

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC
Form DEF 14A
January 03, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only** (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transactions applies: N/A

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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: N/A

(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): N/A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: N/A

(5) Total fee paid: None

.. 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: N/A

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

(3) Filing Party: N/A

(4) Date Filed: N/A

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

15835 Park Ten Place Drive

Houston, Texas 77084

January 7, 2013

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to join us for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 10:00 A.M., Houston Time, at the principal executive offices of Atwood Oceanics, Inc., 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084.

The materials following this letter include the formal Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and the proxy statement. The proxy statement describes the business to be conducted at the meeting, which includes the election of seven members of our Board of Directors to serve one-year terms, an advisory, non-binding resolution to approve our executive compensation for fiscal year 2012, the approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the approval of the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation which, among other things, removes the requirement that our Board of Directors be fixed at seven members, and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year. At the Annual Meeting, we will also report on industry matters of current interest to our shareholders, and you will have an opportunity to ask questions following the completion of business.

It is important that your shares be represented. Regardless of whether you plan to attend the meeting in person, please take a moment now to vote your proxy over the Internet, by telephone, or, if printed proxy materials are mailed to you, by completing and signing the form of proxy and promptly returning it in the envelope provided. The Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders on the following page includes instructions on how to vote your shares.

The officers and directors of Atwood Oceanics, Inc. appreciate and encourage shareholder participation. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Saltiel

President and Chief Executive Officer

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.
15835 PARK TEN PLACE DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77084

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

DATE Thursday, February 14, 2013

TIME 10:00 A.M., Houston Time

PLACE 15835 Park Ten Place Drive
Houston, Texas 77084

- ITEMS OF BUSINESS
1. To elect the seven members of our Board of Directors specified in the accompanying proxy statement to serve one-year terms.
 2. To approve, by a shareholder non-binding advisory vote, the compensation of our named executive officers.
 3. To approve our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan.
 4. To approve the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation which, among other things, removes the requirement that our Board of Directors be fixed at seven members.
 5. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent auditors for fiscal year 2013.
 6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

RECORD DATE You may vote, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting if you were a holder of record of our common stock at the close of business on December 18, 2012.

VOTING BY PROXY In order to avoid additional soliciting expense to us, please vote your proxy as soon as possible, even if you plan to attend the meeting. Shareholders of record can vote by one of the following methods:

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1. Call 1-800-690-6903 to vote by telephone;
2. Go to *www.proxyvote.com* to vote over the Internet; or
3. MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If you are voting by telephone or the Internet, please do not mail your proxy card.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIAL FOR THE
SHAREHOLDERS MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2013.**

A COPY OF THE PROXY STATEMENT, A FORM OF PROXY, AND THE ATWOOD
OCEANICS, INC. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS ARE

AVAILABLE AT *www.proxyvote.com*.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Walter A. Baker

Corporate Secretary

January 7, 2013

2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

ATWOOD OCEANICS, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement relates to the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Atwood Oceanics, Inc. for use at the 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on February 14, 2013 at 10:00 A.M., Houston Time, at our principal executive offices, 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas, 77084 and at any and all adjournments or postponements thereof. This proxy statement contains information about the items being voted on at the Annual Meeting. Please read it carefully.

This proxy statement, a form of proxy and voting instructions are expected to be mailed on or about January 7, 2013. Our 2012 Annual Report to Shareholders, including consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2012, is expected to be mailed at the same time. The Annual Report is not to be considered as a part of the proxy solicitation material or as having been incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

Our principal executive office is located at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, our telephone number is (281) 749-7800 and our website address is www.atwd.com. Information contained on our website, including information referred to in this proxy statement, is not to be considered as part of the proxy solicitation material and is not incorporated by reference into this proxy statement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING

Who is entitled to vote?

Only holders of record of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, on December 18, 2012 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of the record date, there were 65,630,331 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on all matters, except the election of directors. In the election of directors, a shareholder may exercise his right to cumulate votes as detailed under "What are the requirements to elect the directors and approve each of the proposals?" below. No other class of securities will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

A complete list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be open to the examination of any shareholder for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting for a period of 10 days prior to the meeting at the Company's principal executive offices set forth above during usual business hours. Such list shall also be open to the examination of any shareholder present at the meeting.

Who is soliciting my proxy to vote my shares?

Our Board of Directors is soliciting your proxy, or your authorization for our representatives to vote your shares. Your proxy will be effective for the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements thereof.

What are the Board of Directors' voting recommendations regarding the election of directors and proposals?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote as follows:

	Proposal to be Voted Upon	Recommendation
Proposal No. 1	Election of seven nominees to the Board of Directors	<i>FOR</i> Each Nominee
Proposal No. 2	Advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 3	Approval of the Company's 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 4	Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Formation	<i>FOR</i>
Proposal No. 5	Ratification of the Company's independent auditors	<i>FOR</i>

What constitutes a quorum?

For business to be conducted at the meeting, a quorum constituting a majority of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote must be in attendance or represented by proxy. Abstentions and broker non-votes (defined below) will be considered as present for quorum purposes.

How do I vote?

Shareholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting may vote in person or by proxy. Proxies may be submitted over the Internet, by telephone or by mail. Proxies submitted over the Internet or by telephone must be received by 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time, on Wednesday, February 13, 2013. Submitting a proxy authorizes the persons appointed as proxies to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting in the manner that you have indicated. The persons named in the form of proxy (Mark L. Mey and Walter A. Baker) have advised that they will vote all shares represented by proxy unless authority to so vote is withheld by the shareholder granting the proxy. In the election of directors, such persons will have the discretion to cumulate the votes of the shares represented by proxy, although the exercise of such discretion is not expected. If your proxy does not indicate your vote, the persons named in the proxy will vote your shares *FOR* the Board's director nominees, *FOR* approval of the advisory resolution regarding executive compensation, *FOR* approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, *FOR* the approval of the amendment and restatement to our Certificate of Formation, and *FOR* the ratification of the appointment of our independent auditors. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, your shares will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the persons named in the proxy.

Can I change my vote?

A proxy may be revoked by a shareholder at any time before it is voted by giving notice of the revocation in writing to the Company's Corporate Secretary at 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084, by submitting another valid proxy by mail, telephone or over the Internet that is later dated and, if mailed, is properly signed, or by voting in person at the meeting.

What are the requirements to elect the directors and approve each of the proposals?

The election of directors at the Annual Meeting requires the vote of holders of a plurality of the shares represented in person or by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not affect the election outcome.

Each share of common stock entitles its owner to one vote except with respect to the election of directors. With respect to the election of directors, each shareholder has the right to vote in person or by proxy the number of shares registered in his name for as many persons as there are directors to be elected, or to cumulate such votes and give one candidate as many votes as shall equal the number of directors to be elected multiplied by the number of his shares, or to distribute the votes so cumulated among as many candidates as he may desire. In the event of cumulative voting, the candidates for directors receiving the highest number of votes, up to the number of directors to be elected, shall be elected.

If a shareholder desires to exercise his right to cumulate votes for directors, the laws of the State of Texas, the state in which we are incorporated, require the shareholder to give our Corporate Secretary written notice of such intention on or before the day preceding the meeting. Such notice should be sent to: Atwood Oceanics, Inc., P. O. Box 218350, Houston, Texas 77218, Attn: Corporate Secretary. If any shareholder gives such notice, all shareholders have the right to use cumulative voting at the meeting. The persons named in the form of proxy (Mark L. Mey and Walter A. Baker) are not expected to exercise the right to cumulate votes for the election of the directors named elsewhere in this proxy statement, although such persons shall have discretionary authority to do so.

The advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation and the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors each require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote, and who voted for or against the proposal, at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of these proposals.

The approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote, and who voted for or against the proposal, at a meeting at which a quorum is present; provided that the total votes cast on the proposal represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the approval of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, except that abstentions will count as a vote cast with respect to the requirement that total votes cast represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote.

Approval of the amendment and restatement of the Company's Certificate of Formation will require the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote *AGAINST* the approval of the amendment and restatement.

If my shares are held in a street name by my broker, will my broker vote my shares for me?

Brokers holding shares must vote according to specific instructions they receive from the beneficial owners of those shares. If brokers do not receive specific instructions, brokers may in some cases vote the shares in their discretion. Under New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules, the proposal to ratify the appointment of independent auditors is considered a discretionary item. This means that brokerage firms may vote in their discretion on this matter on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions at least 10 days before the date of the meeting. In contrast, the election of directors, the advisory vote on executive compensation, the approval of the 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, and the approval of the amendment and restatement of our Certificate of Formation are non-discretionary items. This means brokerage firms that have not received voting instructions from their clients on these proposals may not vote on them. These so-called broker non-votes will be considered to be present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum.

What happens if I am a registered holder?

If your shares are registered directly in your name, you are the holder of record of such shares. As the holder of record, you have the right to give your proxy directly to us, to give your voting instructions by telephone or over the Internet or to vote in person by ballot at the meeting.

What happens if I abstain or withhold my vote on any proposal?

Abstentions are counted as present in determining whether the quorum requirement is satisfied. With respect to the director elections, the advisory vote on our executive compensation and the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors, abstentions will have no effect on the outcome. Abstentions will have no effect on the

outcome of our 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, except that they will count as a vote cast with respect to the requirement that total votes cast represent a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote *AGAINST* the approval of the amendment and restatement.

Does Atwood offer electronic delivery of proxy materials?

Yes. We are making this proxy statement, the form of proxy and our 2012 Annual Report available to shareholders electronically via the Internet on *www.proxyvote.com*. On or about January 7, 2013, we began mailing to our shareholders proxy materials and a Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders containing instructions on how to access this proxy statement and our Annual Report and how to vote by telephone or online. The notice is not a form for voting.

What is householding ?

Securities and Exchange Commission rules allow us to deliver a single copy of our Annual Report and proxy statement to any household not participating in electronic proxy material delivery at which two or more shareholders reside, if we believe the shareholders are members of the same family. This rule benefits both you and the Company. We believe it eliminates duplicate mailings to shareholders living at the same address and reduces our printing and mailing costs. This rule applies to any Annual Report or proxy statement. Each shareholder will continue to receive a separate proxy card or voting instruction card.

Your household may have received a single set of proxy materials this year. If you prefer to receive your own copy, or if you have received multiple copies and prefer a single set, please make your request by calling 1-800-690-6903, using the website *www.proxyvote.com*, by e-mail at *sendmaterial@proxyvote.com*, or in writing to Atwood Oceanics, Inc., c/o Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 17 Battery Place, New York, New York 10004.

If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, you may continue to receive some duplicate mailings. Certain brokers will eliminate duplicate account mailings by allowing shareholders to consent to such elimination or through implied consent if a shareholder does not request continuation of duplicate mailings. Since not all brokers and nominees may offer shareholders the opportunity this year to eliminate duplicate mailings, you may need to contact your broker or nominee directly to discontinue duplicate mailings to your household.

What if I plan to attend the Annual Meeting?

Attendance at the Annual Meeting will be limited to shareholders as of the record date, December 18, 2012. Each shareholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Shareholders holding common stock in brokerage accounts or by a bank or other nominee will be required to show a brokerage statement or account statement reflecting stock ownership as of the record date. Cameras, recording devices and certain other electronic devices will not be permitted at the Annual Meeting.

How are proxies being solicited?

We are soliciting the proxies and will bear the entire cost of this solicitation. It is expected that the solicitation will be primarily by mail, telephone and facsimile. We have arranged for Okapi Partners, LLC, 437 Madison Ave., 28th Floor, New York, New York 10022, to solicit proxies on our behalf for a fee of \$8,500 plus out-of-pocket expenses. Proxies may also be solicited personally by our directors, officers and other employees in the ordinary course of business. No additional compensation for soliciting proxies will be paid to our directors, officers or other regular employees for their proxy solicitation efforts. We will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their out-of-pocket expenses in sending these materials to you.

What do I do if I receive more than one notice or proxy card?

If you hold your shares in more than one account, you will receive a notice or proxy card for each account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, please sign, date and return all proxy cards or use each proxy card or notice to vote by telephone or Internet. Please be sure to vote all of your shares.

Will there be any other business conducted at the Annual Meeting?

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters that are to be presented for action at the meeting. However, if any other matters properly come before the meeting, your shares will be voted in accordance with the discretion of the appointed proxies.

Who is the Transfer Agent?

Our Transfer Agent is Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company. All communications concerning shareholders of record accounts, including address changes, name changes, common stock transfer requirements, and similar issues can be handled by contacting Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company by phone at 212-509-4000, ext. 206, via email at cstmail@continentalstock.com, or in writing at 17 Battery Place, New York, New York 10004.

PROPOSAL NO. 1**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At our Annual Meeting of Shareholders, seven directors are to be elected for terms of one year each. All seven director nominees are currently serving as directors and are standing for re-election.

Nominees	Present Position	Served as a Director	Age
	with the Company	Continuously Since	
Deborah A. Beck	Director	February 2003	65
George S. Dotson	Director	February 1988	72
Jack E. Golden	Director	September 2009	64
Hans Helmerich	Director	February 1989	54
James R. Montague	Director	June 2006	65
Robert J. Saltiel	Director; President and Chief Executive Officer	February 2010	49
Phil D. Wedemeyer	Director	October 2011	63

The nominees have agreed to be named in this proxy statement and have indicated a readiness to continue to serve if elected. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors has determined that each of the nominees qualifies for election under its criteria for the evaluation of directors and has recommended that each of the candidates be nominated for election. If any nominee becomes unable to serve before the Annual Meeting, shares represented by proxy may be voted for a substitute designated by the Board, unless a contrary instruction is indicated on the proxy. The Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will become unavailable. As detailed under Corporate Governance Director Independence below, the Board has affirmatively determined that each of the nominees, other than Mr. Saltiel, qualifies as independent as that term is defined under the rules of the NYSE and the SEC.

Information about Nominees

Deborah A. Beck has served on the Board of Directors since February 2003. Ms. Beck served as Executive Vice President Planning and Technology and a member of the Management Committee of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company from 2000 until her retirement in 2006. Ms. Beck joined Northwestern Mutual in 1975 and during her tenure served in various executive capacities, including Senior Vice President-Insurance Operations, Vice President New Business, and Vice-President of Policy Benefits and Assistant General Counsel. Northwestern Mutual is a leading direct provider of individual life insurance and offers insurance products, investment products and advisory services. Ms. Beck also serves as a director of West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, a private property and casualty insurance company.

George S. Dotson has served on the Board of Directors since February 1988. Mr. Dotson served as an advisor to Helmerich & Payne, Inc. from March 2006 to March 2009 and was a Director from March 1989 to March 2007. He served as Vice President Drilling of Helmerich & Payne, Inc. and President of Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. from 1977 until his retirement in 2006. Helmerich & Payne, Inc. is a publicly-traded energy-oriented company primarily engaged in contract drilling of oil and gas wells both in the United States and internationally. Mr. Dotson also serves as a director of EdgeMarc Energy Holdings, LLC, a privately-held oil and gas exploration and production company.

Jack E. Golden has served on the Board of Directors since September 2009. Dr. Golden is managing partner of Edgewater Energy LLC, a Texas based oil and gas company. Previously, Dr. Golden was employed by BP p.l.c. from 1982 through his retirement in 2005, where he served in various executive capacities including Group Vice President Exploration and Production. As Group Vice President Exploration and Production, he directed significant portions of BP's global exploration and production operations. Dr. Golden also serves as a director of Cobalt International Energy, Inc., a publicly-traded independent exploration and production company.

Hans Helmerich has served on the Board of Directors since February 1989. Since March 2012, Mr. Helmerich has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a director, of Helmerich & Payne, Inc., a publicly-traded energy-oriented company primarily engaged in contract drilling of oil and gas wells both in the United States and internationally, previous to which he served as President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a director, for over 20 years. Mr. Helmerich also serves as a director of Cimarex Energy Co., a publicly-traded energy exploration and production company, and as a trustee of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.

James R. Montague has served on the Board of Directors since June 2006. Mr. Montague served as President of Encana Gulf of Mexico, Inc., a subsidiary of Encana Corporation which is involved in oil and gas exploration and production, from December 2001 to until his retirement in October 2002. Previously, Mr. Montague served as President of two subsidiaries of International Paper Company, IP Petroleum Company, an oil and gas exploration and production company, and GCO Minerals Company, which manages International Paper Company's mineral holdings from 1996 to June 2001. Mr. Montague also serves as a director of Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded limited partnership engaged in the transportation, storage and distribution of refined petroleum products, and serves as the non-executive Chairman of the Board of Davis Petroleum Company, a private company. Mr. Montague was a director of PVR Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded limited partnership which owns and manages coal and natural resource properties and related assets and owns and operates midstream natural gas gathering and processing businesses, from August 2001 until September 2012.

Robert J. Saltiel has served as the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer since December 2009 and was first elected to the Board of Directors in February 2010. Mr. Saltiel has more than 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, having served in a variety of leadership roles focused on general management, operations, marketing and strategic planning. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Saltiel was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Transocean Ltd. and from July 2003 to December 2009 served in various other executive roles at Transocean Ltd., including Executive Vice President, Performance and Senior Vice President of Transocean's North and South America Unit, which covered the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Canada, Trinidad and Brazil.

Phil D. Wedemeyer has served on the Board of Directors since October 2011. In July 2011, Mr. Wedemeyer retired as a partner from Grant Thornton LLP, an international accounting firm, where he had served since August 2007. From May 2003 to July 2007, Mr. Wedemeyer served in various capacities with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), including serving as the Director, Office of Research and Analysis, from August 2005 to July 2007 and Deputy Director, Division of Registration and Inspection, from March 2004 to August 2005. Prior to his service with the PCAOB, Mr. Wedemeyer spent more than 31 years at Arthur Andersen SC, an international accounting firm, including 21 years as a partner. Mr. Wedemeyer serves as a director of HMS Income Fund Inc., a public business development corporation, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

If a quorum is present at the Annual Meeting, the seven nominees receiving the greatest number of votes cast will be elected as directors.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR election as directors of the persons nominated herein.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

General

The Board has established corporate governance practices to assist in the exercise of its responsibilities under applicable law and the listing standards of the NYSE and to govern the employees of the Company. These governance practices are contained in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, committee charters and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. We have instituted mandatory sign-off and training for employees on our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and other relevant compliance topics, including our Anti-Bribery Compliance Program.

The non-management directors of our Board meet regularly in executive session at each regularly scheduled Board meeting without management participation. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that non-management directors will meet in executive session at least twice annually. Currently, the director who presides at these meetings is the Chairman of the Board. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that, if the Chairman ceases to be independent, then the presiding director will be chosen by a vote of the non-management directors or independent directors, as the case may be.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors evaluates the Company's and our Board of Directors governance practices and formally reviews all committee charters along with recommendations from the various committees of the Board of Directors at least annually. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors also receives updates as necessary regarding new developments in the corporate governance arena. In addition, our committee charters require, among other things, that the committees and the Board of Directors annually evaluate their own performance. Our current Corporate Governance Guidelines, committee charters, and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics may be found on our website at www.atwd.com under Investor Information Corporate Governance. Information contained on our website, including information referred to in this proxy statement, is not to be considered as part of this proxy statement and is not incorporated into this proxy statement. We will continue to monitor our governance practices in order to maintain our high standards.

Board Leadership

The Board of Directors has chosen not to combine the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, and currently, Mr. George S. Dotson serves as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Dotson presides over the Board of Directors as it provides advice to and independent oversight of management, allowing our Chief Executive Officer to focus on strategic decisions, as well as have primary responsibility for managing our business. The Board of Directors believes that having separate positions is the appropriate leadership structure for us at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance.

Codes of Ethics

Included with our Corporate Governance Guidelines detailed on our website, www.atwd.com, and available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy, are our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, currently Mr. Saltiel and Mr. Mey, respectively. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirement regarding any changes in these codes of ethics we have adopted and/or any waiver therefrom by posting such information on our website or by filing a Form 8-K for such events.

Related Party Transaction Policy

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy whereby all transactions with related parties must be made in compliance with the Board's policy on related party transactions. Such transactions must be recommended by management and must be on terms no less favorable to us than could be obtained from unrelated third parties. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all related party transactions. No transactions requiring approval occurred during fiscal year 2012.

Risk Management

Our Board of Directors has oversight responsibility of the processes established to report and monitor material risks applicable to us. Our Audit Committee assists our Board of Directors in oversight of the integrity of the Company's financial statements, our compliance with standards of business ethics and legal and regulatory requirements and various matters relating to our publicly available financial information and our internal and independent auditors. Certain risks associated with the performance of our executive management fall within the authority of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which is responsible for evaluating potential conflicts of interest and independence of directors and Board of Directors candidates, monitoring and developing corporate governance principles and overseeing the process by which our Board of Directors, our Chief Executive Officer and our executive management are evaluated. Risks associated with retaining executive management fall within the scope of the authority of our Compensation and Human Resources Committee (the Compensation Committee), which assists our Board of Directors in reviewing and administering compensation, benefits, incentive and equity-based compensation plans. To assist in satisfying these responsibilities, the Compensation Committee has retained its own compensation consultant and meets regularly with management to understand the financial, human resources and shareholder implications of compensation decisions being made. Responsibility for risk oversight that does not fall within the scope of authority of our four standing committees of the Board of Directors rests with our entire Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors also has the responsibility for monitoring and assessing any potential material risks identified by its committees, or otherwise ensuring management is monitoring and assessing, and, to the extent appropriate, mitigating such risks. Risks falling within this area include, but are not limited to, general business and industry risks, operating risks, financial risks and compliance risks.

The Board of Directors has delegated to management the responsibility to manage risk and bring to the attention of the Board of Directors the most material risks to our Company. We have not assigned the responsibility for all risk management to a single risk management officer within our executive management. Rather, we rely on a management committee to administer an enterprise risk management (ERM) program that is designed to ensure that all significant risks to the Company, on a consolidated basis, are being managed and monitored appropriately. Our Internal Audit Department oversees an annual enterprise risk assessment (ERA). The ERA is designed to identify the portfolio of the Company's business risks, to individually evaluate their potential magnitude and likelihood of occurrence, and to identify existing and potential future mitigation strategies. The ERM program assesses the most significant risks from the ERA, identifies other operational, commercial, macroeconomic and geopolitical risks facing the Company, monitors key indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Company's risk management activities, and manages risks to be within the Company's desired risk profile. Meetings are held at least quarterly to discuss risk mitigation efforts to manage identified risks. The management team present in the risk management meetings includes our President and Chief Executive Officer, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and the other members of our management team charged with evaluating the Company's disclosure controls. Meetings are facilitated by our Internal Audit Department head. Our Board of Directors monitors ERM and other risk management information provided to it to assess the Company's risk management practices and systems in light of the risk philosophy and risk tolerance of the Board. The ERM results are reported to the Board of Directors each quarter to assist in its oversight of risk management.

Process for Communication by Interested Parties with the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has established a process whereby interested parties may communicate with the Board of Directors and/or with any individual director. Interested parties, including shareholders, may send communications in writing, addressed to the Board of Directors or an individual director, c/o the Corporate Secretary, Atwood Oceanics, Inc., 15835 Park Ten Place Drive, Houston, Texas 77084. The Corporate Secretary will forward these communications as appropriate to the addressee depending on the facts and circumstances outlined in the communication. The Board of Directors has directed the Corporate Secretary not to forward certain items such as spam, junk mailings, product inquiries, resumes and other forms of job inquiries, surveys

and business solicitations. Additionally, the Board of Directors has advised the Corporate Secretary not to forward material that is illegal or threatening, but to make the Board of Directors aware of such material which it may request be forwarded, retained or destroyed at the Board of Directors' discretion. The interested party may alternatively submit such communications through the MySafeWorkplace system. The MySafeWorkplace system can be contacted via telephone at 1-800-461-9330 or on the internet at www.MySafeWorkplace.com. The interested party should click "Go" on "Make A Report", choose Atwood Oceanics Management, Inc. as the organization, and then select "Communicate with Non-Management Directors" as the Incident Type. The communication process is also further detailed on our website, www.atwd.com, along with other of our corporate governance guidelines, and is available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy.

Director Independence

Our Board of Directors has determined that all six of the current non-management directors of the Company (Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Helmerich, Montague and Wedemeyer) qualify as independent under the corporate governance rules of the NYSE and that each member of the Audit Committee qualifies as independent under Rule 10A-3 of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). Each of the six non-management directors of the Company are also non-employee directors as defined under Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act and outside directors as defined in section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code). The Board of Directors has not established separate independence requirements beyond those of the NYSE, Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act or the Code.

In determining the independence of Messrs. Helmerich and Dotson, the Board of Directors specifically considered the relationship of Helmerich & Payne, Inc. (H&P) and Helmerich & Payne International Drilling Co. (H&PIDC) to the Company. As of December 31, 2012, H&PIDC owned 8,000,000 shares of common stock, or approximately 12.19% of the issued and outstanding shares. H&P is the parent of H&PIDC. The Board determined that neither H&P nor H&PIDC are affiliates of the Company. In determining the independence of Mr. Wedemeyer in light of the expectation that he will be contracting to provide independent advice to Deloitte & Touche LLP in fiscal year 2013, the Board of Directors considered his service to and relationship with Deloitte & Touche LLP. In fiscal year 2012, we paid Deloitte & Touche LLP \$1,293,967 for tax and other non-audit services, which the Company believes reflects market rates for services rendered. The Board determined that the utilization of Deloitte & Touche LLP for tax and other non-audit services did not affect the determination of Mr. Wedemeyer's independence.

In addition, we have made no contributions to any tax exempt organization in which any independent director serves as an executive officer.

Specific Experience, Qualifications and Skills of the Members of Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of highly qualified individuals with unique and special skills that assist in effective management of the Company for the benefit of our shareholders. Each of our directors possesses certain experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, as further described below, that led to our conclusion that he or she should serve as a member of our Board of Directors. In addition to the biographical information with respect to each of our directors under the heading *Proposal No.1 Election of Directors Information about Nominees*, the following table shows additional experience and qualifications of our individual directors:

<i>Directors</i>	<i>Specific Qualifications and Skills</i>
Deborah A. Beck	<p>Over 30 years of executive experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including on audit and compensation committees</p> <p>Leadership experience of complex organizations, including management responsibility for approximately 1,200 employees</p>
George S. Dotson	<p>Broad legal and compliance experience</p> <p>Over 30 years of public company contract drilling industry experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including publicly-traded companies</p> <p>International oil and gas drilling experience</p> <p>Leadership experience of complex organizations and operations of a major corporation</p>
Jack E. Golden	<p>Finance experience</p> <p>Over 20 years of public company oil and gas exploration and production company management experience</p> <p>Service on other boards, including a publicly-traded independent exploration and production company board, and on compensation committees</p>
Hans Helmerich	<p>Over 20 years of executive experience with publicly-traded contract drilling company with international operations</p>

Service on other boards, including a publicly-traded contract drilling company and a publicly-traded exploration and production company

Extensive knowledge of leadership in complex organizations and other aspects of operating a major corporation

Experience as a chief executive officer of a publicly-traded company

James R. Montague

Service as chief executive officer of three subsidiary companies of two large publicly-traded companies

Service on other publicly-traded companies' boards, including service on audit and compensation committees

Extensive experience in the oil and gas exploration industry, including both onshore and offshore

Directors

Robert J. Saltiel

Specific Qualifications and Skills

Serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer

Over 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, with leadership roles focused on general management, operations, marketing and strategic planning

Over nine years of executive experience with publicly-traded offshore contract drilling companies with international operations

Phil D. Wedemeyer

More than 30 years of public accounting firm experience

Service with the PCAOB

Service on the Auditing Standards Board of the AICPA

In-depth knowledge of accounting rules and regulation, including expertise in SEC filings, and international audit standards.

Service on other publicly-traded company boards, including on audit and compliance committees

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD AND MEETINGS

The Board of Directors held six meetings in fiscal year 2012, of which two were telephonic meetings. Each director attended 100% of the total meetings of the Board and each director attended 100% of the total meetings of the committees on which such director served. Additionally, the non-management members of the Board of Directors met in executive session four times, each of which meetings was attended in person by each non-management director. The Company does not have a policy with regard to Board of Directors attendance at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Last year, one member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Saltiel, attended the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held on February 9, 2012.

The Board currently has, and appoints members to, four standing Committees: Audit, Compensation, Executive, and Nominating and Corporate Governance. The following chart shows the current committee membership and positions of each director:

Director	Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Executive Committee	Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee
Deborah A. Beck	X	X (Chair)		X
George S. Dotson	X	X	X (Chair)	X
Jack E. Golden	X	X		X
Hans Helmerich			X	X
James R. Montague	X	X		X (Chair)
Robert J. Saltiel			X	
Phil D. Wedemeyer +	X (Chair)	X		X

+ Audit Committee Financial Expert

Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Montague and Wedemeyer (Chair). The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Wedemeyer serves as the audit committee financial expert as that term is defined under the applicable federal securities laws and regulations. The Audit Committee reviews our accounting policies and audit procedures, and supervises internal accounting controls. The Audit Committee held nine meetings during fiscal year 2012, of which five were telephonic. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, a copy of which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee consists of Ms. Beck (Chair) and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Montague and Wedemeyer and is responsible for administration of our stock incentive plans and for the review and recommendation to the full Board of Directors of all compensation for our directors, officers and employees. During fiscal year 2012, there were seven meetings of the Compensation Committee, of which three were telephonic. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Compensation Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request. Pursuant to the charter, the Compensation Committee may delegate its authority to a subcommittee or subcommittees, provided that the subcommittee is composed entirely of independent directors and has a published charter.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of Messrs. Dotson (Chair), Helmerich and Saltiel and is responsible for review of major decisions and acts as delegated by the Board of Directors. During fiscal year 2012, there was one meeting of the Executive Committee. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Executive Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of Ms. Beck and Messrs. Dotson, Golden, Helmerich, Montague (Chair) and Wedemeyer and is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors in determining the appropriate size and composition of the Board of Directors, as well as in monitoring and making recommendations regarding the Board of Directors performance. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held two meetings during fiscal year 2012. Our Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee which is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, and is available in print to any shareholder upon request.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for, among other things, the selection and recommendation to the Board of Directors of nominees for election of directors. Working closely with the full Board, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee develops criteria for open Board positions, taking into account such factors as it deems appropriate, which may include the current composition of the Board, the range of talents and skills already represented on the Board, and the need for other particular expertise. Applying these criteria, the Committee considers candidates for Board membership suggested by its members as well as management and shareholders. From time to time, the Committee may retain third-party executive search firms to identify and review candidates. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider all director nominees recommended to it, including those recommended by third parties, and shareholders. Such nominations should be directed to any member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has no formal diversity policy, but thoughtfully considers the unique qualifications and skills of any candidate or nominee for the Board of Directors. A specific process for communication between shareholders and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is accessible on our website, www.atwd.com, under Investor Information Corporate Governance Contact the Atwood Oceanics, Inc. Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate all nominees, for the following:

personal qualities such as leadership, statesmanship and responsiveness;

general management qualities such as a global perspective on our business, short term results, strategic thinking and planning, knowledge of our business and preparedness;

financial expertise such as value creation, capital planning, and communications with the financial investment communities; and

qualities relating to the use of human resources such as developing management talent and creating an effective organization.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Effective after the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the Compensation Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the following compensation for our non-management directors, plus reimbursement of reasonable expenses:

	Annual Cash Retainer
Board	\$ 40,000
Chairman of the Board (additional retainer)	\$ 65,000
Audit Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 15,000
Compensation Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 10,000
Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair (additional retainer)	\$ 9,000

In addition, non-management directors receive a \$2,500 attendance fee for Board meetings attended in person and a \$1,000 attendance fee for telephonic meetings. Committee members receive a \$1,750 attendance fee for committee meetings attended in person and \$1,000 attendance fee for telephonic committee meetings. For fiscal year 2012, each director also received an annual grant of restricted stock under the Company's Amended

and Restated 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan (2007 Plan) with a grant date fair value of \$115,000. In addition, upon being first elected to the Board, outside directors receive a grant of restricted stock with a grant date fair value of \$115,000. Such restricted stock grants vest 13 months following the date of grant unless vesting is deferred to a longer period under the Company's Non-Employee Directors Deferred Compensation Plan (Director Deferred Plan). In August 2012, the Board approved an increase in the annual Board cash retainer to \$50,000 and an increase in grant date fair value of the annual and initial grants of restricted stock to \$150,000, effective after the 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in		Total (\$)
	Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(1)(2)	
Deborah Beck	63,250	115,000	178,250
George Dotson	106,250	115,000	221,250
Jack Golden	54,000	115,000	169,000
Hans Helmerich	48,250		