

AAON INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 08, 2013

SCHEDULE 14A  
Information Required in Proxy Statement

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

Filed by the Registrant [ X ]  
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Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
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- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

AAON, INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the  
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3) Filing party:

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AAON, INC.

Notice of  
Annual Meeting  
May 21, 2013,  
and  
Proxy Statement

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AAON, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2013

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of AAON, Inc., will be held at 2440 South Yukon, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. (Local Time), for the following purposes:

1. To elect two Class I Directors, for terms ending in 2016; and
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE  
STOCKHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2013.

We have elected to take advantage of the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules that allow us to furnish our proxy materials to our shareholders over the Internet. We believe electronic delivery will expedite the receipt of materials and, by printing and mailing a smaller volume, will reduce the environmental impact of our annual meeting materials and help lower our costs. A Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice of Internet Availability") is being mailed concurrently to our shareholders. The Notice contains instructions on how to access the Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Shareholders online. You will not receive a printed copy of these materials, unless you specifically request one. The Notice of Internet Availability contains instructions on how to receive a paper copy of the proxy materials.

It is important that your shares be represented and voted at the meeting. You may vote your shares in person at the meeting, by internet, by telephone or by completing, signing, dating and returning a proxy card which will be mailed to you if you request delivery of a full set of proxy materials.

Our Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K, are available at  
[www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)

By Order of the Board of Directors

John B. Johnson, Jr.  
Secretary

April 8, 2013

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AAON, INC.  
2425 South Yukon  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107

## PROXY STATEMENT

This statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of AAON, Inc., for proxies to be used at our Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 21, 2013, at the time and place set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement. Unless the context otherwise requires, references herein to “AAON”, “we”, “us”, “our” or “ours” refers to AAON, Inc., a Nevada corporation.

Pursuant to provisions of our Bylaws and action of our Board of Directors, the close of business on March 22, 2013, has been established as the time and record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at this annual meeting. The stock transfer books will not be closed.

The Directors nominated for election will be elected if, assuming a quorum exists, a majority of the shareholders voting, vote in favor of each Director.

Stockholders of record on the record date are entitled to cast their votes at the Annual Meeting in person or by internet, telephone or properly executed proxy. The presence, by any of these means, of thirty-three and one-third percent (33-1/3%) of the Common Stock outstanding on the record date is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. If a quorum is not present at the time the Annual Meeting is convened, we may adjourn or postpone the meeting.

You may vote in several different ways:

### In person at the Annual Meeting

You may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. You may also be represented by another person at the meeting by executing a proxy properly designating that person. If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in “street name,” you must obtain a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other holder of record and present it to the inspectors of election with your ballot to be able to vote at the meeting.

### By telephone

You may vote by calling the toll-free telephone number indicated on the voting instructions you will receive. Easy-to-follow voice prompts allow you to vote your shares and confirm that your voting instructions have been properly recorded.

### By internet

You may vote by going to the internet web site indicated on the voting instructions you will receive. Confirmation that your voting instructions have been properly recorded will be provided.

By mail

You may vote by completing, signing, dating and returning a proxy card which will be mailed to you if you request delivery of a full set of proxy materials. A postage-paid envelope will be provided along with the proxy card.

Telephone and internet voting for shareholders of record will be available until 11:59 p.m. Central time on May 20, 2013. A mailed proxy card must be received by May 20, 2013, in order to be voted at the Annual Meeting. The availability of telephone and internet voting for beneficial owners of other shares held in "street name" will depend on your broker, bank or other holder of record and we recommend that you follow the voting instructions on the Notice of Internet Availability that you receive from them.

If you are mailed a set of proxy materials and a proxy card or voting instruction card and you choose to vote by telephone or by internet, you do not have to return your proxy card or voting instruction card. However, even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you vote your shares in advance so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the meeting.

Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as shares present in determining whether the quorum requirement is satisfied. Abstentions are also counted in the total number of votes cast with respect to a proposal and thus have the same effect as a vote against the matter. Broker non-votes are not counted as votes cast in the tabulation of votes on any matter brought before the Annual Meeting.

Proxies received in advance of the meeting may be revoked at any time prior to the voting thereof, either by giving notice to the Secretary of AAON or by personal attendance at the meeting.

We have adopted a procedure approved by the SEC called "householding" pursuant to which shareholders of record who have the same address and last name and who request a written copy of our annual report and proxy statement will receive only one copy of such materials unless one or more of these shareholders notify us that they wish to receive individual copies. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards.

Shareholders currently receiving multiple copies of our annual report and proxy statement at their household can request householding by contacting our transfer agent at 1-801-277-1400 or writing to Progressive Transfer Company, 1981 East Murray-Holladay Road, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117. Shareholders now participating in householding who wish to receive a separate document in the future may do so in the same manner. Those owning shares through a bank, broker or other nominee may request householding by contacting the nominee.

This Proxy Statement, the Notice of Annual Meeting and accompanying proxy card, as well as our 2012 Annual Report (which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012), can also be found at our website ([www.aaon.com](http://www.aaon.com)). Copies of exhibits omitted from the enclosed Annual Report on Form 10-K are available without charge upon written request to Kathy I. Sheffield, 2440 S. Yukon, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107, or may also be obtained at the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF

As of March 22, 2013 (the record date), we had issued a total of 24,502,985 shares of \$.004 par value Common Stock, our only class of stock outstanding. Each share is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote by stockholders.

The following table sets forth as of March 22, 2013, the aggregate number of our shares of Common Stock owned by each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our Common Stock:

Name and address of beneficial owner	Number of shares owned	Percent of class
Norman H. Asbjornson 2425 South Yukon Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107	4,903,768 (1)	20.01
Royce & Associates, LLC 745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151	1,936,939 (2)	7.90
BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52nd Street New York, New York 10022	1,470,305 (3)	5.99

(1) Includes 2,025 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting and 223,725 shares owned by his foundation. Mr. Asbjornson has sole voting and investment powers with respect to all shares beneficially owned by him.

(2) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G filed January 3, 2013, which discloses that Royce & Associates, LLC possesses the sole voting power and sole dispositive power of the reported shares.

(3) This share ownership information was provided in a Schedule 13G filed February 8, 2013, which discloses that BlackRock, Inc. possesses the sole voting power and sole dispositive power of the reported shares.

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The following table sets forth as of March 22, 2013, the aggregate number of shares of our Common Stock owned of record or beneficially by each current director, nominee for director, each person named in the Summary Compensation Table (herein, "Named Executive Officers") and all directors, nominees for director and Named Executive Officers as a group:

Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Owned (1)		Percent of Class
Norman H. Asbjornson	4,903,768	(2)	20.01
John B. Johnson, Jr.	23,550	(3)	*
Jack E. Short	15,900	(4)	*
Paul K. Lackey, Jr.	19,800	(5)	*
A. H. McElroy II	19,800	(5)	*
Jerry R. Levine	117,476	(6)	*
Joseph E. Cappy	22,575	(7)	*
Robert G. Fergus	22,418	(8)	*
Kathy I. Sheffield	38,344	(9)	*
David E. Knebel	52,016	(10)	*
Scott M. Asbjornson	615,087	(11)	2.51
Directors, nominees and Named Executive Officers as a group (11 persons)	5,850,734	(12)	23.87

- (1) All shares are held beneficially and of record and the owner has sole voting and investment power with respect thereto, except as otherwise noted.
- (2) Includes 2,025 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting plan and 223,725 shares owned by his foundation.
- (3) Includes 2,025 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (4) Includes 2,025 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (5) Includes 2,025 shares of restricted stock which will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (6) Includes 2,250 shares held by Mr. Levine's IRA account, 1,124 shares held jointly by Mr. Levine and his wife, 6,500 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting and 2,025 shares of restricted stock which will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (7) Includes 5,775 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (8) Includes 1,662 shares under AAON's 401(k) plan, and 1,200 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting.
- (9) Includes 21,500 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting, and 14,595 shares under AAON's 401(k) plan.
- (10) Includes 33,500 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting, and 6,265 shares under AAON's 401(k) plan.



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- (11) Includes 7,400 shares issuable upon exercise of stock options exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting, 968 shares under AAON's 401(k) plan, and 240,000 shares held as custodian for the benefit of his children.
- (12) Includes 70,100 shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options that are exercisable currently or within 60 days of the annual meeting and 17,925 shares of restricted stock that will vest within 60 days of the annual meeting by all directors and Named Executive Officers.
- \* Less than 1%.

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PROPOSAL:  
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

General

Our Board of Directors is comprised of seven members. Our Bylaws (the "Bylaws") divide the Board of Directors into three classes having staggered terms of three years each, with Classes I, II and III having terms expiring at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively. The Bylaws provide that a stockholder may nominate a director for election at an annual meeting if written notice is given to us not less than 60 and not more than 90 days in advance of the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting.

The names of Paul K. Lackey, Jr., and A.H. McElroy II, the current members of the Class I Directors, whose terms expire at the annual meeting, have been placed in nomination for re-election to the Board, and the persons named in the proxy will vote for their election. Each of Mr. Lackey and Mr. McElroy has consented to being named in this Proxy Statement and to serve if elected.

If any nominee becomes unavailable for any reason, the shares represented by the proxies will be voted for such other person, if any, as may be designated by the Board of Directors. However, management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unavailable.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of these nominees as Directors.

Nominees:

Class I – Terms Expire in 2013

Name	Age	Current Position
Paul K. Lackey, Jr.	69	Director
A.H. McElroy II	50	Director

Directors Continuing in Office:

Class II – Terms Expire in 2014

Name	Age	Current Position
Jack E. Short	72	Director
Jerry R. Levine	74	Director

Class III – Terms Expire in 2015

Name	Age	Current Position
Norman H. Asbjornson	77	President and Director
John B. Johnson, Jr.	79	Secretary and Director
Joseph E. Cappy	78	Director



## Biographical Information

Set forth below is a description of the background of each of our current directors (including directors nominated for re-election) and executive officers. The term of office of each officer ends on the date of the Annual Meeting, subject to extension upon re-election.

### Directors

Norman H. Asbjornson has served as President, CEO and a director of AAON since 1989 and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Asbjornson also serves as the President of AAON, Inc., an Oklahoma corporation ("AAON-Oklahoma") and as the Chairman of the Board of AAON Coil Products, Inc. ("ACP"), both our wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Mr. Asbjornson is one of the founders of the Company, and his intimate knowledge of the HVAC industry, both from a technical and a business perspective, brings to the Board a unique insight into the Company's operations in particular, as well as the environment in which the Company operates.

John B. Johnson, Jr., has served as Secretary and a director of AAON since 1989, and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Mr. Johnson also serves as the Secretary of AAON-Oklahoma and ACP. Mr. Johnson has been engaged in the private practice of law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, since 1961, and is a member of the firm of Johnson & Jones, which serves as our General Counsel.

Mr. Johnson has served as our legal counsel since our inception. Mr. Johnson's corporate and securities legal expertise, together with his historical knowledge of our operations, enable him to provide valuable legal and business advice to the Board in its various deliberations.

Jack E. Short has served as a director of AAON since 2004, and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders. He is Chairman of our Audit Committee. Mr. Short was employed by PricewaterhouseCoopers (formerly Coopers & Lybrand) for 29 years and retired as the managing partner of the Oklahoma practice (Tulsa and Oklahoma City) of the firm in June 2001. Mr. Short previously served on the Board of Directors of a public company which is engaged in the non-toxic waste collection business.

Mr. Short's extensive background in public accounting provides the Board with an individual well-versed in accounting and financial matters, and his experience on another public company board offers additional insight to the Board in both financial and risk assessment matters.

Paul K. ("Ken") Lackey, Jr., was elected as a director of AAON in 2007, and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders. He is Chairman of our Governance Committee. Between April 2002 and October 2005 Mr. Lackey served as CEO and President of The NORDAM Group, a privately held company in Tulsa, Oklahoma involved in the aerospace industry. Between October 2005 and December 2008 Mr. Lackey served as the Chairman and CEO of The NORDAM Group. Between January 2009 and December 2011 Mr. Lackey served as the Executive Chairman of the Board of The NORDAM Group. Since January 2012 Mr. Lackey has served as the Director Chairman of the Board of The NORDAM Group. Mr. Lackey also serves on the board of directors of Matrix Service Company, a public company involved in the construction and energy services industry.

Mr. Lackey's experience in serving as the CEO of a manufacturing company provides not only additional knowledge and insight in production and manufacturing processes in general, but also brings to the Board an individual who can provide guidance on management and operational systems in a manufacturing environment such as ours. Mr. Lackey's service on the board of another public company also provides him with the ability to compare and assess the differences in board operations and functions, which provide guidance on strengthening the practices of our Board.

A.H. ("Chip") McElroy II was elected as a director of AAON in 2007, and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders. He is Chairman of our Compensation Committee. Since 1997 Mr. McElroy has served as President and CEO of McElroy Manufacturing, Inc., a privately held manufacturing concern based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. McElroy's extensive experience in managing a privately held manufacturing company brings to the Board substantial knowledge of operational and budgetary efficiencies, as well as technology-related applications which may benefit general manufacturing processes.

Jerry R. Levine was elected as a director of AAON in 2008, and currently serves in the class of directors whose terms will expire at the 2014 annual meeting. For the last 40 years, Mr. Levine has been a securities analyst. From 1980 to 1991 Mr. Levine served as a member of the "Emerging Growth Group" of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets, specializing in small and mid-sized companies. In 1999 Mr. Levine formed JRL Advisors, which firm provides investor relations services. Mr. Levine, through JRL Advisors, has provided investor and shareholder relations services and advice to the Company since JRL Advisors' formation.

Mr. Levine's extensive experience in the securities and financial fields provides to the Board insight on capital markets in general, as well as industry sensitive markets that may affect us specifically. Mr. Levine's background also allows him to provide the Board guidance on the potential market impact that any significant Board or Company decision may have on our market value.

Joseph E. Cappy was appointed by the Board of Directors to complete the remaining term of Charles C. Stephenson, Jr., at the 2010 annual meeting of the Board immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders. Mr. Cappy serves in the class of directors whose terms expire at the 2015 annual meeting. From 1997 until 2003 Mr. Cappy served as the CEO and director of DollarThrifty Automotive Group, the stock of which was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. For the ten years prior to that, Mr. Cappy served as a Vice President of Chrysler Corporation. Since his retirement from DollarThrifty Automotive Group in 2003, Mr. Cappy has served as Chairman and CEO of Capco, Inc., a family-owned enterprise with various investments in the United States.

Mr. Cappy's experience of over twenty years in key management positions in public companies brings to the Board valuable knowledge of the complexities of managing public companies in particular, and the financial and capital related issues they face, as well as the impact of the decision-making processes on overall shareholder value.

## Executive Officers

In addition to Norman H. Asbjornson (who is both a director and executive officer of the Company, and whose biographical information may be found in the section above entitled “Directors”), the following are also executive officers of the Company:

Robert G. Fergus, age 72, Vice President, Manufacturing, has served as Vice President of AAON since 1989. Mr. Fergus also serves as Vice President, Manufacturing, of AAON-Oklahoma.

Scott M. Asbjornson, age 44, Vice President, Finance and CFO, joined the Company in 1990 and is the son of the Company’s President and CEO, Norman H. Asbjornson. Mr. Scott Asbjornson has held various positions with the Company and ACP, including Vice President (2007-2010) and President (2010-2012) of ACP. He also serves as Vice President, Finance and CFO of AAON-Oklahoma.

Kathy I. Sheffield, age 60, Senior Vice President, Administration and Treasurer, became Treasurer of AAON in 1999, Vice President in 2002 and Senior Vice President, Administration and Treasurer in 2012. Ms. Sheffield was our Accounting Supervisor from 1989 to 1992, when she became Accounting Manager. She also serves as Senior Vice President, Administration and Treasurer of AAON-Oklahoma and as Treasurer of ACP.

David E. Knebel, age 67, Senior Vice President, Sales and Technology, joined AAON in May 2001 as Manager of Technology and Training, before becoming Director of Sales and Technology in December 2002, Vice President, Sales and Technology in August 2005 and Senior Vice President, Sales and Technology in 2012. He is responsible for management of AAON’s sales force, parts and service departments, and software development in support of product application and selection. Mr. Knebel also serves as Senior Vice President, Sales and Technology of AAON-Oklahoma. From January 2000 to May 2001, Mr. Knebel was Sales Manager for Climatec – New Mexico, where he managed product application and sales for CES Group products, AAON and additional product lines.

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

### Leadership Structure of the Board

The business of AAON is managed under the direction of our Board of Directors (“Board”). In accordance with our Bylaws, we do not have a “Chairman of the Board”; rather, the President, who is also the chief executive officer, presides as “Chairman” at all meetings of the Board and shareholders.

The Board has determined that our current Board structure, having the chief executive officer also serve as the presiding officer at all Board and shareholder meetings, is currently the most appropriate leadership structure for the Company and its shareholders. This fosters clear accountability, effective decision-making, alignment with corporate strategy, direct oversight of management, full engagement of the remaining directors and continuity of leadership. As the officer ultimately responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Company and for execution of its strategy, the Board believes that the President is the director best qualified to act in the capacity as “Chairman” of the Board and to lead Board discussions regarding the performance of the Company. We do not require the person filling the function of “Chairman of the Board” to be an independent director.

## The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The Board has ultimate responsibility for oversight of our risk management processes. The Board discharges this oversight responsibility through regular reports received from and discussions with senior management on areas of material risk exposure to the Company. These reports and Board discussions include, among other things, operational, financial, legal, regulatory and strategic risks. Additionally, our risk management processes are intended to identify, manage and control risks so that they are appropriate considering our size, operations and business objectives. The full Board (or the appropriate committee in the case of risks in areas for which responsibility has been delegated to a particular committee) engages with the appropriate members of senior management to enable its members to understand and provide input to and oversight of our risk identification, risk management and risk mitigation strategies. In addition, each of our Board committees considers the risks within its areas of responsibility. For example, the Audit Committee reviews risks related to financial reporting; discusses material violations, if any, of Company ethics and compliance policies brought to its attention; considers the Company's annual audit risk assessment which identifies internal control risks and drives the internal and external audit plan for the ensuing year; and considers the impact of risk on our financial position and the adequacy of our risk-related internal controls. The Compensation Committee reviews compensation and human resource risks. This enables the Board to coordinate risk oversight, particularly with respect to interrelated or cumulative risks that may involve multiple areas for which more than one committee has responsibility. The Board or applicable committee also has authority to engage external advisors as necessary.

The Board of Directors met five times during 2012, and each director participated in 75% or more of the total number of meetings of the Board.

Actions taken by the Board of Directors outside of Board meetings were consented to in writing by a memorandum of action in lieu of a meeting, to which all incumbent directors subscribed. Directors meet their responsibilities not only by attending Board and committee meetings but also through communication with members of management on matters affecting us.

A description of the fees paid to the directors and members of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Governance Committee can be found under "Executive Compensation – Director Compensation", herein.

Shareholders may communicate with the Board of Directors, including the non-management directors, by sending a letter to the Board of Directors of AAON, Inc., c/o Corporate Secretary, 2425 South Yukon, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107. The Corporate Secretary has the authority to disregard any inappropriate communications. If deemed an appropriate communication, the Corporate Secretary will submit the correspondence to the Board or to any specific director to whom the correspondence is directed.

We encourage all of our directors to attend AAON's annual meetings of stockholders and all current Board members, with the exception of Mr. Cappy, attended the 2012 annual meeting.

## Committee Structure

Currently, the Board has a standing Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Governance Committee to assist the Board in carrying out its functions. The Board has determined that each of the Chairmen, as well as all committee members are independent under applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules for committee memberships. The members of the committees are shown in the table below, followed by a brief description of each committee.

Director	Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Governance Committee
Joseph E. Cappy	Member	Member	--
Paul K. Lackey, Jr.	Member	--	Chairman
Jerry R. Levine	--	--	Member
A.H. McElroy II	--	Chairman	Member
Jack E. Short	Chairman	Member	--

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the quality and integrity of our accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices. Among other things, the Committee is responsible for: selecting and retaining our independent public accountants; preapproving the engagement of the independent accountants for all audit-related services and permissible, non-audit related services; reviewing in advance the scope and focus of the annual audit; and reviewing and discussing with management and the auditors our financial reports, the audited financial statements, the auditor's report, the management letter and the quality and adequacy of our internal controls. The Board has determined that the Chairman and the other Audit Committee members are independent under applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules for Audit Committee memberships. The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter, a copy of which is available on our website, at [www.aaon.com](http://www.aaon.com). The "Audit Committee Report" for year 2012 is set forth below. The Audit Committee met a total of four times during 2012 and the Chairman and each committee member participated in 75% or more of the total number of Audit Committee meetings of the Board (during the period that such person served).

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Short qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by applicable SEC rules and that each member of the Audit Committee meets the additional criteria for independence of audit committee members set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

The responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are set out more fully under "Executive Compensation" below. The Board has determined that the Chairman and the other Compensation Committee members are independent under applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules for committee memberships. The Compensation Committee is governed by a written charter, a copy of which is available on our website, at [www.aaon.com](http://www.aaon.com). The Compensation Committee met a total of four times during 2012 and the Chairman and each committee member participated in 75% or more of the total number of Compensation Committee meetings of the Board (during the period that such person served).



The responsibilities of the Governance Committee include proposing to the Board a slate of nominees for election by the shareholders at the Annual Meeting, and maintaining a list of prospective director candidates in the event of the resignation, death, removal or retirement of directors or a change in the Board composition requirements. The Committee is also charged with reviewing with the Board the desired experience, mix of skills and other qualities to assure appropriate Board composition. The Board has determined that the Chairman and all Governance Committee members are independent under applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules for committee memberships. The Governance Committee met a total of four times during 2012 and the Chairman and each committee member participated in 75% or more of the total number of Governance Committee meetings of the Board (during the period that such person served).

Our Bylaws also provide that a stockholder may nominate a director for election at an annual meeting if written notice is given to us not less than 60 and not more than 90 days in advance of the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting.

If and when new vacancies occur in the future, the Board will consider director nominees recommended by shareholders, in accordance with our Bylaws. The Board does not have a formal policy regarding the consideration of, procedures to be followed by, minimum qualifications of or process for identifying or evaluating nominees recommended by shareholders.

Among the criteria developed by the Governance Committee for qualification for director nominees as well as director retention, a candidate must have demonstrated accomplishment in his or her chosen field, character and personal integrity, and the ability to devote sufficient time to carry out the duties of a director. The Governance Committee considers whether the candidate is independent under the standards described below under "Director Independence." In addition, the Governance Committee considers all information relevant in their business judgment to the decision of whether to nominate a particular candidate, taking into account the then-current composition of the Board and assessment of the Board's collective requirements. These factors may include: a candidate's age, professional and educational background, reputation, industry knowledge and business experience and relevance to the Company and the Board (including the candidate's understanding of markets, technologies, financial matters and international operations); whether the candidate will complement or contribute to the mix of talents, skills and other characteristics that are needed to maintain the Board's effectiveness; and the candidate's ability to fulfill responsibilities as a director and as a member of one or more of our standing Board committees. Although the Board does not have a formal diversity policy for Board membership, the Governance Committee considers whether a director nominee contributes or will contribute to the Board in a way that can enhance the perspective and experience of the Board as a whole through diversity in gender, ethnicity, geography and professional experience.

Nomination of a candidate is not based solely on the factors noted above. When current Board members are considered for nomination for re-election, the Governance Committee also takes into consideration their prior Board contributions, performance and meeting attendance records. The Governance Committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria, and no particular criterion is a prerequisite for Board membership. We believe that the backgrounds and qualifications of our directors, considered as a group, should provide an appropriate mix of experience, knowledge and abilities to allow the Board to fulfill its responsibilities. The effectiveness of the Board's skills, expertise and background is also considered as part of each Board annual self-assessment.

## Audit Committee Report

March 11, 2013

To the Board of Directors of AAON, Inc.

The Audit Committee oversees AAON's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process including the systems of internal controls. We have reviewed and discussed with management and with the independent auditors the Company's audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012.

We have discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as amended, by the Auditing Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

We have received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, as amended, by the Independence Standards Board, and have discussed with the auditors the auditors' independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, we recommend to the Board of Directors that the financial statements referred to above be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

Jack E. Short, Chairman  
Paul K. Lackey, Jr.  
Joseph E. Cappy

## Code of Ethics

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer or persons performing similar functions, as well as our other employees and directors. Our code of ethics can be found on our website at [www.aaon.com](http://www.aaon.com). We will also provide any person without charge, upon request, a copy of such code of ethics. Requests may be directed to AAON, 2425 South Yukon Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107, attention Kathy I. Sheffield, or by calling (918) 382-6204.

## Transactions with Related Persons

In 2012, we did not enter into any new related party transactions and we do not have any preexisting related party transactions.

Our Code of Conduct guides the Board of Directors in its actions and deliberations with respect to related party transactions. Under the Code, conflicts of interest, including any involving the directors or any Named Executive Officers, are prohibited except under any guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Only the Board of Directors may waive a provision of the Code of Conduct for a director or a Named Executive Officer, and only then in compliance with all applicable laws and rules and regulations.

## Director Independence

The Board has adopted director independence standards that meet and/or exceed listing standards set by NASDAQ. NASDAQ has set forth six applicable tests and requires that a director who fails any of the tests be deemed not independent. In 2012, the Board affirmatively determined that Messrs Short, Lackey, McElroy, Levine and Cappy are independent. Mr. Asbjornson does not qualify as independent under the standards set forth below. The Board has determined that Mr. Johnson should not be deemed independent, because he is a member of the law firm that serves as General Counsel to the Company.

Our director independence standards are as follows:

It is the policy of the Board of Directors that a majority of the members of the Board consist of directors independent of AAON and our management. For a director to be deemed “independent,” the Board shall affirmatively determine that the director has no material relationship with AAON or its affiliates or any member of the senior management of AAON or his or her affiliates. In making this determination, the Board applies, at a minimum and in addition to any other standards for independence established under applicable statutes and regulations as outlined by the NASDAQ listing standards, the following standards, which it may amend or supplement from time to time:

- § A director who is, or has been within the last three years, one of our employees, or whose immediate family member is, or has been within the last three years a Named Executive Officer, cannot be deemed independent. Employment as an interim Chairman or Chief Executive Officer will not disqualify a director from being considered independent following that employment.
- § A director who has received, or who has an immediate family member who has received, during any twelve-month period within the last three years, more than \$120,000 in direct compensation from us, other than director and committee fees and benefits under a tax-qualified retirement plan, or non-discretionary compensation for prior service (provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service), cannot be deemed independent. Compensation received by a director for former service as an interim Chairman or Chief Executive Officer and compensation received by an immediate family member for service as a non-executive employee will not be considered in determining independence under this test.
- § A director who (A) is, or whose immediate family member is, a current partner of a firm that is our external auditor; (B) is a current employee of such a firm; or (C) was, or whose immediate family member was, within the last three years (but is no longer) a partner or employee of such a firm and personally worked on our audit within that time cannot be deemed independent.

- § A director who is, or whose immediate family member is, or has been within the last three years, employed as an executive officer of another company where any of our present Named Executive Officers at the time serves or has served on that company's compensation committee cannot be deemed independent.
- § A director who is a current employee or general partner, or whose immediate family member is a current executive officer or general partner, of an entity that has made payments to, or received payments from us for property or services in an amount which, in any of the last three fiscal years, exceeds the greater of \$200,000 or 5% of such other entity's consolidated gross revenues, other than payments arising solely from investments in AAON's securities or payments under non-discretionary charitable contribution matching programs, cannot be deemed independent.

For purposes of the independence standards set forth above, the terms:

- § "affiliate" means any consolidated subsidiary of AAON and any other company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with AAON;
- § "executive officer" means an "officer" within the meaning of Rule 16a-1(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
- § "immediate family" means spouse, parents, children, siblings, mothers- and fathers-in-law, sons- and daughters-in-law, brothers- and sisters-in-law and anyone (other than employees) sharing a person's home, but excluding any person who is no longer an immediate family member as a result of legal separation or divorce, death or incapacitation.

In addition to the director independence standards set forth above, the Board also requires the Chairs and all other committee members to satisfy the heightened independence standards set forth under applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules for committee memberships.

The Board undertakes an annual review of the independence of all non-employee directors. In advance of the meeting at which this review occurs, each non-employee director is asked to provide the Board with full information regarding the director's business and other relationships with us and our affiliates and with senior management and their affiliates to enable the Board to evaluate the director's independence.

Directors have an affirmative obligation to inform the Board of any material changes in their circumstances or relationships that may impact their designation by the Board as "independent." This obligation includes all business relationships between, on the one hand, Directors or members of their immediate family, and, on the other hand, AAON and our affiliates or members of senior management and their affiliates, whether or not such business relationships are subject to any other approval requirements by us.

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

The following discusses the material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by or paid to our Named Executive Officers, comprised of our principal executive and principal financial officers, and our other three most highly compensated executive officers.

Our executive compensation programs are determined and approved by our Compensation Committee, after consideration of recommendations by the principal executive officer, as to the other Named Executive Officers. None of the Named Executive Officers are members of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee has the direct responsibility and authority to review and approve our goals and objectives relative to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers, and to determine and approve (either as a committee or with the other members of our Board of Directors who qualify as “independent” directors under applicable guidelines adopted by NASDAQ) the compensation levels of the Named Executive Officers.

Our historical executive compensation programs have intended to achieve two objectives. The primary objective is to enhance our profitability, and thus shareholder value. The second objective is to attract, motivate, reward and retain employees, including executive personnel, who contribute to our long-term success. As described in more detail below, the material elements of our historical executive compensation program for Named Executive Officers include a base salary, discretionary annual bonuses (now replaced by annual incentive bonuses), perquisites, our contributions to AAON’s 401(k) plan, “profit sharing” payments (made to all employees, except for the Named Executive Officers since 2011), discretionary stock options and restricted stock awards.

We believe that each element of the executive compensation program helps to achieve one or both of the compensation objectives outlined above. The table below lists each material element of our executive compensation program and the compensation objective or objectives that it is designed to achieve.

Compensation Element	Compensation Objectives Attempted to be Achieved
Base salary	Attract and retain qualified executives Motivate and reward executives’ performance
Bonus compensation	Motivate and compensate executives’ performance Stay competitive in the marketplace
Profit sharing	Motivate executives (other than the Named Executive Officers, who since 2011 no longer participate in the profit sharing) and all employees equally
Perquisites and personal benefits	Attract and retain qualified executives
Equity-based compensation – stock options and restricted stock awards	Enhance profitability of AAON and shareholder value by aligning long-term incentives with shareholders’ long-term interests  Attract and retain qualified executives

Retirement benefits – 401(k) and health savings account

Enhance profitability of AAON and shareholder value by aligning long-term incentives with shareholders' long-term interests

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As illustrated by the table above, base salary, perquisites and retirement benefits are all primarily intended to attract and retain qualified executives. These are the elements of our historic executive compensation program where the value of the benefit in any given year is not wholly dependent on performance. Base salaries are intended to attract and retain qualified executives as well as being linked to performance by rewarding and/or motivating executives. Base salaries are reviewed annually and take into account: experience and retention considerations; past performance; improvement in historical performance; anticipated future potential performance; and other issues specific to the individual executive. As discussed below, effective March 1, 2011, base salaries also take into account comparable salaries of similarly situated officers of industry peers, as well as the individual responsibilities of our Named Executive Officers. In an effort to attract and retain qualified executives, we emphasize the need to provide executives with predictable benefit amounts that reward the executive's continued service. Some of the elements are generally paid out on a short-term or current basis, e.g., base salary and perquisites, while retirement benefits are generally paid out on a long-term basis.

There are specific elements of the historic executive compensation program that are designed to reward performance and enhance profitability and shareholder value, and, therefore, the value of these benefits is based on performance. Our discretionary annual bonus plan and its replacement annual incentive bonus plan are primarily intended to motivate and reward Named Executive Officers' performance to achieve specific strategies and operating objectives, as well as improved financial performance. Other elements that satisfy the primary objective of executive compensation to enhance profitability and shareholder value are through a mix of short-term or current basis and long-term basis. Profit sharing, which is divided equally among all employees (other than the Named Executive Officers, who since 2011 no longer participate in the profit sharing), provides a short-term cash reward for quarterly profits, while the Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP") and 401(k) savings and investment plan align performance to profitability and shareholder value over a longer term. This mix of short-term and longer-term elements allows us to achieve dual goals of attracting and retaining executives, while motivating and rewarding executives to enhance profitability and shareholder value.

The Compensation Committee's philosophy is that we should continue to use long-term compensation to align shareholder and executives' interests and should allocate a portion of long-term compensation to the entire executive compensation package.

Historically, no executive compensation has been tied to meeting any specific "goal" or "objective", or achieving any specific performance, revenue enhancement or cost-savings criteria. Therefore, historically, we believe there has been little or no risk resulting from compensation elements having a material adverse effect on the Company or its operations by reason of incentivizing any executive employee to take actions to enhance individual compensation to the detriment or risk of the Company. As discussed below, in 2011, at the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the historical discretionary bonus structure for our Named Executive Officers was replaced with an "at risk" annual incentive bonus program more directly tied to overall Company performance. However, even under this structure, we still believe that there is little or no likelihood that this revised compensation program will incentivize any executive officer to take actions for his or her personal enhancement to the detriment or risk of the Company.

We have, from time to time, at the request and for the benefit of the Compensation Committee, retained independent third-party executive compensation consulting companies (which provide no other services to us) to provide general compensation expertise. We have previously utilized these consulting firms for a comprehensive analysis of compensation for all executive, engineering, sales, marketing, general and administrative positions. These consultants generally gather peer group information and provide the information to the Compensation Committee, which is then used for proper benchmarking of our compensation programs for executives and other employees.

In November 2010, the Compensation Committee engaged Towers Watson & Co. (“Towers Watson”) to assess the current compensation levels for our six top executives, and to conduct a competitive assessment of the compensation arrangements for our non-employee directors. The preliminary report of Towers Watson was received by the Committee in the first quarter of 2011.

At the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors held in March 2011, the Board considered a report and recommendations from the Compensation Committee following a review and assessment of the Towers Watson report. Based on this report and recommendations therein, the base salaries for our Named Executive Officers were raised effective March 1, 2011, with the ultimate goal to adjust such officers’ base salaries over the ensuing three years to levels approaching the “market median” of industry peers. Such adjustment also takes into account the specific responsibilities of each such Named Executive Officer as compared to industry peers.

In addition, the Board approved the Compensation Committee’s recommendation, effective beginning calendar year 2011, to institute a new “at risk” incentive program that replaces the historical discretionary bonus program. Under this program, bonuses for the Named Executive Officers are based on the Company achieving an annual budgeted goal of operating profit before “profit sharing” and income taxes, after bonus accrual.

At the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board authorized Mr. Asbjornson, as the CEO, to provide further detailed recommendations on the incentive bonus plan and individual objectives within such plan with respect to each other Named Executive Officer, and the CEO will, with the Compensation Committee’s approval, have the authority to adjust individual annual incentive awards for each other Named Executive Officers based upon his evaluation of such officer’s annual objectives.

As a part of this recommendation and restructure, the Named Executive Officers no longer participate in our profit sharing plan.

At our 2011 Annual Meeting, the ballot included our first advisory vote on executive compensation, commonly known as “Say-on-Pay”. The vote was not binding on the Company, the Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee. Of the votes cast, including abstentions, an overwhelming 99.26% were “FOR” the compensation of the Named Executive Officers. The Compensation Committee was cognizant of this result in its determinations to continue the key components, design, implementation and amounts of our compensation.

The ballot for our 2011 Annual Meeting also included our first advisory vote as to the frequency of future advisory Say-on-Pay votes. Of the votes cast, including abstentions, 60% were “For” Say-on-Pay votes every three years. At a meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following our 2011 Annual Meeting, the Board determined, in light of such advisory vote, that the Company will include an advisory shareholder Say-on-Pay vote every three years, with the next such vote to be held in 2014. The Board reserved the right to hold such vote at an earlier Annual Meeting.



## 2012 Executive Compensation Program Elements

The following discussion, as well as the historical information contained in the tables below, are based upon our historical and current compensation plans as in effect in 2012 and the prior reported years.

### Base Salaries

Similar to most companies within the industry, our policy is to pay Named Executive Officers' base salaries in cash. A significant portion of the executive compensation package is through base salaries. During 2012, base salaries for our Named Executive Officers were as follows: Norman H. Asbjornson – \$355,800, Robert G. Fergus – \$176,435, Kathy I. Sheffield – \$180,408, David E. Knebel – \$195,204, and Scott M. Asbjornson – \$180,288. In approving these executives' salary levels, the Committee took into account certain factors including, recommendations of the principal executive officer (except for himself), each executives' individual experience and responsibilities and the Company's performance.

### Annual Cash Incentive Bonuses

In 2011 and prior years, our policy had been to pay any discretionary annual bonuses to Named Executive Officers in cash. Annual discretionary bonuses provided to the Named Executive Officers in 2011 and prior years were largely based on the recommendation of the principal executive officer. The Compensation Committee maintained the authority to reduce or increase the size of the payout for each individual Named Executive Officer in its discretion. Cash bonuses have not historically been a significant portion of the executive compensation package. The annual discretionary bonus is reported in the "Bonus" column of the "Summary Compensation Table" for each Named Executive Officer.

As previously discussed, in 2011 the Board of Directors instituted a new "at risk" annual incentive bonus which replaced the annual discretionary bonus and is intended to facilitate alignment of management with corporate objectives and stockholder interests in order to achieve outstanding performance and to meet specific AAON financial goals by:

- providing the employees designated by the Committee, incentive compensation tied to stockholder goals for Company and individual performance;
- providing competitive compensation to attract, motivate, reward and retain employees who achieve outstanding performance;
  - fostering accountability and teamwork throughout the Company; and
    - contributing to the long term success of the Company.

We believe that the annual incentive should be a substantial component of total compensation and be based upon achievement of AAON's annual budgeted net income before "profit sharing" and income taxes, but after bonus accrual.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 the opportunity budget was set at \$32.69 million. Incentive compensation opportunities are expressed as a percentage of the executive officer's gross base salary. The annual award opportunity for Norman H. Asbjornson and the other Named Executive Officers in 2012 are shown in the chart below:

Opportunity as a percentage of base salary

Name	80% goal	100% goal	120% goal
Norman H. Asbjornson	33%	75%	200%
Robert G. Fergus	33%	35%	200%
Kathy I. Sheffield	33%	35%	200%
David E. Knebel	33%	35%	200%
Scott M. Asbjornson	33%	35%	200%

For the year ended December 31, 2012 cash bonuses were accrued and paid March 15, 2013 to all of our Named Executive Officers as follows: \$533,700 for Norman H. Asbjornson, \$136,643 for David E. Knebel, \$126,286 for Kathy I. Sheffield, \$125,398 for Scott M. Asbjornson and \$125,021 for Robert G. Fergus. No cash bonuses were declared or paid out in December 2011 for any Named Executive Officers except for Scott Asbjornson, who was awarded a cash bonus of \$5,549 in accordance with the Company's prior compensation structure.

Prior to 2011, our Named Executive Officers participated in our profit sharing plan pursuant to which 10% of pre-tax profit at each subsidiary was paid to all eligible employees on a quarterly basis, with each Named Executive Officer receiving an equal amount of the profit-sharing bonus in cash. The profit-sharing bonus is solely based on our profit and divided among all qualified employees equally. As noted above, our Named Executive Officers no longer participate in our profit sharing plan. The profit sharing for years prior to 2011 is reported in the "All Other Compensation" column of the "Summary Compensation Table" for each Named Executive Officer if threshold reporting requirements were met (i.e. generally, if the total value of all perquisites and personal benefits received by the Named Executive Officer not reported under any other column in the table exceed \$10,000 in the aggregate).

#### Perquisites

We provide some Named Executive Officers with certain perquisites and personal benefits, including automobile related expenses. We utilize certain tax advantages associated with perquisites and personal benefits as a way to provide additional annual compensation that supplements base salaries and bonus opportunities granted to Named Executive Officers. Perquisites are reported in the "All Other Compensation" column of the "Summary Compensation Table" for each Named Executive Officer if applicable and if reporting threshold requirements were met.

#### Equity-Based Compensation

Our policy is that the Named Executive Officers' long-term compensation should be directly linked to enhancing profitability and value provided to our shareholders. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee grants equity awards under our LTIP designed to link an increase in shareholder value to compensation. Such grants are largely based upon the recommendation of the principal executive officer (except as to himself) based on the Named Executive Officer's performance in the prior year and his or her expected future contribution to our performance.



Historically, the Company has not based executive officer equity compensation decisions on pre-established performance targets or other quantitative criteria, as many of the applicable operational and financial performance measures which affect Company profitability (and shareholder value) are contingent upon a combination of general economic factors and/or raw material prices that are beyond the control of any individual. However, positive overall Company performance (from both a financial as well as stock price basis) is a primary element associated with the grant of equity-based compensation to the executive officers as a group. When determining the total value of compensation provided to our executive officers, our Compensation Committee, with the advice of our CEO, evaluated various aspects of individual and Company performance in light of general economic conditions, as well as comparison of the Company performance against similar competitors in the industry. Performance elements considered may include cost containment initiatives, product and marketing development, risk management, successful completion of major capital projects including production line enhancements, individual performance of the executive officer and the performance of the executive's department. These elements have not been specifically weighted in determining the amount of the equity incentive awards because the relative importance of each element may change from time to time and the responsibilities of each executive officer, as they contribute to the achievement of any particular objective, may vary.

Factors considered when determining any specific equity-based award include:

- the responsibilities of the executive officer;
- the period over which the executive officer has performed these responsibilities;
- the scope, level of expertise and experience required for the executive officer's position and the period during which the officer has performed these responsibilities;
- the strategic impact of the officer's position; and
- the potential future contribution and demonstrated individual performance of the officer.

In addition, the Compensation Committee considers the cost of such equity awards, the potential impact on dilution and the relative value in relation to the other components of the executive compensation program.

For financial statement purposes, stock option and restricted stock award grants are valued using the Black-Scholes Model in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Codification Topic 718, Compensation – Stock Compensation (“FASB ASC Topic 718”) and are calculated as a part of the executive compensation package for the year based on the amount of requisite service period served. The “grant date fair value” of the options as determined under generally accepted accounting principles is shown in the “Summary Compensation Table” below. Non-qualified stock options and restricted stock awards for Named Executive Officers and other key employees generally vest ratably over five years. The Compensation Committee believes that these awards encourage Named Executive Officers to continue to use their best professional skills and to retain Named Executive Officers for longer terms.

Awards are granted to new key employees on their hire date. Other grant date determinations are made by the Compensation Committee, which are based upon the date the Committee met and proper communication was made to the Named Executive Officer or key employee as defined in the definition of grant date by FASB ASC Topic 718. Stock option exercise prices are equal to the value of AAON stock on the close of business on the determined grant date. We have no program or practice to coordinate timing of grants with release of material, nonpublic information.

The aggregate amount of stock compensation expense as determined under ASC Topic 718, Compensation - Stock Compensation, for 2012, 2011 and 2010 with respect to outstanding options and restricted stock awards granted to the Named Executive Officers is shown in the “Summary Compensation Table” below. The grant date fair value of the options and restricted stock awards granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2012, 2011 and 2010 as determined under FASB ASC Topic 718 for purposes of our financial statements is shown in the “Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table” below. The “Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table” below provides additional detail regarding the options and restricted stock awards granted to Named Executive Officers in 2012, 2011 and 2010, including the vesting and other terms that apply to the options and restricted stock awards.

#### Retirement Benefits – 401(k) Plan and Health Savings Account

We provide a 401(k) plan and a Roth 401(k) plan for all eligible employees. We provide an employer match of 50% of the employee’s salary deferral up to the first 9% of the employee’s compensation. Beginning in 2010, we began contributing a discretionary amount equal to 1.5% of each employee’s pre-tax earnings to the 401(k) plan, even if the employee chose to make no contribution of his or her own. AAON’s contribution is in the form of cash and directs the investment committee to use these funds to acquire shares of our common stock. We believe that this investment in AAON stock encourages retention and increases the value to the employee and shareholder as our performance increases. We maintain a stock repurchase arrangement by which employee-participants in our 401(k) savings and investment plan are entitled to have shares of AAON stock in their accounts sold to us to provide diversification of their investments. The amounts contributed by us to each Named Executive Officer under the 401(k) plan are based on actual contributions and the base salary of the employee, and are reported in the “All Other Compensation” column of the “Summary Compensation Table” for each Named Executive Officer, if applicable, and if the threshold reporting requirements were met. Our employees participate in a high-deductible health savings plan wherein they open a Health Savings Account. We provide a match of approximately 25% for employee contributions to their Health Savings Account.

#### Compensation Committee’s Report on Executive Compensation (1)

Among the duties imposed on our Compensation Committee under its charter, is the direct responsibility and authority to review and approve our goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, to evaluate the performance of such officers in accordance with the policies and principles established by the Compensation Committee and to determine and approve, either as a Committee, or (as directed by the Board) with the other “independent” Board members (as defined by the NASDAQ listing standards), the compensation level of the Chief Executive Officer and the other executive officers. The Compensation Committee is composed of the three non-employee directors named at the end of this report, each of whom is “independent” as defined by the NASDAQ listing standards.

April 1, 2013

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the disclosures contained in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement. Based upon this review and discussions, AAON's Compensation Committee recommended to its Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section be included in this proxy statement.

Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

A.H. McElroy II, Chairman  
Joseph E. Cappy  
Jack E. Short

(1) SEC filings sometimes “incorporate information by reference.” This means we are referring you to information that has previously been filed with the SEC, and that this information should be considered as part of the filing you are reading. Unless we specifically state otherwise, this Compensation Committee Report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference and shall not constitute soliciting material or otherwise be considered filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange act of 1934, as amended.

Compensation Committee's Interlocks and Insider Participation

No member of the Compensation Committee is or has been a former or current Named Executive Officer of AAON or had any relationships requiring disclosure by us under the SEC's rules requiring disclosure of certain relationships and related-party transactions. None of our Named Executive Officers identified herein served as a director or a member of a compensation committee (or other committee serving an equivalent function) of any other entity.

Compensation of Named Executive Officers

The “Summary Compensation Table” set forth below should be read in connection with the tables and narrative descriptions that follow. The “Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table”, and the description of the material terms of the nonqualified options and restricted stock awards granted in 2012, 2011 and 2010 that follows it, provide information regarding the long-term equity incentives awarded to Named Executive Officers in 2012, 2011 and 2010 that are also reported in the “Summary Compensation Table”. The “Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End Table” and “Option Exercises and Stock Vesting Table” provide further information on the Named Executive Officers' potential realizable value and actual value realized with respect to their equity awards.

We did not have any pension plans, non-qualified deferred compensation plans or severance, retirement, termination, written or unwritten constructive termination or change in control arrangements for any of our Named Executive Officers for the year ended December 31, 2012.

## Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)		Restricted Stock* Awards(1) (\$)	Option Awards* (1) (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Norman H. Asbjornson</b>								
President and CEO	2012	355,800	533,700	(7)	42,221	-	58,366 (2)	990,087
	2011	345,903	-		46,468	-	55,139 (2)	447,510
	2010	296,417	-		23,352	-	50,027 (2)	369,796
<b>Robert G. Fergus</b>								
Vice President, Manufacturing	2012	176,435	125,021	(7)	34,637	50,363	11,291 (3)	397,747
	2011	171,543	-		-	-	11,025 (3)	182,568
	2010	162,258	6,500		-	-	12,452 (3)	181,210
<b>Kathy I. Sheffield</b>								
Senior Vice President, Administration/Treasurer	2012	180,408	126,286	(7)	34,637	83,939	10,827 (4)	436,097
	2011	177,384	-		-	-	11,108 (4)	188,492
	2010	162,264	10,000		-	99,400	13,309 (4)	284,973
<b>David E. Knebel</b>								
Senior Vice President, Sales and Technology	2012	195,204	136,643	(7)	34,637	83,939	10,990 (5)	461,413
	2011	191,222	-		-	-	11,327 (5)	202,549
	2010	167,914	10,000		-	99,400	12,299 (5)	289,613
<b>Scott M. Asbjornson</b>								
Vice President, Finance and CFO	2012	180,288	125,398	(7)	34,637	83,939	72,023 (6)	496,285
	2011	176,063	5,549		-	-	12,893 (6)	194,505
	2010	146,900	15,429		-	99,400	15,790 (6)	277,519

\*Reflects three-for-two stock split effective June 13, 2011

(1) See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements. The values reflect grant date fair value of awards. Compensation costs are recognized for option and restricted stock awards over their requisite service period.

(2) Consists of (i) contributions to our 401(k) plan by AAON in the amount of \$10,745, \$10,343 and \$7,225 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (ii) director fees in the amount of \$27,500, \$24,450 and \$19,800 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (iii) payment of personal car lease in the amount of \$18,738, \$18,738 and \$18,738 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (iv) matching contributions to a Health Savings Account in the amount of \$1,383, \$792 and \$999 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; and (v) a per capita share, the same as all other eligible employees, of 10% of the pre-tax profit of AAON-Oklahoma in the amount of \$0, \$816 and \$3,265 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(3) Consists of (i) contributions to our 401(k) plan by AAON in the amount of \$9,908, \$9,521 and \$8,084 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (ii) matching contributions to a Health Savings Account in the amount of \$1,383, \$688

and \$1,103 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; and (iii) a per capita share, the same as all other eligible employees, of 10% of the pre-tax profit of AAON-Oklahoma in the amount of \$0, \$816 and \$3,265 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(4) Consists of (i) contributions to our 401(k) plan by AAON in the amount of \$9,765, \$9,500 and \$8,136 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (ii) matching contributions to a Health Savings Account in the amount of \$1,062, \$792 and \$999 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; and (iii) executive medical insurance in the amount of \$0, \$0, and \$909 as of December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 respectively; and (iv) a per capita share, the same as all other eligible employees, of 10% of the pre-tax profit of AAON-Oklahoma in the amount of \$0, \$816 and \$3,265 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.



(5) Consists of (i) contributions to our 401(k) plan by AAON in the amount of \$9,987, \$9,701 and \$8,196 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (ii) matching contributions to a Health Savings Account in the amount of \$1,003, \$810 and \$838 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; and (iii) a per capita share, the same as all other eligible employees, of 10% of the pre-tax profit of AAON-Oklahoma in the amount of \$0, \$816 and \$3,265 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(6) Consists of (i) contributions to our 401(k) plan by AAON in the amount of \$10,489, \$11,088 and \$9,717 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (ii) matching contributions to a Health Savings Account in the amount of \$1,534, \$1,126 and \$1,464 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively; (iii) a payment of \$60,000 for relocation from Longview, Texas to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2012; and (iv) a per capita share, the same as all other eligible employees, of 10% of the pre-tax profit of AAON Coil Products in the amount of \$0, \$679 and \$4,609 in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

(7) These bonuses were accrued at December 31, 2012 and paid on March 15, 2013.

We award stock incentives to key employees and the Named Executive Officers either on the initial date of employment or due to performance incentives throughout the year. The 2012, 2011 and 2010 grants to Named Executive Officers are reported in the table below. All share numbers and prices have been adjusted to reflect stock splits.

#### Grants of Plan-Based Awards

Name	Grant Date	All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units	All Other Option Awards:		Grant Date Fair Value of Stock/Option Awards
			Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/sh)	
Norman H. Asbjornson	5/15/12	2,250			42,200(1)
	5/17/11	2,250			46,468(2)
	5/25/10	1,575			23,352(3)
Robert G. Fergus	8/13/12	2,000			34,600(4)
	5/15/12		6,000	19.47	50,400(5)
Kathy I. Sheffield	8/13/12	2,000			34,600(4)
	5/15/12		10,000	19.47	83,900(5)
	5/25/10		15,000	15.51	99,400(6)
David E. Knebel	8/13/12	2,000			34,600(4)
	5/15/12		10,000	19.47	83,900(5)
	5/25/10		15,000	15.51	99,400(6)
Scott M. Asbjornson	8/13/12	2,000			34,600(4)

5/15/12	10,000	19.47	83,900(5)
5/25/10	15,000	15.51	99,400(6)

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(1) The fair value of these shares is \$18.76 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

(2) The fair value of these shares is \$20.65 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

(3) The fair value of these shares is \$14.83 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

(4) The fair value of these shares is \$17.32 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

(5) The fair value of these shares is \$8.39 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

(6) The fair value of these shares is \$6.63 per share based on the Black-Scholes pricing model. See discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to our financial statements.

#### Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

A discussion of 2012 salaries, bonuses and long-term incentive awards is included in “Executive Compensation.”

Named Executive Officers are not separately entitled to receive dividend equivalent rights with respect to each stock option, however, dividends are paid for restricted stock awards (retroactively upon vesting). Each nonqualified stock option award described in the “Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table” above expires on the tenth anniversary of its associated grant date and vests in equal installments over the course of three years for Board members and five years for executives. Norman H. Asbjornson’s awards vest over a three-year period due to his capacity as a director.

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The following table presents information regarding outstanding equity awards as of December 31, 2012. All share numbers and prices have been adjusted to reflect stock splits.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End

Name	Option Awards			Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Grant Date	Expiration Date	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Shares of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)
Norman H. Asbjornson				5/25/10	N/A	525 (1)	10,957
				5/17/11	N/A	1,500 (2)	31,305
				5/15/12	N/A	2,250 (3)	46,958
Robert G. Fergus	6,000		19.47	5/15/12	5/15/22		
				8/13/12	N/A	2,000 (4)	41,740
Kathy I. Sheffield	3,600	900	11.31	3/10/08	3/10/18		
	4,500	3,000	10.21	3/9/09	3/9/19		
	6,000	9,000	15.51	5/25/10	5/25/20		
		10,000	19.47	5/15/12	5/15/22		
				8/13/12	N/A	2,000 (4)	41,740
David E. Knebel	3,600	900	11.31	3/10/08	3/10/18		
	12,000	3,000	10.23	10/17/08	10/17/18		
	4,500	3,000	10.21	3/9/09	3/9/19		
	6,000	9,000	15.51	5/25/10	5/25/20		
		10,000	19.47	5/15/12	5/15/22		
			8/13/12	N/A	2,000 (4)	41,740	
Scott M. Asbjornson		900	11.31	3/10/08	3/10/18		
		3,000	10.21	3/9/09	3/9/19		
		9,000	15.51	5/25/10	5/25/20		
		10,000	19.47	5/15/12	5/15/22		
				8/13/12	N/A	2,000 (4)	41,740

- (1) The restricted stock awards vest ratably over 5 years and will be fully vested in May 2013.
- (2) The restricted stock awards vest ratably over 3 years and will be vested in May 2014.
- (3) The restricted stock awards vest ratably over 3 years and will be vested in May 2015.
- (4) The restricted stock awards vest ratably over 3 years and will be fully vested in August 2017.

The following table presents information regarding the exercise of stock options by Named Executive Officers during 2012. All shares and prices have been adjusted to reflect stock splits.

## Option Exercises and Stock Vesting

## Option Awards

Name	Number of Shares Exercised (#)	Valued Realized on Exercise (\$)
Norman H. Asbjornson	-	-
Robert G. Fergus	-	-
Kathy I. Sheffield	56,250	658,350
David E. Knebel	43,750	480,600
Scott M. Asbjornson	41,100	267,549

The following table sets forth information concerning our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2012. All shares and prices have been adjusted to reflect stock splits.

## Equity Compensation Plan Information

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plan (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1)	743,675	15.23	477,232
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders (2)	--	--	--
Total	743,675	15.23	477,232

(1) Consists of shares covered by the AAON 1992 Stock Option Plan, as amended, and the 2007 LTIP.

(2) We do not maintain any equity compensation plans that have not been approved by the stockholders.



## Director Compensation

Effective April 1, 2011, our directors are paid quarterly fees of \$5,000 (\$3,750 prior to April 2011) and attendance fees of \$1,500 (\$1,200 prior to April 2011) if present in person at Board meetings or \$950 (\$750 prior to April 2011) if participating by conference telephone call. In addition, our Directors are paid attendance fees of \$1,250 (\$1,000 prior to April 2011) per meeting for service on our Audit Committee and \$1,000 (\$750 prior to April 2011) per meeting for service on the Compensation Committee and the Governance Committee (up to a maximum of five meetings per committee per year) and the Chairman of the Audit Committee is paid an additional fee of \$2,250 (\$1,750 prior to April 2011) per quarter and the Chairman of the Compensation Committee and the Chairman of the Governance Committee are paid an additional fee of \$1,250 (\$750 prior to April 2011) per quarter. In 2007, following the adoption of our LTIP, we adopted a policy of annually granting each of our directors shares of restricted stock. Effective April 2011, the annual grant of restricted stock increased from 1,050 to 1,500 shares (2,250 shares following our 3-for-2 stock split on June 13, 2011). We made our annual grants of restricted stock awards in May 2012, at which time Messrs. Asbjornson, Johnson, Short, Lackey, McElroy, Levine and Cappy received restricted stock awards for 2,250 shares of stock, which vest ratably over three years.

Director Compensation Table

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Restricted Stock Awards(1) (\$)	Stock Options (\$)	All Other Comp. (\$)	Total (\$)
John B. Johnson, Jr.	27,500	42,221(2)		-	69,721
Jack E. Short	40,000	42,221(3)		-	82,221
Paul K. Lackey, Jr.	41,500	42,221(4)		-	83,721
A.H. McElroy II	41,500	42,221(4)		-	83,721
Jerry R. Levine	37,500	42,221(5)		54,000 (6)	133,721
Joseph E. Cappy	33,000	42,221(7)		-	75,221

(1) The values reflect grant date fair value of awards at \$18.76 per share granted on May 15, 2012. Compensation costs are recognized over the requisite service period. See also, the discussion of assumptions made in valuing these awards in the notes to the Company's financial statements.

(2) As of December 31, 2012, 4,275 shares associated with restricted stock awards were outstanding.

(3) As of December 31, 2012, 4,275 shares associated with restricted stock awards were outstanding.

(4) As of December 31, 2012, 4,275 shares associated with restricted stock awards were outstanding. Non-qualified options have not been granted during his term as a Board member.

(5) As of December 31, 2012, 11,000 shares underlying non-qualified options received in connection with services rendered as a consultant to the Company in 2010 were outstanding and 4,275 shares associated with restricted stock awards were outstanding.



(6) Compensation for investor relations consulting services provided to the Company.

(7) As of December 31, 2012, 8,025 shares associated with restricted stock awards were outstanding. Non-qualified options have not been granted during his term as a Board member.

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## SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires the Company's officers and directors, and persons who own more than ten percent of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file reports of securities ownership and changes in such ownership with the SEC, and SEC rules require such persons to furnish the Company with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely upon a review of copies of all Section 16(a) forms furnished to us during our most recent fiscal year, the Company believes that all Section 16(a) filing requirements were met during 2012, except that one Form 4 was not timely filed with respect to the gifting by Norman H. Asbjornson of 3,966 shares of AAON Common Stock to various members of his family on October 17, 2012. This transaction was reported on a Form 5, filed with the SEC on February 13, 2013 (which was within 45 days of the end of the Company's fiscal year).

## INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Audit Committee has selected Grant Thornton LLP ("GT") as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. Representatives of GT are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting with the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

### Fees and Independence

Our Audit Committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax and other services performed by the independent auditor. The following services were authorized by the Audit Committee.

**Audit Fees.** GT billed us an aggregate of \$597,060 and \$374,320 for professional services rendered for the audits of our financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2012, and 2011, respectively, and reviews of the related quarterly financial statements.

**All Other Fees.** No other fees were billed by GT to us during 2012 or 2011.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has determined that the provision of services by GT described above is compatible with maintaining GT's independence as our registered public accounting firm.

## STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Stockholder proposals intended to be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting and to be included in our Proxy Statement must be received at the our executive offices, 2425 South Yukon, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107, no later than December 3, 2013.

However, a stockholder who otherwise intends to present business at the 2014 Annual Meeting of stockholders, including nominations of persons to our Board of Directors, must also comply with the requirements set forth in our Bylaws. The Bylaws state, among other things, that to bring business before an annual meeting or to nominate a person for our Board of Directors, a stockholder must give written notice that complies with the Bylaws to the Secretary of AAON not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days in advance of the anniversary date of the immediately preceding annual meeting. Thus, a notice of a stockholder proposal or nomination for the 2014 Annual Meeting of stockholders, submitted other than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"), will be untimely if given before February 21, 2014, or after March 22, 2014. As to any such proposals, the proxies named in management's proxy for that meeting will be entitled to exercise their discretionary authority on that proposal unless we receive notice of the matter to be proposed between February 21, 2014 and

March 22, 2014. Even if proper notice is received on a timely basis, the proxies named in management's proxy for that meeting may nevertheless exercise their discretionary authority with respect to such matter by advising stockholders of such proposal and how they intend to exercise their discretion to vote on such matter to the extent permitted under Rule 14a-4(c)(2) of the Exchange Act.

OTHER MATTERS

Management knows of no business which will be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting other than to elect two directors for their ensuing terms.

The cost of preparing, assembling and providing all proxy solicitation materials will be paid by us. We will, upon request, reimburse brokers for the costs incurred by them in forwarding solicitation materials to such of their customers as are the beneficial holders of our Common Stock registered in the names of such brokers.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Norman H. Asbjornson  
President/CEO

April 8, 2013

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