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ENSTAR GROUP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 16, 2004

SCHEDULE 14A  
(RULE 14A-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. )

Filed by the Registrant [X]

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))

[X] Definitive Proxy Statement  
[ ] Definitive Additional Materials  
[ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to  
Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

The Enstar Group, Inc.

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

[X] 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:  
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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  
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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction  
computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the  
amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it  
was determined):  
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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:  
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[ ] Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:  
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[ ] 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:  
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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:  
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(3) Filing Party:  
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(4) Date Filed:  
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(ENSTAR LOGO)

April 16, 2004

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of The Enstar Group, Inc. to be held on Friday, May 21, 2004, at the Montgomery Civic Center at 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m., local time, and we hope you will be able to attend. The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders outlines the business to be conducted at the meeting.

It is important that your shares be voted whether or not you plan to be present at the meeting. You should specify your choices by marking the appropriate boxes on the proxy, and date, sign and return your proxy in the enclosed envelope as promptly as possible. If you date, sign and return your proxy without specifying your choices, your shares will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

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-s- Nimrod T. Frazer

NIMROD T. FRAZER  
Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer

(ENSTAR LETTERHEAD)

THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2004

To the Shareholders of The Enstar Group, Inc.:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of The Enstar Group, Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Friday, May 21, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Montgomery Civic Center at 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, for the following purposes:

(i) to elect three (3) directors to three-year terms expiring at the annual meeting of shareholders in 2007 or until their successors are duly elected and qualified;

(ii) to ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors of the Company to serve for 2004; and

(iii) to transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting of Shareholders or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on April 1, 2004 as the record date (the "Record Date") for determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting of Shareholders and any adjournment thereof. A list of shareholders as of the Record Date will be open for examination during the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Your attention is directed to the Proxy Statement submitted with this Notice. This Notice is being given at the direction of the Board of Directors.  
By Order of the Board of Directors

-s- CHERYL D. DAVIS  
CHERYL D. DAVIS  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Vice-President of Corporate Taxes and  
Secretary

Montgomery, Alabama  
April 16, 2004

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN AND DATE THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY REVOKE THE PROXY AND VOTE IN PERSON IF YOU WISH, EVEN IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY RETURNED YOUR PROXY.

THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.  
401 MADISON AVENUE  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

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PROXY STATEMENT  
FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2004

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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This Proxy Statement is being furnished to the shareholders of The Enstar Group, Inc. (the "Company") in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Friday, May 21, 2004 (the "Annual Meeting"), at the Montgomery Civic Center at 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, 9:00 a.m., local time, and at any adjournment thereof.

RECORD DATE

The Board has fixed April 1, 2004 as the record date (the "Record Date") for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Only holders of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Company ("Common Stock") as of the Record Date are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. On the Record Date, the Company had issued and outstanding 5,465,753 shares of Common Stock. Each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting. No cumulative voting rights are authorized, and appraisal rights for dissenting shareholders are not applicable to the matters being proposed. It is anticipated that this Proxy Statement will be first mailed to shareholders of the Company on or about April 16, 2004.

VOTING AND PROXIES

When the enclosed form of proxy is properly executed and returned, the shares it represents will be voted as directed at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof or, if no direction is indicated, such shares will be voted in favor of the proposals set forth in the notice attached hereto. Any shareholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke it at any time before it is voted. All proxies delivered pursuant to the solicitation are revocable at any time at the option of the persons executing them by giving written notice to the Secretary of the Company, by delivering a later-dated proxy or by voting in person at the Annual Meeting. If Common Stock owned by a shareholder is registered in the name of more than one person, each such person should sign the enclosed proxy. If the proxy is signed by an attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or by any other person in a representative capacity, the full title of the person signing the proxy should be given and a certificate should be furnished showing evidence of appointment. Any beneficial owner of shares of Common Stock as of the Record Date who intends to vote such shares in person at the Annual Meeting must obtain a legal proxy from the record owner and present such proxy at the Annual Meeting in order to vote such shares. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the meeting who will also determine whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business.

The presence in person or by proxy of holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock outstanding on the Record Date will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. The affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of Common Stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote is required to elect directors. The affirmative vote of the majority of the shares of Common Stock represented at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on the subject matter is required with

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respect to the ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent auditors and any other matter that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, votes cast for or against any matter may be cast in person or by proxy. Shares of Common Stock held by nominees for beneficial owners will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present if the nominee has the discretion to vote on at least one of the matters presented, even if the nominee may not exercise discretionary voting power with respect to other matters and voting instructions have not been received from the beneficial owner (a "broker non-vote"). Broker non-votes will not be counted as votes for or against matters presented for shareholder consideration. Abstentions with respect to a proposal are counted for purposes of establishing a quorum. If a quorum is present, abstentions have the effect of a negative vote against any proposal, except for the election of directors.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, management of the Company has no knowledge of any business other than that described herein which will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. In the event any other business is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, it is intended that the persons named in the enclosed proxy will have authority to vote such proxy in accordance with their judgment on such business.

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (ITEM 1)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Company, the Board currently consists of seven members. The Company's Articles of Incorporation divide the Board into three classes. Directors for each class are elected at the annual meeting of shareholders held in the year in which the term for such class expires to serve a term of three years. Nominees for vacant or newly created director positions stand for election at the next annual meeting following the vacancy or creation of such director positions, to serve for the remainder of the term of the class in which their respective positions are apportioned. To fill the vacancy created by the increase in the size of the Board from six to seven members, in July 2003 the Board appointed Gregory L. Curl as a director in the class of directors with a term expiring in 2007. The terms of J. Christopher Flowers and Jeffrey S. Halis expire at the Annual Meeting. Jeffrey S. Halis has notified the Board that he will retire from the Board, effective immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, and so is not standing for reelection. At the Annual Meeting, J. Christopher Flowers, Gregory L. Curl and Paul J. Collins will stand for election to serve as directors for three-year terms expiring at the 2007 annual meeting of shareholders, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Company, a director who is not also an employee of the Company may serve as a director only until the next annual meeting following such director's 70th birthday.

The Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees for the office of director will be unavailable for election as directors. However, if at the time of the Annual Meeting any nominee should be unable or decline to serve, the persons named in the proxy will vote as recommended by the Board either (i) to elect a substitute nominee recommended by the Board, (ii) to allow the vacancy created thereby to remain open until filled by the Board or (iii) to reduce the number of directors for the ensuing year. In no event, however, can a proxy be voted to elect more than three directors. The election of the nominees to the Board requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares held by shareholders present and voting at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Board recommends a vote FOR J. Christopher Flowers, Gregory L. Curl and Paul J. Collins to hold office until the 2007 annual meeting of shareholders, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

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### NOMINEES FOR ELECTION -- TERMS EXPIRING 2007

J. Christopher Flowers was elected to the position of director in October of 1996. Mr. Flowers became a General Partner of Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1988 and a Managing Director in 1996. He resigned from Goldman, Sachs & Co. as of November 27, 1998 in order to pursue his own business interests. Mr. Flowers was named Vice Chairman of the Board effective December 1, 1998; Mr. Flowers resigned from such position in July 2003 but remains a member of the Board. He is also a director of Shinsei Bank, Ltd., formerly Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, Ltd. Mr. Flowers is President of J.C. Flowers & Co., LLC, a financial services investment fund. Mr. Flowers is 46 years old.

Gregory L. Curl was elected to the position of director in July of 2003. Mr. Curl has been Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy for Bank of America since December 1998. Previously, Mr. Curl was Vice Chairman of Corporate Development and President of Specialized Lending for Bank of America from 1997 to 1998. Mr. Curl is 55 years old.

Paul J. Collins retired as a Vice Chairman and member of the Management Committee of Citigroup Inc., in September 2000. From 1985 to 2000, Mr. Collins served as a director of Citicorp and its principal subsidiary, Citibank; from 1988 to 1998 he also served as Vice Chairman of such entities. Mr. Collins joined Citicorp in 1961 and served in its investment management group for fourteen years, five as chief investment officer. He subsequently headed corporate planning, finance and administration, and the financial markets group, and served as Senior Corporate Officer first for North America and later for Europe and the Middle East. He was also responsible for Citicorp's proprietary and customer investment activities and for the strategic management of the company's Emerging Markets corporate banking business, which encompass local, regional and global corporate customers in over 70 countries. Mr. Collins currently serves as a director of Nokia Corporation and BG Group and as a trustee of the University of Wisconsin Foundation and the Glyndebourne Arts Trust. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, a private equity firm. Mr. Collins is 67 years old.

### CONTINUING DIRECTORS -- TERMS EXPIRING 2005

Nimrod T. Frazer was elected to the position of director in August of 1990. Mr. Frazer is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Frazer was named Chairman of the Board, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer on October 26, 1990 and served as President from May 26, 1992 to June 6, 2001. Mr. Frazer is 74 years old.

John J. Oros was appointed to the position of director in March of 2000 and subsequently elected to the position of director by the Company's shareholders in May of 2000. Mr. Oros was named to the position of Executive Vice President in March of 2000. On June 6, 2001, Mr. Oros was named President and Chief Operating Officer. Before joining the Company, Mr. Oros was an investment banker at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in the Financial Institutions Group. Mr. Oros joined Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1980 and was made a General Partner in 1986. Mr. Oros is 57 years old.

### CONTINUING DIRECTORS -- TERMS EXPIRING 2006

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T. Whit Armstrong was elected to the position of director in June of 1990. Mr. Armstrong has been President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of The Citizens Bank, Enterprise, Alabama, and its holding company, Enterprise Capital Corporation, Inc. in excess of five years. Mr. Armstrong is also a director of Alabama Power Company of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Armstrong is 56 years old.

T. Wayne Davis was elected to the position of director in June of 1990. Mr. Davis was Chairman of the Board of General Parcel Service, Inc., a parcel delivery service, from January of 1989 to September of 1997 and was Chairman of the Board of Momentum Logistics, Inc. from September of 1997 to March of 2003. He also is a director of Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. and MPS Group, Inc. Mr. Davis is 57 years old.

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### CODE OF CONDUCT; CODE OF ETHICS

The Company has a Code of Conduct which is applicable to all directors, officers and employees of the Company. The Company has an additional Code of Ethics for Senior Executive and Financial Officers (the "Code of Ethics"), which contains provisions specifically applicable to the chief executive officer, chief financial officer and chief accounting officer and persons performing similar functions. The Code of Ethics is attached as an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. Upon request to the following address, the Company will furnish without charge a copy of the Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics:

THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.  
401 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Attention: Amy M. Dunaway  
Treasurer and Controller

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board has determined that each of T. Whit Armstrong, T. Wayne Davis, Jeffrey S. Halis and Gregory L. Curl is, and that upon his election Paul J. Collins will be, an "independent director" as such term is defined in Rule 4200(a)(15) of the National Association of Securities Dealers (the "NASD").

During 2003, the Company had an Audit Committee which was composed of T. Whit Armstrong, Chairman, T. Wayne Davis, Gregory L. Curl and Jeffrey S. Halis. The Board has determined that each Audit Committee member meets the independence standards for audit committee members, as set forth in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the NASD listing standards, and the NASD's financial knowledge requirements. The Board has determined that Mr. Curl is an "audit committee financial expert," as such term is defined in SEC regulations, and that Mr. Curl and Mr. Armstrong meet the NASD's professional experience requirements. The Audit Committee is responsible for, among other things, appointing (subject to shareholder ratification) the accounting firm that will serve as independent auditors for the Company and reviewing and pre-approving all audit and non-audit services provided to the Company by its independent auditors. The Audit Committee is also responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting and accounting practices and monitoring the adequacy of internal accounting, compliance and control systems. The Board has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee (the "Audit Committee Charter") which complies with the applicable requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related rules of the SEC and the NASD. The Audit Committee Charter is attached to this Proxy Statement as Annex A.

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During 2003, the Company had a Compensation Committee which was composed of T. Wayne Davis, Chairman, T. Whit Armstrong, J. Christopher Flowers and Jeffrey S. Halis. Mr. Halis' resignation from the Committee was accepted by the Board in November 2003. The Board appointed Mr. Flowers to the Committee in July 2003. Other than Mr. Flowers, each director who served on the Compensation Committee during fiscal 2003 qualifies as a "non-employee director" as such term is defined in Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and an "independent director" as such term is defined in NASD Rule 4200(a)(15). Mr. Flowers served as an officer of the Company until July 2003. In addition, as described below under the heading "Certain Transactions," Mr. Flowers and the Company have entered into numerous transactions, directly and indirectly. The Board has determined that Mr. Flowers' membership on the Committee is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders, because as the Company's largest shareholder and as one who is well acquainted with the Company's officers and employees, Mr. Flowers is in a unique position to determine the contributions made by each such officer and employee. The Compensation Committee is responsible for, among other things, reviewing, determining and establishing, upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer (with the exception of the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer) salaries, bonuses and other compensation for the Company's executive officers and for administering the Company's stock option plans.

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The Company does not have a nominating committee or a nominating committee charter. It is the position of the Board that, given the small size of the Board, it is appropriate for the independent directors, rather than a separate committee comprised of most or all of such independent directors, to recommend director candidates. In November 2003, the Board adopted a resolution regarding the nomination of directors. Pursuant to such resolution, director nominees must be recommended to the Board by a majority of the "independent directors" as such term is defined in NASD Rule 4200(a)(15). The Board has determined that each of T. Wayne Davis, T. Whit Armstrong, Jeffrey S. Halis and Gregory L. Curl is, and upon his election Paul J. Collins will be, an independent director (the "Independent Directors"). When identifying and reviewing director nominees the Independent Directors consider the nominees' personal and professional integrity, ability and judgment and other factors deemed appropriate by the Independent Directors. For incumbent directors, the Independent Directors review each director's overall service to the Company during such director's term, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation and quality of performance. The Independent Directors considered and nominated the candidates proposed for election as directors at the Annual Meeting, with the Board unanimously agreeing on all actions taken in this regard.

During 2003, the Board held a total of 4 meetings, the Audit Committee held a total of 4 meetings and the Compensation Committee held a total of 4 meetings. All directors attended all of the meetings of the Board and all committees on which they served during 2003. Directors are encouraged but not required to attend the Annual Meeting. All directors attended the 2003 annual meeting of shareholders.

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD

Shareholders may communicate with the Board by sending an email to [treasurer@enstargroup.com](mailto:treasurer@enstargroup.com) or by sending a letter to Enstar Board of Directors, c/o the Treasurer, 401 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. The Treasurer will receive the correspondence and forward it to the Chairman of the Audit Committee or to any individual director or directors to whom the communication is directed. The Treasurer has the authority to discard or disregard any inappropriate communications or to take other appropriate actions with respect to such inappropriate communications.



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### COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

Directors who are not employees of the Company receive a quarterly retainer fee of \$6,250 and per meeting fees as follows: (i) \$2,500 for each Board meeting attended other than a telephone Board meeting; (ii) \$1,000 for each telephone Board meeting attended; (iii) \$1,000 for each Committee meeting attended; and (iv) \$1,500 for each Committee meeting attended by a Committee Chairperson. In addition, each Committee Chairperson receives a quarterly retainer fee of \$500. Such outside directors' fees are payable at the election of the director either in cash or in stock units under the Company's Deferred Compensation and Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "Deferred Plan"). If the director elects to receive stock units instead of cash, the stock units shall be payable only upon the director's termination. The number of shares to be distributed in connection with such termination would be equal to one share of Common Stock for each stock unit and cash would be paid for any fractional units. The distribution of stock units is also subject to acceleration upon certain events constituting a change in control of the Company. All current non-employee directors, other than Gregory L. Curl, have elected to receive 100% of their compensation in stock units in lieu of cash payments for the retainer and meeting fees. Mr. Curl has elected to receive a portion of his compensation in cash. As of December 31, 2003, a total of \$695,313 in stock compensation had been deferred under this plan. In addition, directors are entitled to reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending all meetings.

Upon becoming a director in July 2003, Gregory L. Curl was granted options to purchase 5,000 shares of Common Stock at an exercise price of \$40.00 per share. During 2003, no other options to purchase shares of Common Stock were granted to directors for their service as directors; however, as described below under "Stock Option Grants," Nimrod T. Frazer and John J. Oros were granted options to purchase shares of Common Stock for their service as officers and employees of the Company.

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### COMMON STOCK OWNERSHIP BY MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of Common Stock as of April 1, 2004 by (i) each of the executive officers named below (the "Named Executive Officers"), (ii) each of the directors and the nominees for director of the Company and (iii) all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

NAME OF BENEFICIAL OWNER -----	SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY OWNED (1) -----	PERCENT OF CLASS (2) -----
<b>NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</b>		
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	405,001 (3)	7.09%
John J. Oros.....	360,000 (4)	6.40%
Cheryl D. Davis.....	3	*
Amy M. Dunaway.....	87 (5)	*
<b>DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY</b>		
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	405,001 (3)	7.09%
T. Whit Armstrong.....	58,514 (6)	1.06%
Paul J. Collins.....	0	*
Gregory L. Curl.....	458 (7)	*
T. Wayne Davis.....	161,222 (8)	2.92%
J. Christopher Flowers.....	1,224,816 (9)	22.29%

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Jeffrey S. Halis.....	317,992 (10)	5.76%
John J. Oros.....	360,000 (4)	6.40%
All executive officers and directors of the Company as a group (9 persons).....	2,528,093	41.70%

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\* Less than 1%.

(1) Under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), a person is deemed to be a "beneficial owner" of a security if that person has or shares "voting power," which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or "investment power," which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. A person also is deemed to be a beneficial owner of any securities which that person has the right to acquire within sixty (60) days. Under these rules, more than one person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of the same securities and a person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of securities as of which he or she has no economic or pecuniary interest. Except as set forth in the footnotes below, the persons named above have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock shown as being beneficially owned by them.

(2) Based on an aggregate of 5,465,753 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of April 1, 2004. Assumes that all options beneficially owned by the person are exercised and all stock units beneficially owned by the person are redeemed for shares of Common Stock. The total number of shares outstanding used in calculating this percentage assumes that none of the options beneficially owned by other persons are exercised and none of the stock units beneficially owned by other persons are redeemed for shares of Common Stock.

(3) Includes 250,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Amended CEO Stock Option Plan (the "CEO Plan") and the Incentive Plan.

(4) Includes 200,000 shares owned indirectly by Mr. Oros through Brittany Ridge Investment Partners, L.P. and 160,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the Incentive Plan.

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(5) Includes 54 shares which Ms. Dunaway holds jointly and shares voting and investment power with her spouse.

(6) Includes 13,342 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan. Also includes 40,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Amended Outside Directors' Stock Option Plan (the "1997 Outside Directors' Plan") and the 2001 Outside Directors' Stock Option Plan (the "2001 Outside Directors' Plan").

(7) Consists of 458 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan.

(8) Includes 2,783 shares held by Mr. Davis' wife, 16,762 shares held in trust, 81,025 shares held in a private foundation for which Mr. Davis has voting and investment power but is not a beneficiary and 12,652 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan. Also includes 40,000 shares that are not

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currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan and 2001 Outside Directors' Plan.

- (9) Includes 3,261 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan prior to Mr. Flowers becoming an officer of the Company as well as subsequent to Mr. Flowers resigning as an officer of the Company. Also includes 25,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan.
- (10) Includes 12,132 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan, 260,860 shares which Mr. Halis shares voting and investment power with his wife and 5,000 shares held in a private foundation for which Mr. Halis has voting and investment power but is not a beneficiary. Also includes 40,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan and 2001 Outside Directors' Plan.

### EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

The Compensation Committee approved severance agreements for Nimrod T. Frazer, Cheryl D. Davis and Amy M. Dunaway in March 1998 (the "Severance Agreements"). The Severance Agreements provide that Mr. Frazer, Ms. Davis and Ms. Dunaway will receive their base salary for a period of twelve months following a termination of employment, other than for "cause," as defined in the Severance Agreements, or a voluntary termination.

The Compensation Committee also approved an employment agreement with John J. Oros in March 2000 (the "Employment Agreement"). The Employment Agreement provides for an initial one year term and automatic renewal for successive one year terms thereafter, subject to earlier termination as provided in the Employment Agreement. The Employment Agreement provides an annual base salary to Mr. Oros in an amount to be determined by the Board and reimbursement of up to \$50,000 annually for office related expenses incurred by Mr. Oros in connection with the performance of his duties with the Company. The Employment Agreement also provides that the Board may award to Mr. Oros such bonuses, and in such amounts, as the Board shall determine in its sole discretion. In fiscal 2003, Mr. Oros received an annual base salary of \$347,308.

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### PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

The table below sets forth certain information as of April 1, 2004 concerning persons known to the Board to be "beneficial owners," as such term is defined by the rules of the Commission, of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock.

NAME AND ADDRESS -----	SHARES OF COMMON STOCK BENEFICIALLY OWNED (1) -----	PERCENT OF CLASS (2) -----
J. Christopher Flowers..... 399 Park Avenue 27th Floor New York, New York 10022	1,224,816 (3)	22.29%
Nimrod T. Frazer..... 401 Madison Avenue	405,001 (4)	7.09%

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Montgomery, Alabama 36104		
Jeffrey S. Halis.....	317,992 (5)	5.76%
153 E. 53rd Street		
55th Floor		
New York, New York 10022		
John J. Oros.....	360,000 (6)	6.40%
401 Madison Avenue		
Montgomery, Alabama 36104		

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- (1) See Note (1) under "Common Stock Ownership by Management" elsewhere herein.
- (2) Based on an aggregate of 5,465,753 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding as of April 1, 2004. Assumes that all options beneficially owned by the person are exercised and all stock units beneficially owned by the person are redeemed for shares of Common Stock. The total number of shares outstanding used in calculating this percentage assumes that none of the options beneficially owned by other persons are exercised and none of the stock units beneficially owned by other persons are redeemed for shares of Common Stock.
- (3) Includes 3,261 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan prior to Mr. Flowers becoming an officer of the Company as well as subsequent to Mr. Flowers resigning as an officer of the Company. Also includes 25,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan.
- (4) Includes 250,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 CEO Plan and the Incentive Plan.
- (5) Includes 12,132 stock units granted under the Deferred Plan, 260,860 shares which Mr. Halis shares voting and investment power with his wife and 5,000 shares held in a private foundation for which Mr. Halis has voting and investment power but is not a beneficiary. Also includes 40,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan and 2001 Outside Directors' Plan.
- (6) Includes 200,000 shares owned indirectly by Mr. Oros through Brittany Ridge Investment Partners, L.P. and 160,000 shares that are not currently outstanding, but that may be acquired within sixty (60) days upon the exercise of stock options granted under the Incentive Plan.

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table provides certain summary information concerning the compensation paid for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001, for the Company's Chief Executive Officer and each of the other Named Executive Officers (determined as of December 31, 2003).

LONG-TERM

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NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	ANNUAL COMPENSATION		OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION (\$)	COMPENSATION AWARDS
		SALARY (\$)	BONUS (\$)		SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS#
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	2003	347,308	--	--	60,000
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	2002	250,000	--	--	--
	2001	250,000	--	--	100,000
John J. Oros.....	2003	347,308	--	--	100,000
President and Chief Operating Officer	2002	250,000	--	--	--
	2001	211,538	--	--	100,000
Cheryl D. Davis.....	2003	174,665	--	--	--
Chief Financial Officer, Vice-President of Corporate Taxes and Secretary	2002	162,546	--	--	--
	2001	153,285	--	--	--
Amy M. Dunaway.....	2003	102,796	--	--	--
Treasurer and Controller	2002	95,429	--	--	--
	2001	89,991	--	--	--

- (1) Amount shown represents premiums paid by the Company for health and dental insurance for Mr. Frazer.
- (2) Amount shown represents premiums paid by the Company for health and dental insurance for Mr. Oros.
- (3) Amounts shown for Ms. Davis and Ms. Dunaway are for premiums paid by the Company for term life insurance and health and dental insurance.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2003 with respect to shares of Common Stock to be issued upon the exercise, and the weighted-average exercise price, of all outstanding options and rights granted under the Company's equity compensation plans, as well as the number of shares available for future issuance under such plans.

PLAN CATEGORY	NUMBER OF SECURITIES TO BE ISSUED UPON EXERCISE OF OUTSTANDING OPTIONS, WARRANTS AND RIGHTS (A)	WEIGHTED-AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE OF OUTSTANDING OPTIONS, WARRANTS AND RIGHTS (B)	NUMBER OF SHARES AVAILABLE FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS (EXCLUDING SECURITIES HELD BY THE COMPANY) (C)
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Security Holders (1).....	760,000 (2)	\$19.88 (2)	
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved			

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by Security		
Holder(3).....	N/A(4)	N/A(4)
Total.....	760,000	\$19.88

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- (1) Equity compensation plans approved by security holders are the 2001 Outside Directors' Plan, the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan, the CEO Plan, the Incentive Plan and an Investment Agreement, dated October 20, 1998 (the "Investment Agreement"), whereby the Company sold 1,158,860 shares of Common Stock to Mr. Flowers.
- (2) Excludes a total of 1,158,860 shares of Common Stock issued by the Company pursuant to the Investment Agreement.
- (3) Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders are the Deferred Plan and two agreements (the "Stock Purchase Agreements") entered into by the Company with Messrs. Frazer and Oros in June 2001 to sell a total of 200,000 shares (100,000 per individual) of Common Stock to Messrs. Frazer and Oros. For a description of the terms of the Deferred Plan and the Stock Purchase Agreements, see Note 7 in Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K accompanying this Proxy Statement, incorporated herein by reference thereto.
- (4) Excludes a total of 41,845 stock units granted to non-employee directors under the Deferred Plan and 200,000 shares of Common Stock purchased by Messrs. Frazer and Oros pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreements.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Certain information concerning the executive officers of the Company is set forth below:

NAME	AGE	POSITION	EXECUTIVE OFFICER SINCE
----	---	-----	-----
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	74	Director, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	1990
John J. Oros.....	57	Director, President and Chief Operating Officer	2000
Cheryl D. Davis.....	44	Chief Financial Officer, Vice President of Corporate Taxes and Secretary	1991
Amy M. Dunaway.....	47	Treasurer and Controller	1991

Mr. Frazer is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Frazer was named Chairman of the Board, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer on October 26, 1990 and served as President from May 26, 1992 to June 6, 2001.

Mr. Oros was named Executive Vice President in March of 2000, and President and Chief Operating Officer on June 6, 2001. Before joining the Company, Mr. Oros was an investment banker at Goldman, Sachs & Co. in the Financial Institutions Group. Mr. Oros joined Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 1980, and was made a General Partner in 1986.

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Ms. Davis was named Chief Financial Officer and Secretary in April of 1991 and Vice President of Corporate Taxes in 1989. Ms. Davis has been employed with the Company since April of 1988.

Ms. Dunaway was named Treasurer and Controller in April of 1991. Ms. Dunaway has been employed with the Company since September of 1990.

### STOCK OPTION GRANTS

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS						POTENTIAL AT ASSUMED STOCK PRICES
NAME	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN FISCAL YEAR	EXERCISE PRICE PER SHARE	EXPIRATION DATE	5%	
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	60,000 (2)	37.5%	\$40.00	August 18, 2013	\$1,509,000	
John J. Oros.....	100,000 (2)	62.5%	\$40.00	August 18, 2013	\$2,516,000	

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- (1) The amounts shown represent certain assumed rates of appreciation only. Actual gains, if any, on stock option exercises are dependent as the future performance of the Common Stock and overall market conditions. The amounts set forth in this table may not necessarily be achieved.
- (2) These options will vest and become exercisable in four equal annual installments, beginning January 1, 2005.

### STOCK OPTION EXERCISES

None of the Named Executive Officers exercised any stock options during 2003. The table below shows the number of shares of Common Stock covered by both exercisable and unexercisable stock options held by the Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2003. The table also reflects the values for in-the-money options based on the positive spread between the exercise price of such options and the last reported sale price of the Common Stock on December 31, 2003, the last trading date in 2003 for the Common Stock.

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### AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN 2003 AND YEAR-END OPTION VALUES

NAME	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT DECEMBER 31, 2003		VALUE OF UNEXERCISED IN-THE-MONEY OPTIONS AT DECEMBER 31, 2003 (1)	
	EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE	EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE
Nimrod T. Frazer.....	250,000	60,000	\$8,312,500	\$ 420,000

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John J. Oros.....	160,000	140,000	5,127,500	1,835,000
Cheryl D. Davis.....	--	--	--	--
Amy M. Dunaway.....	--	--	--	--

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(1) Based on the closing price of \$47.00 per share of Common Stock on December 31, 2003.

REPORT OF COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Compensation Committee") was created in 1996 and currently consists of Messrs. Davis, Armstrong and Flowers. The Compensation Committee is responsible for (i) establishing the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer (with the exception of the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer) and (ii) considering the issuance of stock options for executive officers and directors. Mr. Frazer, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for recommending to the Compensation Committee the compensation for the other executive officers of the Company. The Compensation Committee has reviewed the applicability of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Section 162(m) may in certain circumstances deny a federal income tax deduction for compensation to an executive officer in excess of \$1 million per year. It is not anticipated that compensation to any executive officer of the Company during 2004 will exceed the \$1 million threshold.

Compensation Policy and Overall Objectives. The Company's executive compensation policy is designed to attract, retain and motivate executive officers needed to achieve the Company's strategic objectives and to maximize the Company's performance and shareholder value.

The Company supports these goals through a compensation strategy principally involving competitive salaries and long-term incentive opportunities. Compensation consists of both fixed pay elements (base salary and benefits) and long-term incentives to encourage and reward distinctive contributions to the success of the organization. Salary and benefit levels reflect position, responsibilities and strategic importance and are targeted at market median base salary levels. Total cash compensation has been below market median levels because the Company has not paid annual bonuses. Long-term incentive opportunities reward key executives for financial and non-financial performance that enhances shareholder value. Long-term incentive opportunities have been at or above market median levels.

The Company retained an independent compensation consulting firm to assist it in analyzing its executive compensation program for 1997 and thereafter. The consulting firm recommended that the Company adopt a policy of providing a significant percentage of certain executive officers' total compensation based on the Company's performance. In addition, the consultant provided the Compensation Committee with an analysis of senior executive compensation using published survey data for the financial services industry. In 2003, the Compensation Committee again retained an independent compensation consulting firm, which provided it with an updated analysis of senior executive compensation using published industry data. The Compensation Committee has considered these recommendations and the compensation analyses in establishing the base salaries for the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Officer and the other executive officers for 2004 and prior years.

Base Salary. Each executive officer's base salary, including Mr. Frazer's



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base salary, is determined based upon a number of factors including the executive officer's responsibilities, contribution to the achievement of the Company's business plan goals, demonstrated leadership skills and overall effectiveness and length of service. Base salaries are also designed to be competitive with those offered in the various markets in which the Company competes for executive talent and are analyzed with a view towards desired base salary levels over a three-year to five-year time period. Each executive officer's salary is reviewed annually and although these and other factors are considered in setting base salaries, no specific weight is given to any one factor.

Cash Bonuses. The Company did not pay any cash bonuses to the Named Executive Officers during 2003.

Long-Term Incentives. Long-term incentives are provided pursuant to the CEO Plan, the 1997 Outside Directors' Plan, the 2001 Outside Directors' Plan, the Incentive Plan, as amended, and the Deferred Plan. Stock option plans are designed to encourage and reward distinctive contributions to the Company's success and to align executives' and shareholders' interest in the enhancement of shareholder value. Stock options are used by the Company to encourage long-term service by executives. Stock options were granted in 2003 under the Incentive Plan, as amended, to Messrs. Frazer and Oros to reward them for their important contributions

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to the Company's success and to ensure their continued efforts on the Company's behalf. Mr. Frazer was granted options to purchase 60,000 shares of Common Stock and John J. Oros was granted options to purchase 100,000 shares of Common Stock, all at an exercise price of \$40.00 per share.

Severance and Employment Agreements. The Compensation Committee approved severance agreements for Nimrod T. Frazer, Cheryl D. Davis and Amy M. Dunaway in March 1998 (the "Severance Agreements"). The Severance Agreements provide that Nimrod T. Frazer, Cheryl D. Davis and Amy M. Dunaway will receive their base salary for a period of twelve months following a termination of employment, other than for "cause," as defined in the Severance Agreements, or a voluntary termination.

The Compensation Committee also approved an employment agreement with John J. Oros in March 2000 (the "Employment Agreement"). The Employment Agreement provides for an initial one year term and automatic renewal for successive one year terms thereafter, subject to earlier termination as provided in the Employment Agreement. The Employment Agreement provides an annual base salary to Mr. Oros to be determined by the Board and reimbursement of up to \$50,000 annually for office related expenses incurred by Mr. Oros in connection with the performance of his duties with the Company. The Employment Agreement also provides that the Board may award to Mr. Oros such bonuses, and in such amounts, as the Board shall determine in its sole discretion. In fiscal 2003, Mr. Oros received an annual base salary of \$347,308.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation. Mr. Frazer does not have an employment agreement with the Company. The Compensation Committee is responsible for determining Mr. Frazer's compensation annually. In fiscal 2003, Mr. Frazer received an annual base salary of \$347,308. Mr. Frazer's base salary was based on, among other things, his responsibilities, his length of service, his contributions to the business and his overall leadership skills.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:

T. Wayne Davis, Chairman

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T. Whit Armstrong  
J. Christopher Flowers

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### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

As described earlier in this Proxy Statement, the Company has a Compensation Committee of the Board composed of T. Wayne Davis, Chairman, T. Whit Armstrong and J. Christopher Flowers. Jeffrey S. Halis was also a member of the Compensation Committee until November 2003, when his resignation from the Committee was accepted by the Board. Mr. Flowers served as an officer of the Company until July 2003, and did not join the Compensation Committee until after resigning as an officer. In addition, as described below under the heading "Certain Transactions", Mr. Flowers and the Company have entered into numerous transactions, directly and indirectly. The Company believes that the terms of such transactions are no less favorable to the Company than would have been the case had such transactions been consummated with unrelated parties. The Board was made aware of all such transactions.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee reviews the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board. Management is responsible for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls. The independent auditors are responsible for reviewing the Company's quarterly financial

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statements and for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the audited financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Members of the Audit Committee rely, without independent verification, on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and the opinions and communications of the Company's independent auditors. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's review does not provide an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or appropriate internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Audit Committee's activities do not assure that the audit of the Company's financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, that the financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States of America or that the Company's independent auditors are in fact independent.

In fulfilling its responsibilities:

- The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements contained in the 2003 Annual Report on Form 10-K with the Company's management and the independent auditors prior to the filing of the Form 10-K with the Commission.
- The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the unaudited financial

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statements contained in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for each of the quarters ended in 2003 with the Company's management and the independent auditors prior to the filing thereof with the Commission.

- The Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communications with Audit Committees) and Rule 2-07 of Regulation S-X.
- The Audit Committee received from the independent auditors written disclosures regarding the auditors' independence, as required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), and discussed with the auditors their independence from the Company and its management.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions noted above and subject to the limitations set forth above, the Audit Committee approved the inclusion of the audited financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, for filing with the Commission.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

T. Whit Armstrong, Chairman  
T. Wayne Davis  
Gregory L. Curl  
Jeffrey S. Halis

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### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FIRM FEES

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed to the Company for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003 and December 31, 2002 by the Company's principal accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, the member firms of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and their respective affiliates (collectively, "Deloitte").

DECEMBER 31, 2003

Audit Fees.....	\$133,500
Audit-Related Fees.....	1,000 (1)
Tax Fees.....	81,944 (2)
All Other Fees.....	--
	-----
Total.....	\$216,444

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- (1) Represents fees related to the Company's participation, through JCF CFN LLC and JCF CFN II LLC, in transactions with Green Tree Investment Holdings LLC and related entities.
- (2) Represents fees related to the preparation of the Company's federal and state income tax returns, consultation on federal tax planning and other

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income tax issues.

DECEMBER 31, 2002

Audit Fees.....	\$ 90,000
Audit-Related Fees.....	9,284 (1)
Tax Fees.....	8,500 (2)
All Other Fees.....	--
	-----
Total.....	\$107,784

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- (1) Represents fees related to the audit and review of specific financial information in connection with the acquisition of Hudson Reinsurance Company Limited, a standby purchase commitment for the purchase of ordinary shares of Zurich Financial Services and the Company's listing on the Nasdaq National Market.
- (2) Represents fees related to the preparation of the Company's federal and state income tax returns, consultation on federal tax planning and other income tax issues.

PRE-APPROVAL OF AUDIT AND PERMISSIBLE NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The amended and restated Charter of the Audit Committee, adopted on May 29, 2003, charges the Audit Committee with review of all aspects of the Company's relationship with Deloitte, including the provision of and payment for all services. All audit and non-audit services provided by Deloitte are pre-approved by the Audit Committee, which concluded that the provision of non-audit services was compatible with maintaining the accountants' independence in the conduct of its auditing functions.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The graph below reflects the cumulative shareholder return (assuming the reinvestment of dividends) on the Common Stock compared to the return on the Center for Research in Security Prices Total Return Index for the Nasdaq Stock Market (U.S. Companies) (the "Nasdaq Composite, U.S.") and the Company's peer group index (the "Peer Group Index") for the periods indicated. The graph reflects the investment of \$100.00 on December 31, 1998 in the Common Stock, the Nasdaq Composite, U.S., and the Peer Group Index. The Peer Group Index consists of Annuity and Life Re Holdings, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. (Class A), ESG Re Ltd., Everest Re Group Ltd., IPC Holdings Ltd., Max Re Capital Ltd., Odyssey Re Holdings Corp., PXRE Group Ltd., RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. and Transatlantic Holdings, Inc., which are publicly-traded companies identified by Bloomberg L.P. in 2003 as comparable to the Company based on certain similarities in their principal lines of business with the Company's reinsurance operations.

(PERFORMANCE GRAPH)

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 DEC-98      DEC-99      DEC-00      DEC-01      DEC-02      DEC-03  
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The Enstar Group, Inc.	\$100	\$100	\$115	\$181	\$227	\$358
NASDAQ U.S.	\$100	\$185	\$112	\$ 89	\$ 61	\$ 92
Peer Group Index	\$100	\$ 80	\$104	\$112	\$106	\$125

Source: Georgeson Shareholder Communications Inc.

THE PERFORMANCE GRAPH SHALL NOT BE DEEMED INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE BY ANY GENERAL STATEMENT INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THIS PROXY STATEMENT INTO ANY FILING UNDER THE ACTS, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COMPANY SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATES THIS INFORMATION BY REFERENCE, AND SHALL NOT OTHERWISE BE DEEMED FILED UNDER SUCH ACTS.

### CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

In February 2002, the Company entered into an agreement with J.C. Flowers & Company, LLC, running through November 2005, for the use of certain office space and administrative services from J.C. Flowers & Company, LLC for an annual payment of \$66,000. J.C. Flowers & Company, LLC is managed by Mr. Flowers, a member of the Board and the Company's largest shareholder.

In November 2002, the Company received a commitment fee of approximately \$208,000 in connection with a standby purchase commitment entered into by the Company through a newly-formed Canadian limited partnership with J.C. Flowers I LP, Shinsei Bank, Ltd. ("Shinsei") and Fitzwilliam (SAC) Insurance Limited ("Fitzwilliam"). The Company's share of the commitment, in the amount of approximately

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\$10 million, was for the purchase of ordinary shares of Zurich Financial Services ("Zurich"), a Swiss company engaged in providing insurance based financial services, to be issued in connection with a rights offering by Zurich to its existing shareholders. The commitment was never required to be executed and no funds were contributed by the Company. J.C. Flowers I LP is a private investment fund managed by Mr. Flowers. Mr. Flowers also is a director of Shinsei. Fitzwilliam is a wholly owned subsidiary of Castlewood Holdings Limited ("Castlewood Holdings"). The Company holds a 33 1/3% economic interest in Castlewood Holdings and 50% of Castlewood Holdings' voting stock.

No fees were paid by the Company or will be payable by the Company to J.C. Flowers I LP, JCF Associates I LLC, or Mr. Flowers in connection with the Company's standby purchase commitment to Zurich.

In January 2003, the Company announced a \$10 million commitment to JCF CFN LLC and related entities (collectively, the "JCF CFN Entities"). The JCF CFN Entities are controlled by JCF Associates I LLC, the managing member of which is Mr. Flowers. Approximately \$3 million of the Company's commitment was funded in January 2003 from cash on hand. In June 2003, the Company increased its commitment to \$15.3 million, resulting in the Company holding a 60% interest in the JCF CFN Entities. In addition, in June, 2003 Castlewood Holdings became a member of the JCF CFN Entities and made a \$10.2 million commitment, in exchange for a 40% interest. Both the Company and Castlewood Holdings fully funded their commitments to the JCF CFN Entities. The Company owns a one-third economic interest in Castlewood Holdings and 50% of its voting stock.

In June 2003, the JCF CFN Entities invested in Green Tree Investment Holdings LLC (formerly known as CFN Investment Holdings LLC) and related entities (collectively, "Green Tree"), together with affiliates of J.C. Flowers

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I LP, affiliates of Fortress Investment Group LLC and affiliates of Cerberus Capital Management, L.P. J.C. Flowers I LP is a private investment fund, the general partner of which is JCF Associates I LLC. The JCF CFN Entities invested approximately \$25.1 million in exchange for a 3.995% interest in Green Tree. Green Tree completed the purchase of certain assets of Conseco Finance Corp. ("Conseco Finance") for approximately \$630 million in cash plus certain assumed liabilities. The assets consist primarily of a portfolio of home equity and manufactured housing loan securities as well as the associated servicing businesses. The JCF CFN Entities also invested in FPS DIP LLC, a second limited liability company formed by the members of Green Tree to provide, together with one of Conseco Finance's existing lenders, up to \$125 million of debtor-in-possession financing to Conseco Finance. The JCF CFN Entities accounted for these investments under the equity method of accounting.

In March 2004, the JCF CFN Entities, along with certain affiliates of J.C. Flowers I LP, signed a definitive agreement for the sale of their entire interests in Green Tree for cash to FIT CFN Holdings LLC, an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group LLC, or its assigns. In exchange for its entire interest, the JCF CFN Entities will receive approximately \$40 million in cash. Of this amount, the Company will receive approximately \$24 million and Castlewood Holdings will receive approximately \$16 million. A partial distribution of approximately \$6.2 million has been received by the JCF CFN Entities, from which the Company and Castlewood received approximately \$3.7 million and approximately \$2.5 million, respectively, as their proportionate share. This and any additional distributions which may be made by Green Tree prior to closing of the sale will reduce the amount to be received at closing. The sale is expected to close in the third quarter of 2004. The Company anticipates a realized gain on the sale.

No fees were paid by the Company or will be payable by the Company to J.C. Flowers I LP, JCF Associates I LLC, or Mr. Flowers in connection with the Company's investment in JCF CFN.

In March 2003, the Company announced that Castlewood Holdings and Shinsei acquired The Toa-Re Insurance Company (UK) Limited, a London-based subsidiary of The Toa Reinsurance Company, Limited, for approximately \$46 million. The acquisition was effected through a newly formed Bermuda company, which is jointly owned by Castlewood Holdings and Shinsei. Castlewood Holdings has a 50.1% economic and 50% voting interest in the newly formed Bermuda company.

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In May 2003, the Company received a commitment fee of approximately \$82,000 in connection with a standby purchase commitment entered into by the Company through a newly-formed Cayman Islands limited partnership with J.C. Flowers I LP, Shinsei and Castlewood Holdings. The commitment was for the purchase of new shares of Allianz Aktiengesellschaft ("Allianz"), a German company, to be issued in connection with a rights offering by Allianz to its existing shareholders. The commitment was never executed and no funds were contributed by the Company.

### RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS (ITEM 2)

The Audit Committee has appointed the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as independent auditors of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2004, subject to ratification of this appointment by the shareholders of the Company. Deloitte & Touche LLP has served as independent auditors of the Company from 1990 through 2003 and is considered by management of the Company to be well qualified. The Company has been advised by Deloitte & Touche LLP that neither it nor any member thereof has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Company or any of its subsidiaries in any capacity. One or more representatives

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of Deloitte & Touche LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting, will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board recommends a vote FOR the proposal to ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors of the Company for 2004.

### OTHER MATTERS

#### SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), requires officers and directors of the Company and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of the Company's Common Stock to file with the Commission certain reports, with respect to each such person's beneficial ownership of the Company's equity securities. In 2003, based solely upon a review of copies of reports and certain representations of our executive officers and directors, all of the Company's reporting persons filed their Section 16(a) reports on a timely basis with the exception of the following reports: Mr. Halis filed one late Form 4 relating to the award of stock units to Mr. Halis under the Deferred Plan and three late Form 4s relating to gifts of stock to Mr. Halis' family foundation and to sales of stock by such family foundation. Mr. Davis filed one late Form 4 relating to the purchase of stock by Mr. Davis and two late Form 4s relating to the award of stock units to Mr. Davis under the Deferred Plan. Mr. Armstrong filed two late Form 4s relating to the award of stock units to Mr. Armstrong under the Deferred Plan. Mr. Oros filed one late Form 4 relating to the award of stock options to Mr. Oros under the Incentive Plan.

#### ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K

The Company has provided herewith to each shareholder as of the Record Date a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 (the "2003 10-K"), including the financial statements and financial statement schedules, as filed with the Commission, except exhibits thereto (other than Exhibit 99.1). The 2003 10-K and the exhibits filed with it are available through the Company's website at [www.enstargroup.com](http://www.enstargroup.com). Upon request by an eligible shareholder to the following address, the

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Company will furnish a copy of the 2003 10-K, without exhibits, without charge, and a copy of any or all of the exhibits to the 2003 10-K will be furnished for a reasonable fee:

THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.  
401 Madison Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Attention: Amy M. Dunaway  
Treasurer and Controller

#### SHAREHOLDER NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Under the Company's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, only persons nominated in accordance with the procedures set forth therein will be eligible for election as directors. Shareholders are entitled to nominate persons for election to the Board only if the shareholder is otherwise entitled to vote generally in the election of directors and only if timely notice in writing is sent to the Secretary of the Company. To be timely, a shareholder's notice must

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be received at the principal executive offices of the Company at least 60 days but not more than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. Such shareholder's notice should set forth (i) the qualifications of the nominee and the other information that would be required to be disclosed in connection with the solicitation of proxies for the election of directors pursuant to Regulation 14(a) under the Exchange Act and (ii) with respect to such shareholder giving such notice, (a) the name and address of such shareholder and (b) the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such shareholder. The Company may require any proposed nominee to furnish such other information as may reasonably be required by the Company to determine the eligibility of such proposed nominee to serve as a director of the Company.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Any shareholder proposals intended to be presented at the Company's 2005 annual meeting of shareholders must be received no later than December 16, 2004 in order to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement for the 2005 annual meeting of shareholders. Notice of any shareholder proposals intended to be presented at the Company's 2005 annual meeting of shareholders submitted outside the processes of Rule 14a-8 discussed above must be received no later than March 1, 2005 to be considered timely.

### EXPENSES OF SOLICITATION

The cost of solicitation of proxies by the Board in connection with the Annual Meeting will be borne by the Company. As part of its services as the Company's transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company will assist in the solicitation of proxies. No specific fee has been allocated to services provided in connection with the solicitation of proxies. The Company will reimburse brokers, fiduciaries and custodians for reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of Common Stock held in their names.

By Order of the Board of Directors

-s- CHERYL D. DAVIS  
CHERYL D. DAVIS  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Vice-President of  
Corporate Taxes and Secretary

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ANNEX A

THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER  
(AS AMENDED AND RESTATED MAY 29, 2003)

The Board of Directors of The Enstar Group, Inc. (the "Company") has constituted and established an Audit Committee (the "Committee") with the authority, responsibility and specific duties as described herein. This Charter and the composition of the Committee are intended to comply with applicable law, including the securities laws, and the rules of The Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. ("Nasdaq"). This document replaces and supercedes in its entirety the previous Charter of the Committee.

### PURPOSE

The Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board of



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Directors in its oversight of: (1) the integrity of the Company's financial statements and the Company's systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting and ethics established by management and the Board of Directors, (ii) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, (iii) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence and (iv) the performance of independent auditors, including the Company's auditing, accounting and financial reporting process generally. The Committee shall also prepare the report of the Committee to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the Committee to:

- serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's financial statements and the financial reporting process and systems of internal financial and accounting controls;
- review and appraise the audit efforts of the Company's independent auditors; and
- maintain open communication among the independent auditors, management, employees and the Board of Directors.

The independent auditor is ultimately accountable to the Board of Directors and the Committee, as representatives of the Company's stockholders, and shall report directly to the Committee. The Committee has the sole authority and direct responsibility to select, appoint, evaluate, compensate and oversee the work, and, if necessary, terminate and replace the independent auditor (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). The Committee shall have authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within its scope of responsibilities. Any independent auditors retained by the Company are ultimately accountable to the Committee and shall report directly to the Committee.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary duties and responsibilities of the Committee are to oversee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the independent auditors, the Company's internal accounting controls and auditing functions, and the financial reporting process and to report the results of its activities to the Board of Directors. Management is responsible for preparing the Company's financial statements and the independent auditors are responsible for auditing those financial statements. The Committee's role is not to provide expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent auditor's work.

This Charter is intended to be flexible so that the Committee is able to meet changing conditions. The Committee is authorized to take such further actions as are consistent with the following responsibilities and to perform such other actions as applicable law, the applicable rules of Nasdaq, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), the Company's charter documents and/or the Board of Directors may require.

In discharging its primary responsibilities and functions, the Committee is authorized to:

#### A. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

- Retain and terminate the Company's independent auditors, approve all audit engagement terms and fees, oversee all work performed by the independent auditors and resolve any disagreements between management and the Company's independent auditors regarding financial reporting.

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- Pre-approve all audit services and all permissible non-audit services (including tax services) to be performed for the Company by its independent auditors, subject to the de minimis exceptions for non-audit services described in the Exchange Act which are approved by the Committee prior to the completion of the audit. The Committee may delegate to one or more of its members the authority to pre-approve audit services and permissible non-audit services; provided, however, that all pre-approved services must be disclosed by such delegate to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
- Evaluate the independent auditors, including the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence, the competence, experience and qualifications of the lead partner and senior members of the independent auditor team, and the quality control procedures of the independent auditors. The Committee also shall ensure the rotation of the audit partners as required by law.
- Discuss with the independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their audits, including the adequacy of staffing.
- At least annually, obtain and review a report from the independent auditors which describes (a) the audit firm's internal quality-control procedures, (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the audit firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the last five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the audit firm, and any steps taken to address any such issues, and (c) all relationships between the audit firm and the Company. At least annually, obtain and review the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discuss with the independent auditors their independence.
- Discuss with the independent auditors any problems or difficulties the independent auditors may have encountered and any management letter provided by the independent auditors and the Company's response. Such review should include any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to required information, and any disagreements with management.
- Discuss with the independent auditors, at least annually, the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU sec. 380) relating to the conduct of the audit.
- Obtain from the independent auditors assurance that Section 10A(b) of the Exchange Act (generally relating to the auditors' identification of illegal acts and related party transactions) has not been implicated.
- Establish clear policies and guidelines for the Company's hiring of employees or former employees of the independent auditors.
- Annually prepare the report required by the rules of the Commission to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

### B. FINANCIAL REPORTING PROCESS

- Review and discuss with management and the independent auditors the Company's annual audited financial statements and disclosures set forth in Management's Discussion and Analysis in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K prior to filing with the Commission or public distribution, including (i) their judgment about the quality of the Company's

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accounting principles as applied in its

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financial reporting, (ii) the reasonableness of significant judgments, and (iii) the clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements. Recommend, based on its review and discussion, that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Form 10-K for the last fiscal year for filing with the Commission.

- Review and discuss with management and the independent auditors the interim financial statements and disclosures set forth in Management's Discussion and Analysis in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the results of the independent auditors' reviews of the quarterly financial statements prior to the filing of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with the Commission and/or the Company's release of earnings.
- Obtain and review a report made to the Committee by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company during their certification processes for the Form 10-K and each Form 10-Q which describes, if any, (a) all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the Company's internal controls which could adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process and report financial data, and (b) any fraud (whether or not material) involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
- Discuss with management and the independent auditors the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's accounting and financial processes and controls. The Committee may meet separately with management and with the independent auditors to discuss these matters.
- Review with management and independent auditors the financial reporting and disclosure issues, including material correcting adjustment and off-balance sheet financing and relationships, if any, discuss significant judgment matters in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements and ascertain that any significant disagreements among them have been satisfactorily resolved, and ascertain that no restrictions were placed by management on implementation of the independent or internal auditors' examinations. Regularly scheduled executive sessions will be held for this purpose.
- Review significant changes to the Company's auditing and accounting principles and practices proposed by the independent auditors or management.
- Review with management and the independent auditors the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as any off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements.
- Review policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. Discuss significant financial risks and exposures and the steps taken by management to monitor and minimize such risks.
- Discuss generally, in terms of types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made, the Company's earnings press releases as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

### C. ETHICAL/LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND OTHER REVIEW PROCEDURES

- Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of

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complaints received by the Company regarding the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding accounting questions or auditing matters.

- Develop, review or recommend to the Board of Directors for its approval those provisions of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that relate to areas that the Committee is responsible for overseeing, including conflicts of interest.
- Review the programs and policies of the Company designed to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and monitoring the results of those compliance efforts.
- Review with the Company's executive officer with oversight of legal matters of the Company any legal matters that could have a material impact on the financial statements, the Company's compliance policies and any material reports or inquiries received from governmental agencies or regulators.

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- Review and, as required by Nasdaq, approve all related-party transactions.
- Establish and review whistleblower procedures.

### D. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter at least annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board of Directors for approval.
- Conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee.
- Report periodically to the Board of Directors, which report may include issues that arise with respect to (a) the quality and integrity of the Company's financial statements, (b) the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, (c) the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditors or (d) the performance of the internal audit function.
- As appropriate, obtain advice and assistance from independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Committee shall approve the fees paid by the Company to any independent advisor retained by the Committee.

### MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors and shall be composed solely of a minimum of 3 independent non-employee directors who are independent as defined in, and to the extent required by, the applicable rules of Nasdaq, the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission. The Board of Directors shall affirmatively conclude that the members of the Committee are independent, as required. Each member of the Committee shall be able to read and understand financial statements at the time of their appointment. At least one member of the Committee shall have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. The Board of Directors shall determine whether the Committee has an audit committee financial expert as defined by the Commission. The Chairman of the Committee shall be selected from among the

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Committee members by the Board of Directors.

MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet quarterly, and at such additional times as deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Committee, any two members of the Committee, or the Chief Executive Officer. A quorum for the transaction of any business by the Committee shall be a majority of the members of the Committee. The act of a majority of the directors serving at any meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee. All meetings of the Committee will be held pursuant to the Bylaws of the Company with regard to notice and waiver thereof, and written minutes of each meeting will be duly filed in the Company records. Reports of meetings of the Committee shall be made to the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting, following the Committee meeting accompanied by any recommendations to the Board of Directors approved by the Committee.

AUTHORITY

The Committee is authorized to confer with Company management and other employees to the extent it may deem necessary or appropriate to fulfill its duties and discharge its responsibilities. The Committee has the authority to investigate any matters brought to its attention, within the scope of its duties, with full access to all Company books, records, facilities, personnel and independent auditors, along with the power to retain, at the Company's expense, such independent counsel, auditors or other experts as the Committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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THE ENSTAR GROUP, INC.

PROXY SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS ON MAY 21, 2004

The undersigned hereby appoints Nimrod T. Frazer and Cheryl D. Davis, and each of them, proxies, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for and in the name of the undersigned, to vote all shares of Common Stock of The Enstar Group, Inc. (the "Company") which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Friday, May 21, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Montgomery Civic Center at 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, or at any adjournment thereof, upon the matters described in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and upon any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Said proxies are directed to vote on the matters described in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement as follows, and otherwise in their discretion upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" PROPOSAL 1 AND "FOR" PROPOSAL 2.

- (1) To elect three (3) directors to three-year terms expiring at the 2007 annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified:

[ ] FOR all nominees

[ ]

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY for all nominees

[ ]

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(INSTRUCTIONS: TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE(S), MARK "FOR ALL EXCEPT" AND FILL IN THE CIRCLE NEXT TO EACH NOMINEE YOU WISH TO WITHHOLD, AS SHOWN HERE: (\_\_\_)

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(2) To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors of the Company to serve for 2004.

[ ] FOR                    [ ] AGAINST                    [ ] ABSTAIN

(Continued, and to be signed, on the other side)

(Continued from other side)

THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS INDICATED, BUT IF NO DIRECTION IS INDICATED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED "FOR" PROPOSALS 1 AND 2.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

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Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this proxy. For more than one owner as shown above, each should sign. When signing in a fiduciary or representative capacity, please give full title. If this proxy is submitted by a corporation, it should be executed in the full corporate name by a duly authorized officer; if a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

Please complete, date and sign this proxy and return it promptly in the enclosed envelope, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting. If you attend the annual meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even if you have previously returned your proxy.