

ARTS WAY MANUFACTURING CO INC
Form DEF 14A
March 26, 2010

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

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

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Check the appropriate box:

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- Definitive Proxy Statement
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ART'S-WAY MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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ART'S-WAY MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

5556 Highway 9
Armstrong, Iowa, 50514-0288
Ph: (712) 864-3131

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010

To our Stockholders:

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders (the "2010 Annual Meeting") of Art's-Way Manufacturing Co., Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010, at the offices of the Company, located at 5556 Highway 9, Armstrong, Iowa, 50514-0288. Registration for the 2010 Annual Meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. Central Daylight Savings Time ("CDST"). The 2010 Annual Meeting will commence at approximately 10:00 a.m. CDST. The purposes of the 2010 Annual Meeting are to:

- (1) Elect seven (7) directors to our Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until such time as their successor are elected and qualified;
- (2) To consider and vote upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as independent public accountant of the Company for the 2010 fiscal year; and
- (3) To transact such other business as may properly come before the 2010 Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Any action may be taken on any one of the foregoing proposals at the 2010 Annual Meeting on the date specified above, or on any date or dates to which the 2010 Annual Meeting may be adjourned. The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the 2010 Annual Meeting. The foregoing proposals are described more fully in the enclosed proxy statement (the "Proxy Statement"). If you have any questions regarding the information contained in the Proxy Statement or regarding the completion of the enclosed proxy card or would like directions to the Annual Meeting, please call the Company at (712) 864-3131.

Only stockholders that were listed on the Company's records at the close of business on Friday, March 5, 2010, the record date set by the Board of Directors for the meeting, are entitled to notice of the 2010 Annual Meeting and to vote at the 2010 Annual Meeting and any adjournments thereof. The stock transfer books of the Company will not be closed.

All stockholders of record are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting in person. However, to assure the presence of a quorum, the Board of Directors requests that you promptly complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card, which is solicited by the Board of Directors, whether or not you plan to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting. The proxy is revocable and will not be used if you attend and vote at the 2010 Annual Meeting in person or otherwise provide notice of your revocation. Please mail your executed proxy card to the Company's stock transfer agent in the enclosed envelope.

By order of the Board of Directors,

J. Ward McConnell, Jr.
Executive Chairman of the Board and Director
Armstrong, Iowa
March 26, 2010

IMPORTANT: THE PROMPT RETURN OF PROXIES WILL SAVE THE COMPANY THE EXPENSE OF FURTHER REQUESTS FOR PROXIES IN ORDER TO INSURE A QUORUM. AN ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials
for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on April 30, 2010:
The Proxy Statement, Proxy Card, and Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at
<http://www.artsway-mfg.com/investor-relations/>

Proxy Statement
2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders
Thursday, April 29, 2010
10:00 a.m. CDST

This proxy statement (the “Proxy Statement”) is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Art’s-Way Manufacturing Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”), for use at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company to be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 (the “2010 Annual Meeting”), and at any adjournment thereof. The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held at the offices of the Company, located at 5556 Highway 9, Armstrong, Iowa, 50514-0288. Registration for the 2010 Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. Central Daylight Savings Time (“CDST”). The 2010 Annual Meeting will commence at approximately 10:00 a.m. CDST. This solicitation is being made by mail; however, the Company may also use its officers, directors, and employees (without providing them with additional compensation) to solicit proxies from stockholders in person or by telephone, facsimile or letter. Distribution of this Proxy Statement and the proxy card via U.S. Mail is scheduled to begin on or about March 26, 2010.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials
for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on April 30, 2010:
The Proxy Statement, Proxy Card, and Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at
<http://www.artsway-mfg.com/investor-relations/>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING

Q: Why did I receive this proxy statement?

A: The Company is soliciting your proxy vote at the 2010 Annual Meeting because you owned of record one or more shares of common stock of the Company at the close of business on Friday, March 5, 2010, the record date for the meeting, and are therefore entitled to vote at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Q: What is a proxy?

A: A proxy is your legal designation of another person or persons (the “proxy” or “proxies,” respectively) to vote on your behalf. By completing and returning the enclosed proxy card, you are giving J. Ward McConnell, Jr. and David R. Castle, the proxies, the authority to vote your shares of common stock at the 2010 Annual Meeting in the manner you indicate on your proxy card. If you do not give direction with respect to any nominee or other proposal, the proxies will vote your shares as recommended by the Board of Directors. The proxies are authorized to vote in their discretion if other matters are properly submitted at the 2010 Annual Meeting, or any adjournments thereof.

Q: When and where is the 2010 Annual Meeting?

A: The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010, at the offices of the Company, located at 5556 Highway 9, Armstrong, Iowa, 50514-0288. Registration for the meeting will begin at approximately 9:45 a.m. CDST. The 2010 Annual Meeting will commence at approximately 10:00 a.m. CDST.

Q: What am I voting on?

A: You are voting on the following matters:

- Proposal 1 — The election of the seven (7) directors named in the Proxy Statement;
 - Proposal 2 — The ratification of the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company's independent public accountant for the 2010 fiscal year.
-

Q: What does the Board recommend?

A: The Board recommends a vote:

- FOR the election of its seven director nominees (see Proposal 1);
 - FOR the ratification of the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company's independent public accountant for the 2010 fiscal year (see Proposal 2).
-

Q: How many votes do I have?

A: On any matter which may properly come before the 2010 Annual Meeting, each stockholder entitled to vote thereon will have one (1) vote for each share of common stock owned of record by such stockholder as of the close of business on Friday, March 5, 2010.

Q: How many shares of common stock may vote at the 2010 Annual Meeting?

A: At the close of business on Friday, March 5, 2010, there were 3,990,352 outstanding shares of common stock. This means that there may be 3,990,352 votes on any matter presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting. All references to shares and stock prices in this Proxy Statement have been adjusted to reflect our 2-for-1 stock split on July 9, 2008.

Q: What vote is required to approve each of the Proposals?

A: Proposal 1 – Election of Directors — With respect to the election of directors, the seven (7) nominees receiving the greatest number of votes relative to the votes cast for the other nominees will be elected, regardless of whether an individual nominee receives votes from a majority of the quorum of shares represented (in person or by proxy) at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Although directors are elected by plurality vote, the presence (in person or by proxy) of stockholders representing an aggregate of at least a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock is required to constitute a quorum for the election of directors.

Stockholders do not have cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors or any other matter, which means that stockholders will not be able to cast all of their votes for a single director nominee. The cumulative voting method would entitle a stockholder to multiply the number of shares owned of record by such stockholder by the number of director positions being voted upon and then cast a number of votes equal to such total for only one nominee. Instead, stockholders will only be able to cast one vote per share owned of record for each director nominee (up to seven nominees) at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Accordingly, a holder of 100 shares will only be able to cast 100 shares for each nominee (up to the number of directorships up for election) and will not instead be able to

cast 700 shares for a single nominee (or distribute votes in any other manner).

Proposal 2 – Ratification of the Appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company’s Registered Independent Public Accountant — Provided a quorum of at least a majority of the issued and outstanding stock is present (in person or by proxy), the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock represented at the 2010 Annual Meeting (whether in person or by proxy) will result in the stockholders’ ratification of the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company’s independent public accountant for the 2010 fiscal year.

Q: What constitutes a quorum?

A: Transaction of business may occur at the 2010 Annual Meeting if a quorum is present. The presence in person or by proxy of stockholders holding at least a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock is required to constitute a quorum. On Friday, March 5, 2010, the Company had 3,990,352 issued and outstanding shares of common stock and, therefore, the presence of 1,995,177 shares will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business on Proposal 1 and 2. If you submit a proxy or vote in person at the meeting, your shares will be counted in determining whether a quorum is present at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes and abstentions are also counted for the purpose of determining a quorum, as discussed below.

Q. What is the effect of abstentions and withhold votes?

A: You may either vote FOR or WITHHOLD authority to vote for each nominee for the Board of Directors. If you withhold authority to vote on any or all nominees, your vote will have no effect on the outcome of the election. You may vote FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN on the other proposals. If you abstain from voting on any of the other proposals, your shares will be deemed present but will not be deemed to have voted in favor of the proposal, and it therefore has the same effect as a vote against the proposal. If you just sign and submit your proxy card without voting instructions, your shares will be voted "FOR" each director nominee and other proposal.

Q: What is the effect of broker non-votes?

A: Shares that are held by stock brokers in "street name" may be voted by the stock broker on "routine" matters, such as ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm. To vote on "non-routine" matters, the stock broker must obtain stockholder direction. When the stock broker does not vote the shares, the stock broker's abstention is referred to as a "broker non-vote."

Pursuant to recent amendments to the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") rules, beginning this year brokers will not have discretion to vote shares on the election of directors. This NYSE rule governs all brokers. Consequently, this amendment affects all public companies that have shares held in "street name", not just NYSE-listed companies. Accordingly, if your shares are held in street name and you do not submit voting instructions to your broker, your shares will not be counted in determining the outcome of the election of the director nominees at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Broker non-votes will be considered present for quorum purposes at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes in connection with the election of directors are not deemed "votes cast," and, since directors are elected by a plurality, will have no effect on the election. For all other business matters, including ratification of our independent public accountant, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock present in person or by proxy at the 2010 Annual Meeting is required to pass the proposal. Broker non-votes will be counted as present and will not be counted as a vote in favor of non-routine matters, if any, and will therefore have the same effect as a vote against such matters at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Q: How do I vote my shares?

A: Shares of common stock can be voted only if the stockholder of record is present at the 2010 Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy. Stockholders of record may vote using either of the following methods:

- Proxy Card. The enclosed proxy card is a means by which a stockholder may authorize the voting of his, her, its or their shares of common stock at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The shares of common stock represented by each properly executed proxy card will be voted at the 2010 Annual Meeting in accordance with the stockholder's directions. The Company urges you to specify your choices by marking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed proxy card. After you have marked your choices, please sign and date the proxy card and mail the proxy card to the Company's stock transfer agent, American Stock Transfer and Trust Company, in the enclosed envelope. If you sign and return the proxy card without specifying your choices, your shares will be voted FOR the Board of Director's nominees for directors and FOR the ratification of the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company's independent public accountant for the 2010 fiscal year.
-

- In person at the 2010 Annual Meeting. All stockholders of record as of Friday, March 5, 2010 may vote in person at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

You are a “street name” holder rather than a “stockholder of record” if your shares are held in the name of a stock broker, bank, trust or other nominee as a custodian.

Q: Can I change my vote after I have mailed in my proxy card?

A: Proxies solicited by the Board of Directors may be revoked at any time prior to the 2010 Annual Meeting. No specific form of revocation is required. You may revoke your proxy by:

- Voting in person at the 2010 Annual Meeting;
- Returning a later-dated signed proxy card; or
- Giving personal or written notice of the revocation to the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Carrie Majeski, at the commencement of the 2010 Annual Meeting.

If your shares are held in “street name” through a broker or other nominee, you will need to contact that nominee if you wish to change your voting instructions.

Q: How will my shares be voted if I do not specify how they should be voted or if I vote for too few or too many choices on the proxy card?

A: If you are a record holder and do not mark any choices for the election of directors on the proxy card, then the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted FOR the nominees recommended for election by the Board of Directors. You may wish to vote for less than seven (7) director candidates. In such case, your shares will only be voted for the director candidate(s) you have selected. If you mark contradicting choices on the proxy card, such as both for and against a director candidate, your shares will not be voted with respect to the director candidate for which you marked contradicting choices.

If you are a record holder and do not mark a choice with respect to the approval of any proposal other than the election of directors, then the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted FOR the approval of such proposal. If you mark contradicting choices on your proxy card, such as a mark both for and against the approval of a proposal, then your shares will not be counted either for or against the proposal for which you have marked contradicting choices.

If you are a street name holder and do not submit specific voting instructions to your broker, the organization that holds your shares may generally vote your shares with respect to “routine” items, but not with respect to “non-routine” items. On non-routine items for which you do not submit specific voting instructions to your broker, the shares will be treated as “broker non-votes.” Broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present, but will not be considered shares entitled to vote on the proposal and will not be treated as affirmative or opposing votes. The proposal to ratify the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is considered routine and therefore may be voted upon by your broker if you do not give instructions to your broker. However, pursuant to recent amendments to the NYSE rules, beginning this year brokers will not have discretion to vote your shares on the election of directors. Accordingly, if your shares are held in street name and you do not submit voting instructions to your broker, your shares will not be counted in determining the outcome

of the election of director nominees at the annual meeting.

Q: Who can attend the 2010 Annual Meeting?

A: All stockholders of record as of the close of business on Friday, March 5, 2010, may attend the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Q: What is the record date for the 2010 Annual Meeting?

A: The Board of Directors has fixed Friday, March 5, 2010, as the record date.

Q: Who will count the votes?

A: All proxies submitted to the Company will be tabulated by our stock transfer agent, American Stock Transfer and Trust Company. All shares voted by stockholders of record present in person at the 2010 Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the Company's Director of Finance, Amber Murra.

Q: Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

A: The entire cost of this proxy solicitation will be borne by the Company. The cost will include the cost of supplying necessary additional copies of the solicitation materials for beneficial owners of shares held of record by brokers, dealers, banks and voting trustees and their nominees and, upon request, the reasonable expenses of such record holders for completing the mailing of such materials to such beneficial owners.

Q: How do I nominate a candidate for election as a director at next year's Annual Meeting?

A: Nominations for director are made by the Board of Directors. Stockholders may nominate a candidate for director for the 2011 Annual Meeting by following the procedures explained below in this Proxy Statement under "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - Selection of Director Nominees" and contained in the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Q: What is a stockholder proposal?

A: A stockholder proposal is your recommendation or requirement that the Company and/or the Board of Directors take action, which you intend to present at a meeting of the stockholders. Your proposal should state as clearly as possible the course of action that you believe the Company should follow. If your proposal is included in the Company's proxy statement, then the Company must also provide the means for stockholders to vote on the matter via the proxy card. The deadlines and procedures for submitting stockholder proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting are explained in the following question and answer. The Company reserves the right to reject, rule out of order, or take appropriate action with respect to any proposal that does not comply with these and other applicable requirements.

Q: When are stockholder proposals and director nominations due for the 2011 Annual Meeting?

A: In order to be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy statement, stockholder proposals, including director

nominations, must be submitted in writing to the Company no later than November 30, 2010 (approximately 120 days prior to the one year anniversary of the mailing of this Proxy Statement). The Company suggests that proposals for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested. The proposal must be in accordance with the provision of Rule 14a-8 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Exchange Act of 1934.

Stockholders who intend to present a proposal or director nomination at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders without including such proposal or nomination in the Company's proxy statement must provide the Company notice of such proposal no later than February 14, 2011 (approximately 45 days prior to the one year anniversary of the mailing of this proxy statement). The Company reserves the right to reject, rule out of order, or take appropriate action with respect to any proposal that does not comply with these and other applicable requirements.

If the Company does not receive notice of a stockholder proposal intended to be submitted to the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders by February 14, 2011, the persons named in this Proxy Statement and on the proxy card accompanying the notice of meeting may vote on any such proposal in their discretion.

PROPOSALS TO BE VOTED UPON

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is currently composed of seven directors. Seven directors will be elected at the 2010 Annual Meeting to hold office until the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders or until the successor of each shall be elected and qualified in accordance with the Company's Bylaws. All seven of the nominees named herein are presently serving as members of the Board of Directors. The Company has no reason to believe that any of the director nominees named below will be unable or unwilling to serve as director if elected. If for any reason any nominee withdraws or is unable to serve as director (neither of which is expected at this time), the shares represented by all valid proxies will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee recommended by the Board of Directors or the Board of Directors may reduce the size of the Board of Directors.

The seven nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes cast will be elected as directors. Except as otherwise directed on the proxy cards, the proxies will vote all valid proxies for the seven nominees identified below.

Nominees for Election as Directors at the 2010 Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has recommended the following persons as nominees for election as directors at the 2010 Annual Meeting:

Nominee Name	Age (as of Annual Meeting)	Year First Became a Director
J. Ward McConnell, Jr.	78	1996
Marc H. McConnell	31	2001
Thomas E. Buffamante	57	2003
David R. Castle	60	2000
Fred W. Krahmer	40	2006
James Lynch	64	2006
Douglas McClellan	59	1987

Certain biographical information relating to each of the director nominees is set forth below:

J. WARD McCONNELL, JR., Executive Chairman of the Board, Director, Age 78. Mr. McConnell has been a private investor for more than nine years. Mr. McConnell was a director from 1996 to 2001 and returned and has served since February 2002. Our Executive Vice Chairman and director, Marc H. McConnell, is the son of Mr. McConnell. Mr. McConnell has been the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors since 2001 and currently resides in Fort Myers, Florida. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. McConnell is uniquely qualified to serve as a director due to his extensive experience in the farm equipment manufacturing industry throughout his career.

MARC H. McCONNELL, Executive Vice Chairman of the Board, Director, Age 31. Mr. McConnell has served as President of Babcock Co., Inc., of Bath, New York since July 2001. He has also served as President of Bauer Corporation of Wooster, Ohio since 2004 and as a director of Mountain Aircraft Services of Kinston, North Carolina since 2003. He has served as a director of the American Ladder Institute since 2004 and was named president of the

American Ladder Institute in 2006. Mr. McConnell is also vice president of Adamson Global Technology Corporation, of Chester, Virginia, a manufacturer of steel tanks, heat exchangers, and pressure vessels, a position he has held since 2005. Mr. McConnell was also named a director of the Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association in October 2007. Mr. McConnell has served as director of West Town Savings Bank, located in Chicago, Illinois, since 2009. Mr. McConnell was appointed to Art's-Way Board of Directors in July 2001 and has served as Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors since January of 2008. He is the son of our Executive Chairman and director, J. Ward McConnell, Jr., and currently resides in Greenville, North Carolina. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. McConnell's involvement and experience in the farm equipment manufacturing industry, particularly in leadership positions with similarly situated companies, contribute to his ability to understand the challenges and opportunities facing the Company and to guide its long-term strategies.

THOMAS E. BUFFAMANTE, Director, Age 57. Mr. Buffamante is a Certified Public Accountant and Director of Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro, P.C., where he has been a director and shareholder of the firm since 1981. Mr. Buffamante has been a director since 2003 and currently resides in Great Valley, New York. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. Buffamante is qualified to serve as a director in light of his ability to understand generally accepted accounting principles, internal control over financial reporting, and disclosure controls and procedures, and his experience in analyzing and evaluating financial statements.

DAVID R. CASTLE, Director, Age 60. Mr. Castle is the retired Director of Operations Worldwide for Avery Weigh-Tronix. Mr. Castle serves as the Chairman of our Compensation and Stock Option Committee and Chairman of the Audit Committee. Mr. Castle has been a director since 2000 and currently resides in Ontario, Canada. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. Castle's experience as a Director of Operations of a manufacturing company allows him to make a valuable contribution to the oversight of the Company's operations, and enables him to identify and understand trends presented in the Company's financial statements and results of operations.

FRED W. KRAHMER, Director, Age 40. Mr. Krahmer has been a practicing attorney with Krahmer & Nielsen, PA, since 1997, specializing in agricultural, real estate and estate planning law. He is also active in managing his family's farming operations based in Martin County, Minnesota. Mr. Krahmer is a director of Profinium Financial, a banking institution based in southern Minnesota. He is also a member of our Compensation and Stock Option Committee and Audit Committee. Mr. Krahmer has been a director since 2006 and currently resides in Fairmont, Minnesota. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. Krahmer is uniquely qualified to serve as a director because his professional experience enables him to understand the laws, regulations and issues facing the agricultural industry, as well as to identify tax and other issues that may apply to the Company.

JAMES LYNCH, Director, Age 64. Mr. Lynch served as the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Rydell Chevrolet from 1989 through 1998. He was named President of Rydell Enterprises in 1999 and became Secretary-Treasurer of Rydell Development in 2001. He is an owner of automobile dealerships in the Midwest and West Coast. Mr. Lynch has been a director since 2006 and currently resides in Chatsworth, California. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. Lynch's leadership experience allows him to identify operations and management strategies that may benefit the Company.

DOUGLAS McCLELLAN, Director, Age 59. Mr. McClellan currently serves as President of Filtration Unlimited of Akron, New York, where he has held various positions for over six years. He is a member of our Compensation and Stock Option Committee and Audit Committee. Mr. McClellan has been a director since 1987 and currently resides in Clarence, New York. Among other attributes, skills, and qualifications, the Board believes that Mr. McClellan makes unique contributions as a director because he has experience leading a company that is focused on providing exceptional service to its customers and, like the Company, offers custom-manufactured products as necessary.

Required Vote and Board Recommendation

If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares of common stock present at the 2010 Annual Meeting, represented in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote on the matter is required to elect a nominee to the position of director. The seven nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected as directors.

THE BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT EACH NOMINEE IS QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A DIRECTOR AND RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF ITS NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS.

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF EIDE BAILLY LLP AS THE COMPANY'S
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT FIRM

The Board of Directors, acting on the recommendation of the Company's Audit Committee, has selected Eide Bailly LLP as the Company's registered independent public accountant for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2010 (the "2010 fiscal year"). Eide Bailly LLP has been the Company's registered independent public accountant since July 2006. The firm has advised the Company that it has no relationship to the Company except that of independent public accountant.

A representative of Eide Bailly LLP is expected to be present at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Such representative 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 regarding audit of the financial statements.

Audit Fees

The following table presents fees for professional services billed by Eide Bailly LLP to the Company for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements, the review of the Company's interim financial statements, and related services for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2009, and November 30, 2008.

Category	Fiscal Year		Fees
Audit Fees(1)	2009	\$	68,600
	2008		55,175
Audit-Related Fees(2)	2009	\$	25,570
	2008		36,130
Tax Fees(3)	2009	\$	15,095
	2008		8,200
All Other Fees	2009	\$	0
	2008		0

- (1) Audit fees represent fees billed for each of the last two fiscal years for professional services provided for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and review of the Company's quarterly financial statements in connection with the filing of current and periodic reports.
- (2) Audit-related fees represent fees billed for review of the Company's quarterly financial statements in connection with the filing of periodic reports.
- (3) Tax fees represent fees billed for each of the least two fiscal years for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning which included preparation of tax returns.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Prior to engagement of Eide Bailly LLP as the Company's principal registered independent public accountant to perform audit services for the Company, the principal accountant was pre-approved by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee pre-approves all auditing services and permitted non-audit services, including the fees and terms of those services, to be performed for the Company by its independent auditor prior to engagement. One hundred percent (100%) of the audit services, audit-related services and tax-related services referenced above were pre-approved by our Audit Committee.

Required Vote and Board Recommendation

If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the stockholders holding a majority of the shares of common stock represented at the 2010 Annual Meeting, whether in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote on the matter is required to ratify the selection of the independent public accountant.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF EIDE BAILLY LLP AS THE COMPANY'S REGISTERED INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our Board of Directors has seven members: Thomas E. Buffamante, David R. Castle, Fred W. Krahmer, James Lynch, Douglas McClellan, J. Ward McConnell, Jr. and Marc H. McConnell. All of our Directors are "independent" within the definition provided by NASDAQ Rule 5605, with the exception of J. Ward McConnell, Jr. and Marc H. McConnell. The Board has determined that J. Ward McConnell, Jr. is not independent due to his receipt of payments from the Company as compensation for services he has provided as Executive Chairman and the personal guarantees that he previously executed in connection with the Company's credit facilities with West Bank of West Des Moines, Iowa, which were terminated in 2007. The Board further determined that Marc H. McConnell is not independent due to his familial relationship with J. Ward McConnell, Jr. In addition, in determining independence, the Board considered that Art's-Way Vessels, Inc. has a pending sale of pressure vessels to an entity owned by J. Ward McConnell, Jr. and for which Marc H. McConnell is the president. See "Certain Transactions and Business Relationships."

The Board of Directors held four meetings during the 2009 fiscal year. Each director attended at least 75% of the total number of Board meetings held while the director served during the 2009 fiscal year and the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board of Directors on which the director served, if any, during the 2009 fiscal year. The Board of Directors encourages all directors to attend the Company's annual meetings, but does not have a formal attendance policy. The Company's last annual meeting of the stockholders held on April 30, 2009 was attended by all of our directors.

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee and a Compensation and Stock Option Committee. The Board of Directors as a whole functions as the Company's Nominating Committee.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

It is management's responsibility to manage risk and bring to the Board's attention the most material risks to the company. The Board of Directors has oversight responsibility of the processes established to report and monitor systems for material risks applicable to the company. The Audit Committee provides oversight of management with respect to enterprise-wide risk management, which focuses primarily on risks relating to commodity pricing (primarily steel), the Company's ability to maintain appropriate levels of credit and insurance coverage, and financial and accounting, legal and compliance risks, including oversight of inventory accounting and other internal controls over financial reporting. In addition, the Compensation and Stock Option Committee considers risks related to the attraction and retention of talent and risks relating to the design of compensation programs and arrangements. The Compensation and Stock Option Committee also reviews compensation and benefits plans affecting employees in addition to those applicable to the executive officer. We have determined that it is not reasonably likely that compensation and benefit plans would create risks that would have a material adverse effect on the Company. The full Board considers strategic risks and opportunities and regularly receives detailed reports from management and the committees, with respect to their areas of responsibility for risk oversight.

Board Leadership Structure

We separate the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman of the Board in recognition of the differences between the two roles. The CEO is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Company and the day to day leadership and performance of the Company, while J. Ward McConnell, Jr., as the Executive Chairman of the Board, provides guidance to the CEO and sets the agenda for Board meetings and presides over meetings of the full Board. In order to facilitate succession planning, the Board has designated Marc H. McConnell as Executive Vice Chairman.

Because the Board has determined that neither of our Executive Chairman and Executive Vice Chairman satisfy the definition of "independence" as set forth in NASDAQ Rule 5605, our Board of Directors has appointed Jim Lynch to serve as "presiding director" over all executive sessions of independent directors, as required under NASDAQ rules. The Board generally holds executive sessions four times a year.

Audit Committee

The principal functions of the Audit Committee are to evaluate and review the Company's financial reporting process and systems of internal controls. The Audit Committee evaluates the independence of the Company's independent auditor, recommends selection of the Company's independent auditor to the Board of Directors, approves fees to be paid to our independent auditor, and reviews the Company's financial statements with management and the independent auditor. The Audit Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors the appointment of Eide Bailly LLP to serve as the Company's independent auditor for the 2010 fiscal year.

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter approved and adopted by the Board of Directors, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 2 to the proxy statement for the 2008 Annual Meeting. Under the charter, the Audit Committee must be comprised of not less than three members of the Board of Directors and its composition must otherwise satisfy NASDAQ requirements applicable to audit committees. The Company's Audit Committee is comprised of David R. Castle, Douglas McClellan and Fred W. Krahmer, all of whom have been determined by the Board of Directors to be independent under the definition of "independence" provided by NASDAQ Rule 5605. The Board has determined that Mr. Castle is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by applicable SEC regulations. The Audit Committee held eleven meetings during the 2009 fiscal year.

Report of the Audit Committee

The following report of the Audit Committee shall not be deemed to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or incorporated by reference in any previous or future documents filed by the Company with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates the reference in any such document.

The Audit Committee reviews the Company’s financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process. The Company’s independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company’s financial statements and expressing an opinion on the conformity of the audited financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the Company’s audited financial statements as of and for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2009. The Audit Committee has discussed with Eide Bailly LLP, the Company’s independent auditor, the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T. The Audit Committee has received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with Eide Bailly LLP their independence from management and the Company. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of services by Eide Bailly LLP not related to the audit of the financial statements referred to above and to the reviews of the interim financial statements included in the Company’s Forms 10-Q are compatible with maintaining Eide Bailly LLP’s independence, and has determined that they are compatible and do not impact Eide Bailly LLP’s independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements referred to above should be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K accompanying this Proxy Statement and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2009.

Audit Committee

David R. Castle, Chairman
Fred W. Krahmer
Douglas McClellan

Compensation and Stock Option Committee

The members of the Compensation and Stock Option Committee are David R. Castle, Fred W. Krahmer and Douglas McClellan, all of whom are independent within the definition of “independence” provided by NASDAQ’s Corporate Governance Rule 5605. It does not operate under a charter. The Board has authorized the Compensation and Stock Option Committee to review and advise management on a broad range of compensation policies, such as salary ranges and incentive programs, for executive officers. It is also responsible for recommending to the Board of Directors the base salaries, salary increases and other benefits for executive officers. Additionally, the Compensation and Stock Option Committee administers the Company’s 2007 Employee Stock Option Plan and grants stock options pursuant to such plan. Neither the Compensation and Stock Option Committee nor the Board of Directors engages compensation consultants to assist in determining or recommending the amount or form of compensation for executive officers or directors. Because the Compensation and Stock Option Committee and the Board are comprised entirely of

non-employee directors, executive officers do not have any role in determining or recommending the amount or form of executive officer or director compensation. The Compensation and Stock Option Committee had one meetings during the 2009 fiscal year. The report of the Compensation and Stock Option Committee is contained below under "EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION."

Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors as a whole performs the functions of a Nominating Committee. Each of our directors has been determined by the Board of Directors to be independent under the definition of “independence” provided by NASDAQ’s Corporate Governance Rule 5605, with the exception of J. Ward McConnell, Jr. and Marc H. McConnell for the reasons identified above. Because the Board of Directors is comprised solely of persons who are not employees or officers of the Company and a majority of our directors are independent, the Board does not deem it necessary to have a separate Nominating Committee. In accordance with NASDAQ requirements, all seven of the director nominees for the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved by a majority of the independent directors. The Board of Directors met once during the 2009 fiscal year for the purpose of evaluating candidates for director nominees.

The principal purpose of the Board of Directors, acting as the Nominating Committee, is to identify and evaluate qualified individuals for membership on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors annually considers the size, composition and needs of the Board in evaluating director candidates and recommends director nominees for election at each annual meeting of stockholders. The Board operates pursuant to a written charter, which is posted to our website at www.artsway-mfg.com/investor-relations.

Selection of Director Nominees

In selecting nominees for directors, the Board of Directors, acting as the Company’s Nominating Committee, will consider all candidates submitted, including incumbent Board members, based upon the qualifications of the candidates, the business and financial experience of the candidates, the experience of the candidates serving on public company boards of directors, and other skills sets deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors to enact the mission and business purposes of the Company. Our Criteria and Policies for Director Nominations (the “Nominations Policies”), which were adopted by the Board of Directors, acting as the Company’s Nominating Committee, on July 28, 2009 and are attached as Annex A to the Nominating Committee Charter, specify that diversity is a factor in evaluating director nominees. The Nominations Policies do not restrict the criteria that the Board of Directors can consider when evaluating diversity. The Board of Directors typically considers diversity of experience, skills, geographic representation and background as factors in the selection of new director nominees, with the goal of assembling a board of directors with complementary skill sets and viewpoints. The Board has not adopted a standalone diversity policy at this time. Nominees are not discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis proscribed by law.

Currently, the Company does not engage any third parties, for a fee or otherwise, to identify or evaluate potential nominees. The Board of Directors will consider director candidates recommended by holders of the Company’s common stock on the same basis as any other candidate submitted for consideration as a nominee. No nominations for candidates were received from any holders of common stock for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

In order for a candidate to be considered for nomination by the Board of Directors, a stockholder must submit to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer of the Company a written recommendation that contains the following information:

- (1) the full name and address of the stockholder submitting the recommendation;
- (2) the number of shares of common stock of the Company owned by the stockholder submitting the recommendation;
- (3) the full name and address of the director candidate;
- (4) the age of the director candidate;
- (5) a five-year business history of the director candidate;
- (6) the amount of common stock of the Company owned by the director candidate;
- (7)

any family relationships between the director candidate and any executive officer or current director of the Company;

- (8) any business transactions between the director candidate or the candidate's business and the Company; and
- (9) a written consent of the director candidate to be named in the Company's proxy statement and to serve as a director if elected.

Additionally, any holder of common stock nominating a candidate is encouraged to set forth any other qualifications which he or she believes the candidate has to serve as director of the Company and the reasons why the holder believes the candidate should be elected to the Board of Directors of the Company. The Board of Directors may require the stockholder or nominee to furnish additional information to evaluate the nominee's suitability. In the event a stockholder does not comply with the nomination process described in this Proxy Statement, the proposed nomination may be declared defective and disregarded.

In order to be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy statement, stockholder proposals, including director nominations, must be submitted in writing to the Company no later than November 30, 2010 (approximately 120 days prior to the one year anniversary of the mailing of this Proxy Statement). Stockholders who intend to present a proposal or director nomination at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders without including such proposal or nomination in the Company's proxy statement must provide the Company notice of such proposal no later than February 12, 2010 (approximately 45 days prior to the one year anniversary of the mailing of this proxy statement).

SECURITY HOLDER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Any holder of common stock wishing to communicate with the Board of Directors about any matter involving the business or operations of the Company should send the communication, in written form, to the CEO of the Company at the Company's principal place of business at 5556 Highway 9, Armstrong, Iowa, 50514-0288. The CEO of the Company will promptly send the communication to each member of the Board of Directors.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS

The following table sets forth the name and address of the persons known to the Company who beneficially own more than 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock of the Company as of March 5, 2010.

Title of Class	Name of and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class(2)
Common Stock	J. Ward McConnell, Jr. 4309 Mariner Way Ft. Myers, Florida 33919	1,544,991 shares (3)	38.70%
Common Stock	Joseph R. Dancy 1007 Beaver Creek Duncanville, Texas 75137	270,950 shares (4)	6.79%

(1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with SEC rules and generally includes holding, voting and investment power with respect to the securities.

(2) Based on 3,990,352 shares issued and outstanding as of March 5, 2010.

(3) Includes 1,542,991 shares held in the J. Ward McConnell, Jr. Living Trust, of which the reporting person has sole investment and voting power, and 2,000 shares underlying currently exercisable options.

(4) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed February 11, 2010, includes 106,950 shares held by Mr. Joseph R. Dancy, individually, 32,000 shares held by Ms. Victoria A. Dancy, individually, and 132,000 shares held by LSGI Technology Venture Fund L.P., a Texas limited partnership ("LSGI Fund"). LSGI Advisors Inc., a Texas corporation of which Mr. Dancy is the sole owner and officer, is the general partner of LSGI Fund. Mr. Dancy, Victoria A. Dancy, the Joseph R. Dancy Irrevocable Trust (for the benefit of Joseph R. Dancy), the Victoria A. Dancy Irrevocable Trust (for the benefit of Victoria A. Dancy), Mr. and Mrs. Dancy's two minor children, and LSGI Advisors are limited partners of the LSGI Fund.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table shows certain information with respect to the Company's common stock beneficially owned by directors and executive officers of the Company as of March 5, 2010. The shares shown as beneficially owned include shares which executive officers and directors are entitled to acquire pursuant to outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days of March 5, 2010.

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Name of Beneficial Owner	Position	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class(2)
Thomas E. Buffamante	Director	17,000 shares	(4) *
David R. Castle	Director	12,000 shares	(5) *

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Name of Beneficial Owner	Position	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class(2)
Fred W. Krahmer	Director	7,586 shares	(3) *
James Lynch	Director	11,600 shares	(4) *
Douglas McClellan	Director	47,000 shares	(5) 1.18%
J. Ward McConnell, Jr.	Executive Chairman of the Board and Director	1,544,991 shares	(6) 38.70%
Marc H. McConnell	Executive Vice Chairman of the Board and Director	18,250 shares	(3) *
Carrie Majeski	President and CEO	34,000 shares	(7) *
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (8 individuals)		1,692,427 shares	41.91%

*

Less than 1%