrictions on any Awards so assumed, converted, replaced, or continued shall lapse; and (c) the portion of all performance compensation awards that remain outstanding following the occurrence of a Change in Control shall be determined by applying actual performance from the beginning of the Performance Period through the date of the Change in Control using the performance formula to determine the amount of the payout or distribution rounded to the

nearest whole share of Common Stock. Furthermore, the Committee may, in its sole discretion, provide that (x) all outstanding options and stock appreciation rights will be terminated upon the occurrence of a Change in Control and that each Participant will receive, with respect to each share of Common Stock subject to such options or stock appreciation rights, an amount in cash and/or shares of Common Stock equal to the excess of the fair market value of a share of Common Stock immediately prior to the occurrence of the Change in Control over the exercise price of the option or stock appreciation right and (y) options and stock appreciation rights outstanding as of the date of the Change in Control may be cancelled and terminated without payment if the fair market value of a share of Common Stock as of the date of the Change in Control is less than the exercise price of the option or stock appreciation right.

#### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

Our Board at any time, and from time to time, may amend or terminate our 2016 Plan. However, except as provided otherwise in our 2016 Plan, no amendment shall be effective unless approved by the shareholders of our Company to the extent shareholder approval is necessary to satisfy any applicable law or securities exchange listing requirements. Our Committee at any time, and from time to time, may amend the terms of any one or more Awards; provided, however, that our Committee may not make any amendment which would otherwise constitute an impairment of the rights under any Award unless our Company requests the consent of the Participant and the Participant consents in writing.

#### **ADJUSTMENTS**

The maximum number of shares of our Common Stock which may be awarded under our 2016 Plan, and the number of shares and price per share applicable to any outstanding Award, are subject to adjustment in the event of stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock or extraordinary cash dividends, recapitalizations, reorganizations, mergers, consolidations, combinations, exchanges, or other relevant changes in capitalization.

#### MARKET VALUE OF UNDERLYING SECURITIES

Our Common Stock underlies all of the options and other equity based awards to be awarded under our 2016 Plan. The market value of our Common Stock at the close of trading on October 10, 2016, as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, was \$84.69 per share.

#### **TERM**

Our 2016 Plan will expire on October 10, 2026. Any awards previously granted under our 2016 Plan and outstanding subsequent to October 10, 2026, will continue to be governed by the provisions of our 2016 Plan.

#### PLAN BENEFITS TO BE RECEIVED

Benefits and amounts to be awarded under our 2016 Plan are not currently determinable.

The October 2016 awards, consistent with past practice, were made under the 2016 Plan subject to shareholder approval, and will be void if shareholders do not approve the 2016 Plan.

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#### U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to Awards under our 2016 Plan, based on federal income tax laws currently in effect. This summary is not intended to and does not describe all of the possible tax consequences that could result from the acquisition, holding, exercise or disposition of an option right or shares of common stock purchased or granted pursuant to, or any other Award granted under, our 2016 Plan and does not describe any state, local or foreign tax consequences. Moreover, the federal income tax consequences to any particular individual may differ from those described herein by reason of, among other things, the particular circumstances of such individual. This summary is for general information only and does not constitute tax advice.

Nonstatutory Stock Options. An individual receiving nonstatutory stock options generally should not recognize taxable income at the time of grant. An individual should generally recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the option shares on exercise of the nonstatutory stock options over the exercise price thereof. In general, subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 162(m) and 280G, discussed below, our Company is entitled to deduct from its taxable income the amount that the individual is required to include in ordinary income at the time of such inclusion. Additional special rules apply if an individual exercises a nonstatutory stock option by paying the exercise price, in whole or in part, by the transfer of shares of common stock to our Company.

**Incentive Stock Options.** An individual granted an incentive stock option generally should not recognize taxable income at the time of grant or, subject to certain conditions, at the time of exercise, although he or she may be subject to alternative minimum tax. If the individual holds the shares acquired upon exercise of an incentive stock option for at least two years after the date of grant and for at least one year after the date of exercise, upon disposition of the shares by the individual, the difference, if any, between the sales price of the shares and the exercise price of the option will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss. In general, if a disqualifying disposition should occur (i.e., the shares acquired upon exercise of the option are disposed of within the later of two years from the date of grant or one year from the date of exercise), an individual will generally recognize ordinary compensation income in the year of disposition in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the option shares at the time of exercise over the exercise price thereof (or, if less, the amount realized on the subsequent disposition of the shares). Our Company is not entitled to any deduction on account of the grant of incentive stock options or the individual s exercise of the option to acquire common stock. However, in the event of a subsequent disqualifying disposition of such shares of common stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option under circumstances resulting in taxable compensation to the individual, subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 162(m) and 280G, discussed below, in general, our Company should be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the amount treated as taxable compensation to the individual. Additional special rules apply if an individual exercises an incentive stock option by paying the exercise price, in whole or in part, by the transfer of shares of common stock to our Company.

**Stock Appreciation Rights.** An individual receiving a stock appreciation right (SAR) generally should not recognize taxable income at the time of grant. Upon exercise of an SAR, an individual generally should recognize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the fair market value of the payment received in respect of the SAR. In general, our Company should be able to deduct this same amount for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but such deduction may be limited under Sections 280G and 162 (m) of the Code for compensation paid to certain executives designated in those sections.

Restricted Stock. An individual generally should not recognize ordinary income upon receipt of restricted stock. The individual generally should recognize ordinary income when the restricted stock is transferable by the individual or no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, whichever occurs first. At such time, the individual should recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the current fair market value of the shares. An individual may, however, elect to recognize ordinary income when the restricted stock is granted in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares at that time, determined without regard to the restrictions. (Special rules apply to the receipt and disposition of restricted stock received by officers and directors who are subject to Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act). In general, our Company should be able to deduct, at the same time as it is recognized by the individual, the amount of taxable compensation to the individual for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but such deduction may be limited under Sections 280G and 162(m) of the Code for compensation paid to certain executives designated in those sections.

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Restricted Stock Units. An individual receiving a restricted stock unit award generally should not recognize taxable income at the time of grant. Rather, upon delivery of shares and/or cash, as applicable, pursuant to a restricted stock unit award, the individual generally should have taxable compensation equal to the fair market value of the number of shares (and/or the amount of cash) the individual actually receives with respect to the award. In general, our Company should be able to deduct this same amount for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but such deduction may be limited under Sections 280G and 162(m) of the Code for compensation paid to certain executives designated in those sections.

Section 162(m) Limitation. In general, Section 162(m) of the Code denies a publicly held corporation a deduction for U.S. federal income tax purposes for compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 per year per person to its chief executive officer and the three other most highly-paid executive officers (other than the chief executive officer and chief financial officer), subject to certain exceptions. Our 2016 Plan is intended to satisfy an exception with respect to grants of options to covered employees. In addition, our 2016 Plan is designed to permit certain awards of restricted stock, restricted stock units, cash bonus awards, and other awards to be awarded as performance compensation awards intended to qualify under the performance-based compensation exception to Section 162 (m) of the Code.

Section 280G of the Code. Under certain circumstances, the accelerated vesting or settlement of awards in connection with a Change in Control (as defined in our 2016 Plan) may be deemed an excess parachute payment for purposes of the golden parachute tax provisions of Section 280G of the Code. To the extent it is so considered, the grantee may be subject to a 20% excise tax and our Company may be denied a federal income tax deduction.

The Board of Directors recommends that the Shareholders vote FOR the approval of our 2016 Plan

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## **Ownership of Common Stock**

The following table sets forth information as of September 2, 2016, with respect to the beneficial ownership, as defined in Rule 13(d) under the Exchange Act, of our Common Stock by: (i) each person known by the Company to beneficially own, as defined in Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, 5% or more of the outstanding Common Stock; (ii) each director of the Company; (iii) each executive officer of the Company named in the Summary Compensation Table above; and (iv) all executive officers and directors of the Company as a group. As of September 2, 2016, there were 52,639,930 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding, including 157,315 shares issuable under restricted stock units which will vest within sixty (60) days from September 2, 2016.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner <sup>1</sup>	Beneficial Ownership <sup>2</sup> Number of Shares	Percent
Peter B. Orthwein	2,297,871 <sup>3</sup>	4.4%
Robert W. Martin	64,561 <sup>4</sup>	*
Colleen Zuhl	8,000 <sup>5</sup>	*
Todd Woelfer	8,176 <sup>6</sup>	*
Kenneth D. Julian	12,386 <sup>7</sup>	*
Andrew E. Graves	9,0398	*
Wilson Jones	$2,000^9$	*

J. Allen Kosowsky	9,000 <sup>10</sup>	*
Alan Siegel	1,049,224 <sup>11</sup>	2.0%
Jan H. Suwinski	14,000 <sup>12</sup>	*
James L. Ziemer	7,000 <sup>13</sup>	*
The Vanguard Group		
100 Vanguard Blvd Malvern, PA 19355	3,342,615 <sup>14</sup>	6.4%
BlackRock Fund Advisors		
400 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105	3,024,378 <sup>15</sup>	5.8%
SouthernSun Asset Management, LLC 6070 Poplar Avenue, Suite 300		