

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 08, 2011

---

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  x  
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  o

Check the appropriate box:

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

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- x No fee required
- o Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: N/A
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: N/A
- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): N/A
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: N/A
- (5) Total fee paid: N/A

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

its filing.

(1)Amount previously paid:	N/A
(2)Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:	N/A
(3)Filing Party:	N/A
(4)Date Filed:	N/A

---

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
5601 West Buckeye Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85043

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 19, 2011

To our Shareholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC. to be held at 8:30 A.M., Phoenix time, on May 19, 2011, at our corporate headquarters located at 5601 W. Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. The purposes of the Annual Meeting are to:

1. Elect two Class I directors, each director to serve a term of three years;
2. Conduct an advisory, non-binding vote on executive compensation;
3. Conduct an advisory, non-binding vote on the frequency of holding future advisory, non-binding votes on executive compensation;
4. Ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2011; and
5. Transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 31, 2011, as the record date for determining those shareholders who are entitled to receive notice of and vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof. Shares of our Common Stock can be voted at the Annual Meeting only if the holder is present at the Annual Meeting in person or by valid proxy. A copy of our 2010 Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes audited consolidated financial statements, is enclosed. **YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. TO ENSURE YOUR REPRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PROMPTLY DATE, SIGN, AND RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.** You may also vote on the Internet by completing the electronic voting instruction form found at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) or by telephone using a touch-tone telephone and calling 1-800-690-6903. The prompt return of your proxy may save us additional expenses of solicitation.

By Order of the Board of  
Directors,  
/s/ Adam Miller  
Adam Miller, Secretary

Phoenix, Arizona  
April 8, 2011

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
GENERAL INFORMATION	<u>1</u>
Voting Rights	<u>1</u>
Quorum Requirement	<u>1</u>
Required Vote; Cumulative Voting	<u>1</u>
Right To Attend the Annual Meeting; Revocation of Proxy	<u>2</u>
Costs of Solicitation	<u>2</u>
Annual Report	<u>2</u>
How To Read this Proxy Statement	<u>2</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS	<u>3</u>
Class I Director Nominees	<u>3</u>
CONTINUING DIRECTORS	<u>4</u>
Class II Directors	<u>4</u>
Class III Directors	<u>4</u>
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	<u>5</u>
Applicable Corporate Governance Requirements	<u>5</u>
Corporate Governance Guidelines	<u>5</u>
Code of Ethics	<u>6</u>
The Board of Directors and Its Committees	<u>6</u>
Board of Directors	<u>6</u>
Committees of the Board of Directors	<u>7</u>
The Audit Committee	<u>7</u>
Report of the Audit Committee	<u>8</u>
The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	<u>10</u>
The Compensation Committee	<u>11</u>
Compensation Committee Report	<u>12</u>
Risks Presented by the Company's Compensation Programs	<u>12</u>
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	<u>12</u>
The Executive Committee	<u>12</u>
Other Board and Corporate Governance Matters	<u>13</u>
Our Executive Officers and Certain Significant Employees	<u>13</u>
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance	<u>14</u>
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>15</u>
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	<u>15</u>
Overview and Philosophy of Compensation	<u>15</u>
Elements of Compensation	<u>15</u>
Base Salary	<u>16</u>
Incentive Compensation	<u>17</u>
Performance-Based and Discretionary Annual Cash Bonuses	<u>17</u>
Long-Term Incentives	<u>18</u>
Other Compensation	<u>18</u>
Employee Benefits	<u>18</u>
Compensation Paid to Our Named Executive Officers	<u>19</u>
Compensation Paid to Our Chief Executive Officer	<u>19</u>
Compensation Paid to Our Other Named Executive Officers	<u>20</u>
Compensation Decisions with Respect to 2011	<u>22</u>
Employment Agreements	<u>22</u>

Summary Compensation Table	<u>23</u>
All Other Compensation Table	<u>24</u>
Narrative to Summary Compensation Table	<u>24</u>
Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End	<u>25</u>
Vesting Schedule Table	<u>26</u>
Option Exercises and Stock Vested	<u>26</u>
Director Compensation	<u>27</u>
Narrative to Director Compensation	<u>27</u>
SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT	<u>28</u>
CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS	<u>29</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 2 – ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>30</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 3 – ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING FUTURE ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>31</u>
PROPOSAL NO. 4 – RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	<u>32</u>
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES	<u>32</u>
Change in Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	<u>33</u>
SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS	<u>33</u>
OTHER MATTERS	<u>34</u>

---

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
5601 West Buckeye Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85043

PROXY STATEMENT  
FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 19, 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of Knight Transportation, Inc. to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held at 8:30 A.M., Phoenix time, on May 19, 2011, at our corporate headquarters located at 5601 W. Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. **THE ENCLOSED PROXY IS SOLICITED BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** If not otherwise specified, all proxies received pursuant to this solicitation will be voted (i) FOR the director nominees named herein; (ii) FOR approval of the advisory resolution on executive compensation; (iii) THREE YEARS regarding the frequency of conducting future advisory votes on executive compensation; (iv) FOR ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2011; and (v) with respect to any other matters properly brought before the Annual Meeting, in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors, or, if no recommendations are given, in accordance with the judgment of the proxy holders.

A Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Internet Notice") was first mailed on or about April 8, 2011, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 2011 (the "Record Date"). The Internet Notice will instruct you as to how you may access and review the proxy materials. The Proxy Statement, the proxy card, and our Annual Report are first being made available to shareholders on April 8, 2011.

The terms "we," "our," "us," or the "Company" refer to Knight Transportation, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

Voting Rights

Only holders of record of our Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share ("Common Stock"), at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, either in person or by valid proxy. Except in the election of directors, shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on each matter of business to be considered at the Annual Meeting. In the election of directors, shareholders have cumulative voting rights under Arizona law. See "Required Vote; Cumulative Voting." As of the Record Date, there were issued and outstanding 83,835,789 shares of our Common Stock, entitled to cast an aggregate 83,835,789 votes on all matters subject to a vote at the Annual Meeting, other than in the election of the Class I directors, where the shares are entitled to an aggregate 167,671,578 votes. Votes cast at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by the Inspector of Elections and the results of all items voted upon will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Quorum Requirement

In order to transact business at the Annual Meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum is present if a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock as of the Record Date are represented at the Annual Meeting in person or by proxy. Shares that are entitled to vote but that are not voted at the direction of the holder (called "abstentions") and shares that are not voted by a broker or other record holder due to the absence of instructions from the beneficial owner (called "broker non-votes") will be counted for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is

present.

Required Vote; Cumulative Voting

Election of Directors. Directors are elected by plurality of the votes cast, which means that the director nominees receiving the highest number of votes for their election will be elected as directors. Abstentions and broker non-votes are not counted as votes for the election of any director nominee. Under the Constitution of the State of

Arizona, as well as Section 10-728 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, shareholders have cumulative voting rights in electing directors of an Arizona corporation. Cumulative voting means that each shareholder, when electing directors, has the right to cast as many votes in the aggregate as he, she, or it has voting shares multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. For example, this year two Class I directors will be elected. If a shareholder has 100 shares of Common Stock, the shareholder is entitled to cast a total of 200 votes in the election of the Class I directors and may cast 200 votes for a single director nominee or distribute those votes among the two Class I director nominees.

You may not cumulate your votes if they are cast "withheld." Our Bylaws provide that, in an uncontested election, a director nominee who receives a greater number of votes cast "withheld" for his or her election than "for" such election will promptly tender his or her resignation to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is required to evaluate the resignation, taking into account the best interests of the Company and its shareholders, and recommend to our Board of Directors whether to accept or reject the resignation.

**Other Matters.** Approval of the other matters submitted to shareholders for consideration and action at the Annual Meeting requires that the number of votes cast for the matter exceeds the number of votes cast against the matter. However, with respect to Proposal No. 3, the frequency receiving the greatest number of votes cast will be considered the frequency recommended by our shareholders. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be disregarded in determining whether a matter has been approved. In other words, abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted neither as votes for, nor as votes against, a matter.

#### Right to Attend the Annual Meeting; Revocation of Proxy

Returning a proxy card now will not interfere with your right to attend the Annual Meeting or to vote your shares personally at the Annual Meeting, if you wish to do so. Shareholders who execute and return proxies may revoke them at any time before they are exercised by giving written notice to our Secretary at our address, by executing a subsequent proxy and delivering it to our Secretary, or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

#### Costs of Solicitation

We will bear the cost of solicitation of proxies, which we expect to be nominal, and we will include reimbursements for the charges and expenses of brokerage firms and others for forwarding solicitation material to beneficial owners of our outstanding Common Stock. Proxies will be solicited by mail and may be solicited personally by our directors, officers, or employees, who will not receive any additional compensation for any such services.

#### Annual Report

The information included in this Proxy Statement should be reviewed in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements, Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Reports of our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, and other information included in our 2010 Annual Report to Shareholders that was made available on or about April 8, 2011, together with this Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement, to all shareholders of record as of the Record Date. A copy of our Annual Report is available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our corporate website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>. The Annual Report is not incorporated into this Proxy Statement, and is not considered proxy-soliciting material.

#### How to Read this Proxy Statement

This Proxy Statement contains the proposals to be considered by shareholders at the Annual Meeting, as well as important information concerning, among other things: our management and our Board of Directors; executive



compensation; transactions between us and our officers, directors, and affiliates; the stock ownership of management and other large shareholders; the services provided to us by and fees of our independent registered public accounting firm; and instructions for shareholders who want to make proposals at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Each shareholder should read this information before completing and returning the enclosed proxy card.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL NO. 1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors presently consists of eight members. The directors are divided into three classes, with each class serving a three-year term. The shareholders elect approximately one-third of the Board of Directors each year. Two Class I directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board of Directors has nominated Donald A. Bliss and Richard J. Lehmann for election as Class I directors at the Annual Meeting.

Each Class I director nominee will be elected to serve until the 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified or his or her resignation or removal, whichever occurs first. Each of the Class I director nominees has consented to serve a three-year term.

If any of the nominees named above should become unavailable to serve as a director, the Board of Directors may designate a substitute nominee. In that case, the proxy holders will vote for the substitute nominee designated by the Board.

There currently is a vacancy on our Board, which results in only two nominees for the election of Class I directors. We have and will continue to consider qualified candidates to fill this vacancy. See "Corporate Governance – The Board of Directors and Its Committees – Committees of the Board of Directors – The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee – Process for Identifying and Evaluating Director Nominees" for a description of the process of identifying and evaluating director nominees.

Class I Director Nominees

Information concerning the nominees standing for election as Class I directors follows:

Donald A. Bliss, 78

Director Since 1995

Donald A. Bliss has served as a member of our Board of Directors since February 1995. Until his retirement in December 1994, Mr. Bliss was the Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of U.S. West Communications, a U.S. West company. Mr. Bliss also is a director of the Western and Southern Life Insurance Company and the Biltmore Bank of Arizona. Mr. Bliss served as Chairman of the Western Region Advisory Board of AON Risk Services of Arizona, Inc. from October 2001 to February 2005. The selection of Mr. Bliss as a director nominee was based, among other things, upon his extensive business experience and financial expertise that he brings to our Board as well as his insight and knowledge of our business gained through years of service on our Board.

Richard J. Lehmann, 66

Director Since 2006

Richard J. Lehmann has served as a member of our Board of Directors since February 2006. Mr. Lehmann serves as the founding principal and a director of the Biltmore Bank of Arizona and is the Chairman of Bank Capital Corporation, the holding company for the Biltmore Bank of Arizona. Until December 31, 1999, Mr. Lehmann served as Vice Chairman of Bank One, when it acquired FCNBC, creating the fifth largest bank in the United States, with responsibility for all consumer banking and credit card operations. Mr. Lehmann's previous positions include Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Valley National Bank. Prior to that, Mr. Lehmann spent 20 years with Citigroup in various positions, including 10 years in the International Division, with more than three years as a Senior Corporate Officer in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Mr. Lehmann is a member of the board of directors of the

TGen Foundation. He also served as a director of eFunds Corporation, iCrossing, Inc., and the Arizona Board of Nature Conservancy. He also serves on the Mayo Advisory Board and serves on the Board of Trustees at Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management. Mr. Lehmann brings to our Board strong leadership, finance, and global experience developed throughout his career in the banking industry.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" EACH OF THE DIRECTOR NOMINEES.

Table of Contents

CONTINUING DIRECTORS

Class II Directors

Information regarding our current Class II directors who were elected in 2009 for terms expiring at our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders follows:

Gary J. Knight, 59 Director Since 1990

Gary J. Knight has served as a Vice Chairman of our Board of Directors since January 2004. Mr. Knight served as our President from 1993 to January 2004, and has been one of our officers and a member of our Board of Directors since 1990. From 1975 until 1990, Mr. Knight was employed by Swift Transportation Co., Inc. ("Swift"), where he was an Executive Vice President.

G.D. Madden, 71 Director Since 1997

G.D. Madden has served as a member of our Board of Directors since January 1997. Since 1996, Mr. Madden has been President of Madden Partners, a consulting firm he founded, which specializes in transportation technology and strategic issues. Prior to founding Madden Partners, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Innovative Computing Corporation ("ICC"), a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Mr. Madden founded ICC, a privately held company, which grew to be the largest supplier of fully integrated management information systems to the trucking industry. Mr. Madden sold ICC to Westinghouse in 1990 and continued to serve as its President and Chief Executive Officer until 1996.

Kathryn L. Munro, 62 Director Since 2005

Kathryn L. Munro has served as a member of our Board of Directors since April 2005. She is a principal of BridgeWest, LLC, a private equity investment company specializing in wireless technology companies. Ms. Munro was the Chairperson of BridgeWest from February 1999 until July 2003. From 1996 to 1998, Ms. Munro served as Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America's Southwest Banking Group and was President of Bank of America Arizona from 1994 to 1996. Ms. Munro has served on the boards of directors of Flow International Corporation, a Seattle-based manufacturer of industrial tools, since 1996 and Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, the holding company of Arizona Public Service and Pinnacle West Energy, since 2000. Ms. Munro also serves on the board of Premera, a privately held health insurance company headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Munro served on the board of Capitol Bancorp Limited, a Michigan-based multi-bank holding company, from 2002 to 2006.

Class III Directors

Information regarding our current Class III directors who were elected in 2010 for terms expiring at our 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders follows:

Kevin P. Knight, 54 Director Since 1990

Kevin P. Knight has served as the Chairman of our Board of Directors since May 1999 and has served as our Chief Executive Officer since 1993. He has been one of our officers and directors since 1990. From 1975 to 1984 and again from 1986 to 1990, Mr. Knight was employed by Swift, where he served as Executive Vice President and President of Cooper Motor Lines, Inc., a Swift subsidiary. From February 2004 through February 2008, Mr. Knight served on the

Board of Directors of Universal Technical Institute, Inc., a provider of post-secondary education. Mr. Knight currently serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the American Trucking Association. The selection of Mr. Knight as a director was based, among other things, upon his extensive experience in business operations and exemplary executive leadership. Mr. Knight also has exhibited commendable dedication to our financial and operating performance during the recent challenging economic environment.

Table of Contents

Randy Knight, 62

Director Since 1989

Randy Knight has served as a member of our Board of Directors since 1989. Mr. Knight rejoined our Company as an employee in January 2009 and was appointed as a Vice Chairman of the Board effective February 27, 2009. Mr. Knight was a founder of our Company and served as an officer from 1989 until 1999 and as Chairman of the Board from 1993 until 1999. From 1999 until December 2008, Mr. Knight worked outside of our Company on a variety of personal investments, including Total Warehousing, Inc., a commercial warehousing and local transportation business that he sold in 2004. He also serves as a director of Biltmore Bank of Arizona. Mr. Knight was employed by Swift or related companies from 1969 to 1985, where he was a Vice President. Mr. Knight brings to the Board of Directors strong leadership, extensive business and operating experience, and deep insight into the trucking industry. Mr. Knight's strong relationships with our customers and extensive knowledge of our business also make him an invaluable member of our sales team.

Michael Garnreiter, 59

Director Since 2003

Michael Garnreiter has served as a member of our Board of Directors since September 2003. Mr. Garnreiter currently is managing director with a Scottsdale-based financial consulting organization, Fenix Financial Forensics LLC, which provides financial analysis, forensic accounting, litigation support, and other dispute resolution services to a variety of businesses and organizations. Mr. Garnreiter also is a director and member of the audit committees of Taser International, Inc., a manufacturer of non-lethal protection devices, Amtech Systems, Inc., a supplier of horizontal diffusion furnace systems, and IA Global, Inc., an Asian business processes outsourcing company. Mr. Garnreiter also served as the sole director of Syntax Brillian Corporation, a dissolved company that designed, developed, and distributed high definition televisions. Mr. Garnreiter was formerly the Executive Vice President, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer of Main Street Restaurant Group, Inc., a publicly held restaurant operating company. Prior to joining Main Street, Mr. Garnreiter served as a general partner of Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Garnreiter began his career with Arthur Andersen in 1974 after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from California State University at Long Beach. In 1986, he became the managing partner of Arthur Andersen's Tucson, Arizona office. Mr. Garnreiter is a Certified Public Accountant in California and Arizona. As a member of our Board of Directors, Mr. Garnreiter offers solid financial expertise gained from his managerial role at a large international accounting firm. In addition, the experience acquired through Mr. Garnreiter's positions as a director of several public companies benefit the Company, the Board of Directors, and our shareholders.

Kevin Knight, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Keith Knight, one of our executive officers, are brothers and are cousins of Randy Knight and Gary Knight, who also are brothers.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Applicable Corporate Governance Requirements

Our Common Stock has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") since December 30, 2004, and we are subject to the NYSE listing standards, including those relating to corporate governance. Prior to listing on the NYSE, our Common Stock was listed on what today is known as the Nasdaq Global Select Market ("NASDAQ"), and we were subject to the NASDAQ listing standards, including those related to corporate governance.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board of Directors has adopted corporate governance guidelines to further its goal of providing effective governance of our business and affairs for the long-term benefit of our shareholders. A copy of the corporate

governance guidelines is available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for periodically reviewing the corporate governance guidelines and recommending changes as appropriate to ensure the effective functioning of our Board of Directors and corporate governance.

Table of Contents

Code of Ethics

The Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Ethical Conduct that applies to all of our directors, officers, and employees. In addition, we maintain a Policy Governing Responsibilities of Financial Managers and Senior Officers (the "Financial Responsibilities Policy") that applies to our senior executive officers (Executive Vice President or above), Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer, Controller, and any other employee who is responsible for the management of our funds or for the operation and maintenance of our financial accounting and reporting system. The Code of Ethical Conduct and Financial Responsibilities Policy includes provisions applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, which constitute a "code of ethics" within the meaning of Item 406(b) of Regulation S-K. Copies of the Code of Ethical Conduct and Financial Responsibilities Policy are available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>.

The Board of Directors and Its Committees

Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors. During the year ended December 31, 2010, our Board of Directors met on four occasions. Each of the directors attended 75% or more of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the meetings held by all of the committees of the Board on which he or she served, with the exception of Mr. Bliss who attended 50% of the meetings of the Board of Directors due to health reasons. We encourage our directors to attend our Annual Meetings of Shareholders. All of our directors attended the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Independent Directors. In accordance with NYSE Rule 303A.02(a), the Board of Directors affirmatively determines the independence of each director after reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board has determined that Donald A. Bliss, G.D. Madden, Michael Garnreiter, Kathryn L. Munro, and Richard J. Lehmann are independent (collectively, the "Independent Directors"). Except in their capacities as directors or as holders of an immaterial amount of securities of other entities, neither Mr. Bliss, Mr. Madden, Mr. Garnreiter, Ms. Munro, nor Mr. Lehmann, either directly or in his or her capacity as a partner, shareholder, officer, or similar position of another organization, has or in the past three years had any business or financial relationship with us or any of our subsidiaries. None of the Independent Directors or any of their immediate family members has or had any of the disqualifying relationships with us or our subsidiaries specified in NYSE Rule 303A.02(b).

Board Leadership Structure. Kevin P. Knight has served as the Chairman of our Board of Directors since May 1999 and has served as our Chief Executive Officer since 1993. The Board believes that the combination of these two positions is the most appropriate and suitable structure for proper and efficient Board functioning and communication, which is facilitated by Kevin Knight serving as the direct link between senior management and the Board. In these capacities, he provides critical insight to the Board and leadership for our senior management in our day-to-day operations. To ensure that Kevin Knight has sufficient time to fulfill his responsibilities as the Chairman of our Board and our Chief Executive Officer, the Board of Directors has appointed Gary Knight and Randy Knight to serve as Vice Chairmen and has assigned the responsibility to Gary Knight to conduct and preside at board meetings. Kevin Knight reports to the Board as the Chief Executive Officer along with the other executive officers and also participates in the meetings as a director.

Risk Oversight. The Board of Directors has assigned the assessment of enterprise risk to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the assessment of financial risk to the Audit Committee. Management reports to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Audit Committee with respect to the overall enterprise



risk environment, including both business and financial risk, of our operations. The committees then evaluate the management's risk assessment and report to the Board of Directors.

Table of Contents

Executive Sessions. In 2010, our Independent Directors held one meeting, referred to as "executive sessions," at which only the Independent Directors were present. The Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee acts as the lead independent director and is the presiding director for all executive sessions. Mr. Bliss currently serves as the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and will continue in that capacity following the Annual Meeting. Our Independent Directors will continue to meet regularly and at least once annually.

Communication with Directors. Our Board of Directors provides a process for shareholders to send written communications to the entire Board or to individual directors. To send a communication to the entire Board of Directors, your communication should be addressed as follows: The Board of Directors, Knight Transportation, Inc., c/o Adam Miller – Secretary, 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. Written communications addressed in this manner will be copied and distributed to each director at or prior to the next board meeting. If you wish to communicate with an individual director, your communication should be addressed as follows: Name – Director, Knight Transportation, Inc., c/o Adam Miller – Secretary, 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. Written communications received in this manner will not be opened, but rather delivered unopened to the director to whom they are addressed at or prior to the next board meeting, following clearance through normal security procedures.

In addition, we provide a method for concerned parties to communicate directly with our non-management directors. Any person wishing to contact our non-management directors may contact these directors through our presiding non-management director, the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, whose contact information may be obtained by writing our Secretary, Adam Miller, at the address set forth above or by calling our Investor Relations Department at telephone number (602) 606-6349.

## Committees of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has standing Audit, Nominating and Corporate Governance, Compensation, and Executive Committees. The Board does not maintain any other standing committees. The following table sets forth the membership of each of the standing committees of the Board of Directors as of February 28, 2011.

Name	Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Executive Committee	Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee
Donald A. Bliss	X		X	X
Michael Garnreiter	X			
Kevin P. Knight			X	
Gary J. Knight			X	
Richard J. Lehmann		X		X
G.D. Madden	X	X		
Kathryn L. Munro		X	X	X

The Audit Committee

Purpose, Functions, Composition, and Meetings. The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in its oversight of:

- the integrity of our financial statements;
- the qualifications, independence, and performance of our independent registered public accounting firm;  
and
- our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements related to financial reporting.

Table of Contents

As more fully outlined in the Audit Committee's charter, the primary functions of the Audit Committee include:

- making determinations regarding the selection and retention of our independent registered public accounting firm and reviewing and pre-approving such firm's fees and the proposed scope of its services; and
- reviewing and meeting with our management, internal auditors, and independent registered public accounting firm, as applicable, to discuss, our financial statements and financial and related disclosures, our accounting policies and principles, and our internal financial controls and reporting systems.

Messrs. Bliss, Madden, and Garnreiter currently serve on the Audit Committee, and Mr. Garnreiter serves as the Chairman. Each member of the Audit Committee satisfies the independence and other audit committee membership criteria set forth in NYSE Rule 303A.07. Specifically, each member of the Audit Committee:

- is independent under NYSE Rule 303A.02;
- meets the criteria for independence set forth in Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"); and
- is financially literate, as our Board of Directors has interpreted such qualification in its business judgment.

In addition, the Board has determined that Mr. Garnreiter's service on the audit committees of more than three public companies does not impair his ability to effectively serve on our Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee met six times during 2010. Each member of the Audit Committee attended all of the Audit Committee meetings during 2010, except Mr. Bliss who was unable to attend one meeting.

**Audit Committee Financial Expert.** The Board of Directors has determined that at least one "audit committee financial expert," as defined under Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K, currently serves on the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has identified Mr. Garnreiter as an audit committee financial expert. Mr. Garnreiter is independent, as independence for audit committee members is defined under applicable NYSE rules.

**Audit Committee Charter.** A copy of the Audit Committee's current charter is available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>.

**Report of the Audit Committee.** In performing its duties, the Audit Committee, as required by applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), issues a report recommending to the Board of Directors that our audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, and relating to certain other matters, including the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm. The Report of the Audit Committee follows.

The Report of the Audit Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing made by us under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, notwithstanding any general statement contained in any such filings incorporating this Proxy Statement by reference, except to the extent we incorporate such report by specific reference.

The Audit Committee oversees the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and the audit of the financial statements of the Company. Management of the Company has primary responsibility for the Company's financial statements and the overall reporting process, including maintenance of the Company's systems of internal control. The Company retains an

8

---

Table of Contents

independent registered public accounting firm that is responsible for conducting an independent audit of the Company's financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB"), and issuing a report thereon.

In undertaking its responsibilities, the Audit Committee has discussed the Company's financial statements with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and, in issuing this report, has relied upon the responses and information provided to the Audit Committee by management and the independent registered public accounting firm.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management and Deloitte & Touche LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm until March 23, 2011. Specifically, the Audit Committee has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Rule 2-07 of SEC Regulation S-X "Communication with Audit Committees," and PCAOB Interim Standards "Communication with Audit Committees" (AU Section 380) as amended, which include, among other things:

- methods used to account for significant unusual transactions;
- the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus;
- the process used by management in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and the basis for the accounting firm's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates; and
- disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles, the basis for management's accounting estimates, and the disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures from the independent registered public accounting firm required by PCAOB Ethics and Independence Rule 3526, "Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence" and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm its independence within the meaning of the rules and standards of the PCAOB and the securities laws and regulations administered by the SEC.

Based on the foregoing reviews and discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Michael Garnreiter, Chairman  
G.D. Madden, Member  
Donald A. Bliss, Member

Table of Contents

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Purpose, Functions, Composition, and Meetings. The purposes of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are to assist the Board of Directors in improving our corporate governance, to train members of the Board, to improve the Board's governance functions, and to assist us in obtaining the highest quality independent directors. As more fully detailed in the Nominating and Governance Committee's charter, the primary functions of the committee include:

- evaluating the composition of the Board and selecting and recommending nominees for election or re-election to the Board or for appointment to fill Board vacancies;
- developing and implementing regular and emergency succession plans for our senior management positions; and
- reviewing and developing policies or making recommendations concerning other aspects of our corporate governance, such as the Board's committee structure, our corporate governance guidelines, director training and evaluation programs, and potential conflicts of interest.

Mr. Lehmann, Ms. Munro, and Mr. Bliss currently serve on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and Mr. Bliss serves as Chairman.

All current members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are independent, as independence for nominating committee members is defined under applicable NYSE rules. In 2010, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee did not hold a meeting, but took several actions by written consent.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has approved the nomination of Donald A. Bliss and Richard J. Lehmann as Class I directors and recommended their election. Each nominee is presently a director and has consented to stand for re-election.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter. A copy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's current charter is available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>.

Board Diversity. In recommending candidates for the Board of Directors, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers board diversity with an emphasis on diverse backgrounds, skills, and experience that will be beneficial to us. Pursuant to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's charter, all candidates are evaluated and selected consistent with our policy of nondiscrimination with respect to race, creed, religion, or national origin.

Process for Identifying and Evaluating Director Nominees. Director nominees are chosen by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews the qualifications of various persons to determine whether they should be considered as candidates for membership on the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also accepts recommendations of director candidates from our other outside directors and our executive officers, advisors, and shareholders. We do not pay a fee to any third party to identify or evaluate or assist in identifying or evaluating potential nominees.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews all candidate recommendations, including those properly submitted by shareholders, in accordance with the mandate contained in its charter. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee assesses a candidate's judgment, integrity, independence, management or business skills and experience (particularly with public companies and companies in our industry or other industries related to our business), prominence and reputation in their profession, knowledge of corporate governance issues and board functions, commitment to attend and actively participate in meetings and related board activities, other commitments and responsibilities, and such other factors as the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee determines are appropriate in light of our needs and the needs of the Board. With regard to specific qualities and skills, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes it is necessary that: (i) at least a majority of the members of the Board of



Table of Contents

Directors qualify as "independent" under NYSE Rule 303A.02; (ii) at least three members of the Board of Directors satisfy the audit committee membership criteria specified in NYSE Rule 303A.07; and (iii) at least one member of the Board of Directors eligible to serve on the Audit Committee has sufficient knowledge, experience, and training concerning accounting and financial matters so as to qualify as an "audit committee financial expert" within the meaning of Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K.

In addition to the qualifications and considerations described above, our corporate governance guidelines contain the following director eligibility criteria that impact the director nomination process:

- a mandatory retirement age of 82 for all directors, subject to waiver by a majority of the Board;
- director term limits of 20 years, following March 2, 2005, for all directors, subject to waiver by a majority of the Board;
- no director may serve on more than five public company boards of directors, including our Board; and
- our Chief Executive Officer may not serve on more than two other public company boards of directors in addition to our Board.

Consideration of Director Candidates Recommended by Shareholders. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by shareholders, provided that the following procedural requirements are satisfied. Candidate recommendations should be mailed via certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, Knight Transportation, Inc., c/o Adam Miller – Secretary, 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043. To be considered, a shareholder recommendation must: (i) be received at least 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the release date of the proxy statement for the prior year's Annual Meeting (by December 10, 2011 for director candidates to be considered for nomination for election at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders); (ii) contain sufficient background information, such as a resumé and references, to enable the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to make a proper judgment regarding the qualifications of the proposed nominee; (iii) be accompanied by a signed consent of the proposed nominee to serve as a director if elected and a representation that such proposed nominee qualifies as "independent" under NYSE Rule 303A.02 or, if the proposed nominee does not qualify, a description of the reason(s) he or she is not "independent;" (iv) state the name and address of the person submitting the recommendation and the number of shares of our Common Stock owned of record or beneficially by such person; and (v) if submitted by a beneficial shareholder, be accompanied by evidence that the person making the recommendation beneficially owns shares of our Common Stock.

#### The Compensation Committee

Purpose, Functions, Composition, and Meetings. The Compensation Committee reviews, analyzes, recommends, and approves all aspects of executive compensation. As more fully outlined in the Compensation Committee's charter, the primary responsibilities of the Compensation Committee include:

- reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relating to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, evaluating the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of those objectives, and determining and approving the Chief Executive Officer's compensation based upon this evaluation;
-

reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding the compensation of our other executive officers;

- reviewing and approving all forms of incentive compensation, including stock options and other stock-based awards to our executive officers; and
- administering our equity compensation plan, as in effect from time-to-time.

Table of Contents

During 2010, and as of the date hereof, Mr. Lehmann, Mr. Madden, and Ms. Munro, served on the Compensation Committee, and Ms. Munro served as Chairperson. The Compensation Committee met twice in 2010. Each member of the Compensation Committee attended all of the Compensation Committee meetings during 2010. See "Executive Compensation – Compensation Discussion and Analysis" for a discussion of, including the role the Compensation Committee and our executive officers have in implementing, our processes and procedures for recommending and setting executive and director compensation.

Compensation Committee Charter. A copy of the Compensation Committee's current charter is available free of charge on the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>.

Report of the Compensation Committee. In performing its duties, the Compensation Committee, as required by applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, issues a report recommending to the Board of Directors that our Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement. The Report of the Compensation Committee follows.

The Report of the Compensation Committee shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing made by us under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, notwithstanding any general statement contained in any such filings incorporating this Proxy Statement by reference, except to the extent we incorporate such report by specific reference.

Compensation Committee Report

We have reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this Proxy Statement with management. Based on that review and discussion, we have recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

Kathryn Munro, Chairperson  
G.D. Madden, Member  
Richard J. Lehmann, Member

Risks Presented by the Company's Compensation Programs

As required by SEC rules, the Company has assessed the risks that could arise from its compensation policies for all employees, including employees who are not officers, and has concluded that such policies are not reasonably likely to have a materially adverse effect on the Company.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of the current members of the Compensation Committee have been, or are, one of our officers or employees. During 2010, none of our executive officers served as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee (or other committee performing equivalent functions) of any entity that had one or more executive officers serving as a member of our Board of Directors. See "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" for a description of certain transactions between us and our directors and executive officers, or their affiliates, and "Executive Compensation – Director Compensation" for a description of the compensation of the members of the Compensation Committee.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Directors when the Board of Directors is not in session. During 2010, and as of the date hereof, the Executive Committee was comprised of Messrs. Kevin Knight, Gary Knight, Bliss, and Ms. Munro. The Executive Committee did not meet during 2010.

12

---

Table of Contents

## Other Board and Corporate Governance Matters

**Director Evaluation Program.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for developing and implementing a director evaluation program to measure the individual and collective performance of directors and the fulfillment of their responsibilities to our shareholders, including an assessment of the Board's compliance with applicable corporate governance requirements and identification of areas in which the Board might improve its performance. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also is responsible for developing and recommending to the Board of Directors for approval an annual self-evaluation process for the Board designed to assure that directors contribute to our corporate governance and to our performance.

**Director Orientation and Training.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for developing and implementing an orientation program for new directors. Under this program, we provide new, non-management directors a variety of materials to assist them in familiarizing themselves with our business, management structure, and operations and key legal, financial, risk management, and operational issues, as well as the policies, procedures, and responsibilities of the Board and its committees. New, non-management directors also meet with members of our senior management and other non-management directors as part of their orientation. We periodically provide materials to directors on various subjects to assist them in understanding our business and operations and in effectively discharging their duties.

**Authority to Engage Advisors.** Each of the Audit Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, and the Compensation Committee is conferred by its charter with explicit authority to engage its own independent advisors, including legal counsel.

**Management Succession Planning.** The Board of Directors has adopted a management succession plan that identifies emergency and potential long-term successors to our Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Financial Officer, and certain other key members of senior management. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, following consultation with our Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for giving an annual report to the Board of Directors with regard to management succession planning. After reviewing this report and consulting with the members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Chief Executive Officer, the Board of Directors makes any changes or updates to the management succession plan that it determines are appropriate.

## Our Executive Officers and Certain Significant Employees

The following table sets forth, as of March 31, 2011, certain information regarding our executive officers (Kevin P. Knight, Gary J. Knight, Randy Knight, Keith T. Knight, and David A. Jackson) and our significant employees (Kevin Quast, James E. Updike, Jr., Adam Miller, Michael K. Liu, Erick Kutter, Greg Ritter, and Robert Papworth).

Name	Age	Position
Kevin P. Knight	54	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Gary J. Knight	59	Vice Chairman of the Board
	62	Vice Chairman of the Board

Randy Knight	
Keith T. Knight	56 Chief Operating Officer
David A. Jackson	35 President and Chief Financial Officer
Kevin Quast	45 Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
James E. Updike, Jr.	38 Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing
Adam Miller	30 Senior Vice President of Accounting and Finance, Secretary, and Treasurer
Michael K. Liu	38 President of Knight Transportation – Dry Van
Erick Kutter	43 President of Knight Refrigerated, LLC
Greg Ritter	52 President of Knight Brokerage, LLC
Robert Papworth	61 President of Knight Intermodal

Table of Contents

Keith T. Knight has served as our Chief Operating Officer since May 2006. Prior to his appointment as Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Knight served as our Executive Vice President from 1993 until May 2006, and has been one of our officers since 1990. He served as a member of our Board of Directors from 1990 to 2004. From 1977 until 1990, Mr. Knight was employed by Swift, where he was a Vice President and Manager of Swift's Los Angeles terminal.

David A. Jackson joined us in April 2000. He has served as our President since February 2011 and our Chief Financial Officer since January 2004. Mr. Jackson served as our Treasurer from May 2006 to February 2011 and our Secretary from November 2007 to February 2011. Prior to his appointment as the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Jackson served in several positions at Knight between 2000 and 2004.

Kevin Quast joined us in January 1996. He has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer since February 2011. Prior to his appointment as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Quast served as the Business Unit Leader for the Southeast since May 2010. Prior to his appointment as Business Unit Leader for the Southeast, Mr. Quast served in several senior sales and operations positions in the Southeast region since 2001 and in other operating departments since 1996.

James E. Updike, Jr. joined us in December 1996. He has served as Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing since February 2011. Prior to his appointment as Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Mr. Updike served as Vice President of Sales at Knight Refrigerated since September 2006 and as General Manager since July 2008. Prior to joining Knight Refrigerated, Mr. Updike served in several sales management and operations positions at Knight since 1996.

Adam Miller joined us in September 2002. He has served as the Senior Vice President of Accounting and Finance, Secretary, and Treasurer since February 2011. Prior to his appointment as Senior Vice President of Accounting and Finance, Secretary, and Treasurer, Mr. Miller served as Controller of Knight Refrigerated since January 2006. Prior to his appointment as Controller of Knight Refrigerated, Mr. Miller served in several other accounting and finance positions at Knight since 2002.

Michael K. Liu was appointed President of the Knight Transportation – Dry Van in April 2007. Prior to his appointment as President of Knight Transportation – Dry Van, Mr. Liu served as a division manager for our Southern California Division since December 2003. Mr. Liu also served as a training manager for our driver development department from January 2000 to December 2003.

Erick Kutter joined us in February 1993. He has served as the President of Knight Refrigerated, LLC, our asset-based refrigerated business, since July 2004. Prior to his appointment as President of Knight Refrigerated, LLC, Mr. Kutter was responsible for opening our service centers in Katy, Texas, Kansas City, Kansas, and Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Kutter also served as the division manager of our service center in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 1998 to April 2001.

Greg Ritter joined us in May 2005. He has served as the President of Knight Brokerage, LLC, our non-asset based brokerage business, since the opening of our brokerage business in 2005. He began his career in 1979 with C.H. Robinson Worldwide, where he was the branch manager for its Phoenix office for 18 years.

Robert Papworth joined us in October 2010. He has served as the President of Knight Intermodal since the opening of our intermodal rail business in October 2010. He began his career in the transportation industry in 1971, and before joining us, he was President of Matson Integrated Logistics, a subsidiary of Matson Navigation.

See "Continuing Directors" for information concerning the business experience of Kevin P. Knight, Randy Knight, and Gary J. Knight.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC reports of ownership and changes in ownership of our Common Stock and other equity securities. Our officers, directors, and greater than 10% beneficial owners are required



Table of Contents

by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely upon a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us, or written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that during the 2010 fiscal year, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our directors, officers, and greater than 10% beneficial owners were complied with, except that (i) Kevin Knight inadvertently filed a late report regarding two donations of shares that occurred on March 10, 2010, (ii) Steve Collins inadvertently filed a late report regarding the exercise of two stock options and two dispositions of shares that occurred on March 1, 2010, and (iii) Michael Garnreiter inadvertently filed a late report regarding a disposition of shares that occurred on August 6, 2010. Copies of Section 16(a) forms that our directors and officers file with the SEC are accessible through the Shareholder Relations section of our website at <http://www.knighttrans.com>.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Overview and Philosophy of Compensation

The Compensation Committee oversees all of our executive officer compensation arrangements. The Compensation Committee has the responsibility to (i) review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of our CEO, (ii) evaluate the performance of our CEO in light of those goals and objectives, and (iii) determine and approve the compensation level of our CEO based upon that evaluation. The Compensation Committee also has the responsibility to review annually the compensation of our other executive officers and to determine whether such compensation is reasonable under existing facts and circumstances. In making such determinations, the Compensation Committee seeks to ensure that the compensation of our executive officers aligns the executives' interests with the interests of our shareholders. The Compensation Committee also reviews and approves all forms of incentive compensation, including stock option grants, stock grants, restricted stock unit grants, and other forms of incentive compensation granted to our executive officers. The Compensation Committee takes into account the recommendations of our CEO in reviewing and approving the overall compensation of the other executive officers. The Compensation Committee has not engaged or received reports from any third-party compensation consultants.

We believe that the quality, skills, and dedication of our executive officers are critical factors affecting our long-term value and success. Our primary executive compensation goals include attracting, motivating, and retaining qualified executive officers who create long-term value for our shareholders. We seek to accomplish these goals by rewarding past performance, incentivizing future performance, and aligning our executive officers' long-term interests with those of our shareholders. Our compensation program is designed to reward our executive officers for individual performance, years of experience, contributions to our financial success, and creation of shareholder value. Our compensation philosophy is to provide overall compensation levels that (i) attract and retain talented executives and motivate those executives to achieve superior results, (ii) align executives' interests with our corporate strategies, our business objectives, and the long-term interests of our shareholders, and (iii) enhance executives' incentives to increase our stock price and maximize shareholder value. In addition, we strive to ensure that our compensation, particularly salary compensation, is consistent with our constant focus on controlling costs. Our primary strategy for building senior management depth has been to develop personnel from within our Company to ensure that our executive team as a whole remains dedicated to our customs, practices, and culture, recognizing, however, that we may gain talent and new perspectives from external sources. Accordingly, in many instances we build our compensation elements around long-term retention and development, together with annual rewards based on specific focus areas.

Elements of Compensation

Our compensation program for senior executive officers has two major elements, fixed and incentive compensation. The total compensation for senior executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers (as defined below), consists of one or more of the following components: (i) base salary; (ii) incentive compensation, which may include a performance-based annual cash bonus, a discretionary annual cash bonus, and long-term equity incentives in the form of stock options and other stock-based awards or grants; (iii) other compensation, including specified perquisites; and (iv) employee benefits, which are generally available to all of our employees.

Table of Contents

The Compensation Committee has the responsibility to make and approve changes in the total compensation of our executive officers, including the mix of compensation elements. In making decisions regarding an executive's total compensation, the Compensation Committee considers whether the total compensation is (i) fair and reasonable to us, (ii) internally appropriate based upon our culture, goals, initiatives, and the compensation of our other employees, and (iii) within a reasonable range of the compensation afforded by other opportunities, overall economic conditions, and our recent historical performance. The Compensation Committee also bases its decisions regarding compensation upon its assessment of factors such as the executive's leadership, integrity, individual performance, prospect for future performance, years of experience, skill set, level of commitment and responsibility required in the position, contributions to our financial results, the creation of shareholder value, and current and past compensation. In determining the mix of compensation elements, the Compensation Committee considers the effect of each element in relation to total compensation. Consistent with our need to control costs and our desire to recognize our executives' performance where such recognition is warranted, the Compensation Committee historically has attempted to keep base salaries relatively low and weight overall compensation toward incentive cash and equity-based compensation. The Compensation Committee specifically considers whether each particular element provides an appropriate incentive and reward for performance that sustains and enhances long-term shareholder value. The Compensation Committee also considers the tax consequences associated with each element of compensation, including whether the deductibility of compensation is expected to be limited under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). In determining whether to increase or decrease an element of compensation, we rely upon the business experience of the members of the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee's general understanding of compensation levels at public companies, and the historical compensation levels of the executive officers, and, with respect to executives other than the CEO, we consider the recommendations of the CEO. We generally do not rely on rigid formulas (other than performance measures under the objective portion of our annual cash bonus program) or short-term changes in business performance when setting compensation.

The following summarizes the compensation elements we used to motivate and retain our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and our three other most highly compensated executive officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers").

Base Salary

We pay base salaries at levels that reward executive officers for ongoing performance and that enable us to attract and retain highly qualified executives, but not at a level that allows the executives to achieve the overall compensation they desire. Base pay is a critical element of our compensation program because it provides our executive officers with stability. Compensation stability allows our executives to focus their attention and efforts on our business objectives, which includes creating shareholder value. In determining base salaries, we consider the executive's current salary and the executive's qualifications and experience, including, but not limited to, the executive's length of service with us, the executive's industry knowledge, and the executive's leadership, integrity, scope of responsibilities, dedication to us and our shareholders, past performance, and future potential of providing value to our shareholders. We do not formally benchmark salary or total executive compensation against the executive compensation of any other company or group of companies. From time to time, the Compensation Committee has considered the form and level of compensation disclosed by other publicly traded truckload carriers, certain other transportation companies, and companies of similar size and market capitalization in general in order to obtain a broad understanding of such companies' compensation practices. We set our base salaries at a level that allows us to pay a portion of an executive officer's total compensation in the form of incentive compensation (including annual cash bonuses and long-term incentives) and perquisites. We believe this mix of compensation helps us incentivize our executives to maximize shareholder value in the long run. We consider adjustments to base salaries annually to reflect the foregoing factors but do not apply a specific weighting to such factors.



Table of Contents

Incentive Compensation

Performance-Based and Discretionary Annual Cash Bonuses

On December 21, 2005, our shareholders approved and ratified our 2005 Executive Cash Bonus Plan ("Cash Bonus Plan") and on May 20, 2010, our shareholders re-approved the Cash Bonus Plan. We use our Cash Bonus Plan to provide annual incentives to executive officers in a manner designed to (i) link increases in compensation to our income targets in order to reinforce cost controls, (ii) reinforce our performance goals, and (iii) link a significant portion of our executives' compensation to the achievement of such goals. We also use the Cash Bonus Plan to preserve for our benefit a federal tax deduction for payments of incentive compensation to our executive officers. Cash bonuses are designed to reward executive officers for their contributions to our financial and operating performance and are based primarily upon our financial results and certain operating statistics that the Compensation Committee identifies each year as being important to our success.

Under the Cash Bonus Plan, the Compensation Committee is required to set, for each executive officer, one or more objective performance targets. The annual cash bonus amount awarded to each executive officer is primarily dependent upon us reaching or exceeding specified, objective performance targets. Performance targets may be based on the attainment of specified levels of one or any variation or combination of the factors listed in the Cash Bonus Plan. Corporate performance targets typically have related to profitability and performance to align cash compensation payments with our performance and the creation of shareholder value. Additionally, individual performance targets may be based on the successful implementation of corporate policies, negotiation of significant corporate transactions, development of long-term business goals or strategic plans, or the exercise of specific areas of managerial responsibility. The Compensation Committee sets the specific performance targets for each executive officer after engaging in active dialog with our CEO concerning our strategic objectives and performance and reviewing the appropriateness of the financial measures used in the Cash Bonus Plan.

The Compensation Committee also administers a discretionary cash bonus program ("Discretionary Cash Bonus Program") for achievements in leadership, innovation, initiative, and other non-objective performance indicia outside the Cash Bonus Plan. These awards are made on a discretionary basis and are unrelated to the attainment of the Cash Bonus Plan's objective performance criteria. An award under the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program may not be used to make up an award that was not earned under the Cash Bonus Plan's objective performance criteria and will not be exempt from the \$1 million deductibility limit under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Concurrently with establishing the performance targets, the Compensation Committee also establishes a maximum cash bonus award opportunity for each executive officer, typically expressed as a percentage of salary as of the commencement of the performance period. For 2010, the maximum bonus target was 60% of salary for our CEO and ranged from 30% to 40% for our other Named Executive Officers, except for Randy Knight who did not participate in the Cash Bonus Plan. Our Cash Bonus Plan contains an annual maximum cash bonus limitation of \$2.0 million for any participant, but the maximum award approved for any executive has never exceeded \$354,000. In determining an executive officer's maximum cash bonus opportunity, the Compensation Committee considers (i) the value that achieving specific performance targets will add to our shareholders, (ii) the degree of difficulty in achieving specific performance targets, and (iii) each of the other elements comprising the executive's total compensation. When calculating the cash bonus earned by an executive officer under the Cash Bonus Plan, the Compensation Committee may, in its sole discretion, exercise negative discretion to eliminate or reduce the size of a bonus if the Compensation Committee determines such action is appropriate but may not increase a bonus above the executive's maximum cash bonus actually earned based on achievement of the objective performance criteria. Further, the Compensation Committee is required to certify, prior to payment of a bonus under the Cash Bonus Plan, that the executive officer achieved the respective performance targets underlying the cash bonus. Under a policy adopted by the Compensation

Committee, two-thirds of a Named Executive Officer's total cash bonus opportunity will be determined under the Cash Bonus Plan and one-third is subject to discretionary awards made by the Compensation Committee under the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program, after taking into account the recommendations of the CEO (except with respect to his own bonus) and the non-objective criteria described above.

Table of Contents

Long-Term Incentives

On December 21, 2005, our shareholders approved and ratified our Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option Plan, which on May 21, 2009, was amended and restated by our shareholders to, among other things, (i) rename the plan the "Knight Transportation, Inc. Amended and Restated 2003 Stock Option and Equity Compensation Plan," (ii) provide additional terms and administrative procedures applicable to restricted stock grants, and (iii) authorize the issuance of stock appreciation rights (the "2003 Equity Compensation Plan"). The 2003 Equity Compensation Plan is an equity compensation plan that we use to accomplish our compensation goals by providing our executive officers with long-term incentives. We also use the 2003 Equity Compensation Plan to align our executives' and shareholders' long-term interests by creating a strong, direct link between executive compensation and shareholder return.

The 2003 Equity Compensation Plan allows the Compensation Committee to link compensation to performance over a period of time by using equity-based awards, which often value a company's long-term prospects, and granting awards that have multiple-year vesting schedules. Awards with multiple-year vesting schedules, such as stock options or restricted stock unit grants, provide balance to the other elements of our compensation program that otherwise link compensation to annual performance. Awards with multiple-year vesting schedules incentivize executives to remain with us over an extended period of time. Thus, we believe the 2003 Equity Compensation Plan is an effective way of aligning the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders.

Under the 2003 Equity Compensation Plan, the Compensation Committee may grant stock options, restricted stock, or other forms of equity-based awards as forms of executive officer compensation. Historically, the Compensation Committee preferred granting stock option awards to our Named Executive Officers under the 2003 Equity Compensation Plan because the Committee believed that stock options had historically been an effective means of incentivizing our executive officers to work toward, and rewarding them for, increasing shareholder value. However, over the past several years the Compensation Committee has noted a trend among public companies toward some level of restricted stock and restricted stock unit grants. In 2009, the Compensation Committee approved a restricted stock unit grant program under the 2003 Equity Compensation Plan. In addition, the Compensation Committee believes that stock appreciation rights may have advantages in some circumstances. In the future, the Compensation Committee may draw upon all available types of awards in order to have a balanced and effective incentive plan.

The Compensation Committee considers several factors when determining the size of the award to our executive officers, including (i) the recommendations of our CEO (except as to his own awards); (ii) the value of the grant in relation to other elements of total compensation; (iii) the number and type of equity grants currently held by the executive; (iv) the number and type of awards granted to the executive in prior years; and (v) the executive's position, scope of responsibility, ability to affect our profits, ability to create shareholder value, and historic and recent performance. The Compensation Committee believes that the equity ownership of our senior management currently is sufficient to align their long-term interests with those of our shareholders, and therefore did not recommend any stock-based awards to the Named Executive Officers in 2010.

Other Compensation

We provide our Named Executive Officers with certain other benefits that we believe are reasonable, competitive, and consistent with our overall executive compensation program. We believe that these benefits generally allow our executives to work more efficiently. The costs of these benefits generally constitute only a small percentage of each executive's total compensation, with the exception being the air travel allowance for our CEO as described below. In setting the amount of these benefits, the Compensation Committee considers each executive's position and scope of responsibilities and all other elements comprising the executive's compensation.

Employee Benefits

Our Named Executive Officers are eligible to participate in all of our employee benefit plans, such as our 401(k) Plan and medical, dental, and group life insurance plans, in each case on the same basis as our other employees.

18

---



Table of Contents

Compensation Paid to Our Named Executive Officers

Compensation Paid to Our Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Kevin Knight has been our CEO since 1993 and has served as Chairman of the Board since 1999. Since Mr. Knight became our CEO, we have achieved considerable growth in revenue, earnings, and market value. In discussions with Mr. Knight, the Compensation Committee determined that the following items were most important to motivating continued performance from Mr. Knight, as the CEO: (i) a base salary that is commensurate with his level of responsibility and commitment to us, but not so high that it would undermine our cost-control culture; (ii) a significant amount of equity compensation to align Mr. Knight's compensation with increasing shareholder value; and (iii) a travel allowance that would permit use of private aircraft at Mr. Knight's discretion to manage our expansive geographic presence without unduly affecting his availability for business or his lifestyle. Mr. Knight does not participate in the determination of his own compensation. However, Mr. Knight voluntarily reduced his salary in 2008 and 2009 due to the difficult operating environment in which we were operating and his commitment to our financial performance. In 2010, Mr. Knight continued to voluntarily reduce his salary from \$590,000 to \$440,000 annually. Mr. Knight also voluntarily reduced his air travel allowance by \$100,000, as discussed below.

For 2010, the Compensation Committee also approved a maximum performance-based cash bonus opportunity under which Mr. Kevin Knight was eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 60% of his base salary, two-thirds of which was to be paid under the Cash Bonus Plan (the "Bonus Plan Compensation") and one-third of which was to be paid under the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program based upon the Compensation Committee's evaluation of Mr. Knight's performance (the "Discretionary Bonus Compensation"). The percentage of salary assigned to Mr. Knight's potential bonus was based on the Compensation Committee's evaluation of (i) the magnitude of Mr. Knight's ability to impact corporate performance based on his responsibilities, (ii) the composition of Mr. Knight's total compensation package, including the fact that his salary remained constant between 2008 and 2009 and the voluntary reduction of his salary continued in 2010, and (iii) our long-term profitability and earnings goals. Mr. Knight's potential bonus as a percentage of his salary was greater than the other Named Executive Officer's because the Compensation Committee believed that, based upon his responsibilities, Mr. Knight had a greater ability to affect corporate performance than the other Named Executive Officers.

In connection with the maximum performance-based cash bonus opportunity described above, the Compensation Committee set performance targets related to earnings performance compared with earnings in 2009 and annual consolidated operating ratio (the "2010 Performance Targets"). One-third of the maximum bonus opportunity was tied to earnings targets and one-third was tied to achieving the target operating ratio. The 2010 Performance Target range for earnings targets was from 20% target bonus achievement at negative 5.0% change in earnings to 100% bonus target achievement at 5.0% earnings growth. The 2010 Performance Target for consolidated operating ratio was 87.5%. However, there was an override feature such that achievement of earnings per share growth for 2010 in excess of earnings per share for 2009 (as opposed to earnings targets) would result in 100% achievement of the 2010 Performance Targets. Given the economic environment at the date the targets were adopted, the Compensation Committee viewed the 2010 Performance Targets as reflecting a range of performance that was achievable but uncertain, with the upper end of the range reflecting a significant accomplishment. The 2010 Performance Targets did not reflect any view of ours concerning earnings expectations for the year. The 2010 Performance Targets were recommended by Mr. Knight and approved by the Compensation Committee.

In addition to the 2010 Performance Targets and pursuant to the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program, the Compensation Committee also had the discretion to award Mr. Kevin Knight up to one-third of the cash bonus opportunity based upon, among other things, his leadership, ability to influence others, dedication, integrity, creativity, and the promotion of our business.

The Compensation Committee met in February 2011 to discuss and review the 2010 Performance Targets for Mr. Kevin Knight. The Committee reviewed the foregoing policies, our financial and operating performance, and the 2010 Performance Targets with Mr. Knight and the Chief Financial Officer. The Compensation Committee determined that there was a 100% achievement of the 2010 Performance Targets. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee

Table of Contents

awarded Mr. Knight \$176,000 as Bonus Plan Compensation. With respect to Discretionary Bonus Compensation, Mr. Knight recommended for cost control reasons that the Compensation Committee use its negative discretion and not approve any Discretionary Bonus Compensation for Mr. Knight in 2010. The Compensation Committee reviewed Mr. Knight's performance for the Discretionary Bonus Compensation and concluded that Mr. Knight's performance was exemplary and above expectations. However, based on Mr. Knight's recommendation, the Compensation Committee exercised its negative discretion and directed that no Discretionary Bonus Compensation be paid to Mr. Knight for 2010.

During 2010, we also paid a pre-determined amount for the business-related air travel of Mr. Kevin Knight, in his role as our CEO. Mr. Knight used the allowance for all of his business-related air travel, whether commercial or charter. With approximately 30 locations across the United States and numerous acquisitions, investor, supplier, industry, and other destinations, Mr. Knight was, and continues to be, required to travel by air frequently to carry out his responsibilities. Some of this travel involved a personal component, although we believe the personal component is immaterial compared to the business-related travel. The Compensation Committee believes that the air travel allowance was reasonable because it enhances Mr. Knight's ability to carry out his responsibilities as CEO. The Compensation Committee also desired to avoid the complications of allocating business versus personal travel expenses on trips with more than one function. Thus, Mr. Knight's entire air travel allowance was included as compensation, with any excess being payable personally by him. In January 2009, Mr. Knight voluntarily reduced his annual air travel allowance by \$100,000, from \$250,000 to \$150,000, in recognition of the difficult operating conditions. This voluntary reduction continued at the same level in 2010. During 2010, Mr. Knight also received a cash vehicle allowance of approximately \$17,000. Both the air travel allowance and the vehicle allowance are included in the "All Other Compensation" column of the Summary Compensation Table.

In 2010, in addition to providing medical, dental, and group life insurance to Mr. Kevin Knight, we also contributed \$850, which represents our maximum matching discretionary contribution per participant, to the 401(k) Plan of Mr. Knight. We report the 401(k) contribution in the "All Other Compensation" column in the Summary Compensation Table.

#### Compensation Paid to Our Other Named Executive Officers

For all Named Executive Officers, other than our CEO, the form and amount of compensation was recommended by the CEO. As discussed above, the Compensation Committee relied on the business experience of its members, the historical compensation levels of the Named Executive Officers, and its general understanding of compensation levels at public companies to determine that the CEO's recommendations with respect to the compensation levels and forms were appropriate for 2010. The form of compensation was substantially consistent with past years, with compensation consisting primarily of salary, cash bonus based on the achievement of certain financial and operating goals established through consultation with the Compensation Committee during the first quarter of the year, and cash bonus based on certain subjective criteria. For each of the Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee considered, among other things, our financial and operating results during 2009 and 2010, the duties and responsibilities of each executive, and the length of time each executive has been with us as further described in each executive's biography found herein.

Effective August 1, 2008, Messrs. Keith Knight and Gary Knight voluntarily reduced their salaries by \$100,000 annually from \$350,000 to \$250,000 and \$227,500 to \$127,500, respectively. Based on the improved operating environment during 2010, the Compensation Committee recommended in August 2010 that the voluntary salary reductions put in place in 2008 be adjusted so that their salaries were reduced by \$50,000 annually. However, Messrs. Keith Knight and Gary Knight voluntarily continued their salary reduction at the rate of \$75,000 annually. Accordingly, the salaries of Messrs. Keith Knight and Gary Knight were adjusted to \$275,000 and

\$152,500, respectively. Their voluntary salary reductions may be adjusted upward to the rate of \$50,000 annually if the economic environment continues to improve.

Table of Contents

For 2010, the Compensation Committee also approved a maximum performance-based cash bonus opportunity under which each of Messrs. Jackson and Gary Knight was eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 30% of his base salary and Mr. Keith Knight was eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 40% of his base salary. Two-thirds of each Named Executive Officer's cash bonus was to be paid as Bonus Plan Compensation and one-third of each Named Executive Officer's cash bonus was to be paid as Discretionary Bonus Compensation based upon the Compensation Committee's evaluation of each Named Executive Officer's performance. The percentage of salary assigned to each Named Executive Officer was based on the CEO's recommendation and the Compensation Committee's evaluation of (i) the magnitude of each Named Executive Officer's ability to impact corporate performance based on the Named Executive Officer's responsibilities at the time, (ii) the composition of the respective Named Executive Officer's total compensation package, and (iii) our long-term profitability and earnings goals. The cash bonus opportunity (as a percentage of base salary) for each Named Executive Officer did not change for 2010 compared to 2009.

In connection with the performance-based cash bonus opportunities described above, the Compensation Committee set performance targets related to earnings performance compared with earnings in 2009 and annual consolidated operating ratio. One-third of the maximum bonus opportunity was tied to earnings targets and one-third was tied to achieving the target operating ratio. The 2010 Performance Target range for earnings targets was from 20% target bonus achievement at negative 5.0% change in earnings to 100% bonus target achievement at 5.0% earnings growth. The 2010 Performance Target for consolidated operating ratio was 87.5%. However, there was an override feature so that the achievement of earnings per share growth for 2010 in excess of earnings per share for 2009 (as opposed to earnings targets) would result in 100% achievement of the 2010 Performance Targets. Given the economic environment at the date the targets were adopted, the Compensation Committee viewed the 2010 Performance Targets as reflecting a range of performance that was achievable but uncertain, with the upper end of the range reflecting a significant accomplishment. The 2010 Performance Targets did not reflect any view of ours concerning earnings expectations for the year. The 2010 Performance Targets were recommended by the CEO and approved by the Compensation Committee.

In addition to the 2010 Performance Targets and pursuant to the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program, the Compensation Committee also had the discretion to award each Named Executive Officer, after taking into account the CEO's recommendations, up to one-third of the cash bonus opportunity based upon, among other things, the executive's leadership, ability to influence others, dedication, integrity, creativity, and the promotion of our business. Although Randy Knight did not participate in the Cash Bonus Plan, he was eligible to receive Discretionary Bonus Compensation in 2010.

The Compensation Committee met in February 2011 to discuss and review the 2010 Performance Targets for the Named Executive Officers. The Compensation Committee reviewed the foregoing policies, our financial and operating performance, and the 2010 Performance Targets with the CEO. The Compensation Committee determined that there was a 100% achievement of the 2010 Performance Targets. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee awarded Messrs. Keith Knight, Gary Knight, and Jackson \$73,425, \$30,500, and \$38,000, respectively, as Bonus Plan Compensation. Based upon each Named Executive Officer's (other than the CEO's) performance and ongoing commitment to our Company, the CEO recommended that the Named Executive Officers (other than the CEO) receive fifty percent (50%) of the Discretionary Bonus Compensation. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee also awarded Messrs. Keith Knight, Gary Knight, and Jackson \$18,288, \$7,625, and \$9,500, respectively, as Discretionary Bonus Compensation.

Except as described above with respect to the CEO, we did not pay for the personal air travel of any of our other executive officers, including our other Named Executive Officers. However, similar to our CEO, our other Named Executive Officers, excluding Randy Knight, receive a vehicle allowance or are provided a company vehicle. In 2010, in addition to providing medical, dental, and group life insurance to our Named Executive Officers, we also

contributed \$850, which represents our maximum matching discretionary contribution per participant, to the 401(k) Plan of each Named Executive Officer, excluding Randy Knight. We report the vehicle allowance and the 401(k) contribution in the "All Other Compensation" column in the Summary Compensation Table.

Table of Contents

Compensation Decisions with Respect to 2011

As of the date hereof Mr. Kevin Knight has continued his voluntary salary reduction that was effective in 2010 and his \$100,000 voluntary reduction of his annual air travel allowance and Messrs. Keith Knight and Gary Knight have continued their voluntary salary reductions at the rate of \$75,000 annually. In February 2011, Mr. Jackson's base salary was increased to \$200,000 from \$190,000 annually in connection with his new responsibilities as our President.

For 2011, the Compensation Committee also approved maximum performance-based cash bonus opportunities under which (i) Mr. Kevin Knight is eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 60% of his base salary; (ii) each of Messrs. Keith Knight and Jackson is eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 40% of his base salary; and (iii) Mr. Gary Knight is eligible to receive a cash bonus of up to 30% of his base salary. As in 2010, the percentage of salary assigned to each Named Executive Officer is based on the Compensation Committee's evaluation of (i) the magnitude of each Named Executive Officer's ability to affect corporate performance based on the Named Executive Officer's responsibilities at the time, (ii) the composition of the respective Named Executive Officer's total compensation package, and (iii) our long-term profitability and earnings goals. For 2011, each Named Executive Officer's cash bonus will be paid entirely under the Cash Bonus Plan. Accordingly, no cash bonus will be paid under the Discretionary Cash Bonus Program in 2011. Randy Knight will not participate in the performance-based cash bonus opportunities in 2011.

In connection with the maximum performance-based cash bonus opportunities described above, the Compensation Committee set performance targets related to the change in earnings compared with earnings in 2010 and annual consolidated revenue growth (the "2011 Performance Targets"). One-half of the maximum bonus opportunity is tied to the change in earnings and one-half is tied to the change in revenue. The 2011 Performance Target range for earnings is from 33% target bonus achievement at 5.0% earnings growth to 100% bonus target achievement at 15.0% earnings growth. The 2011 Performance Target range for revenue is from 33% target bonus achievement at 7.5% revenue growth to 100% bonus target achievement at 17.5% revenue growth. Given the economic and freight environment at the date the targets were adopted, the Compensation Committee viewed the 2011 Performance Targets as reflecting a range of performance that is achievable but uncertain, with the upper end of the range reflecting a significant accomplishment. The 2011 Performance Targets do not reflect any view of ours concerning earnings expectations for the year. The 2011 Performance Targets were recommended by the CEO and approved by the Compensation Committee.

Employment Agreements

We currently do not have any employment contracts, severance agreements, change-of-control agreements, or other arrangements with our executive officers, including our Named Executive Officers, that provide for payment or benefits to any executive officer at, following, or in connection with a change in control, a change in an executive officer's responsibilities, or an executive officer's termination of employment, including resignation, severance, retirement, or constructive termination.

Table of Contents

## Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth information concerning the total compensation for fiscal year 2010 awarded to, earned by, or paid to those persons who were, at December 31, 2010, (i) our Chief Executive Officer, (ii) our Chief Financial Officer, and (iii) our three other most highly compensated executive officers with total compensation exceeding \$100,000 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers").

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary(1) (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Aggregate Grant Date Fair			Non-Equity Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation(4) (\$)	Total (\$)
				Option Awards(2) (\$)	Stock Unit Awards(3) (\$)	Value of Restricted Incentive Plan			
Kevin P. Knight, Chairman and CEO	2010	403,462	-	-	-	176,000	168,010	747,472	
	2009	374,231	-	-	802,000	-	178,939	1,355,170	
	2008	463,077	8,000	464,250	-	118,000	246,175	1,299,502	
David A. Jackson, President and CFO	2010	182,692	9,500	-	-	38,000	850	231,042	
	2009	184,846	-	-	721,800	-	850	907,496	
	2008	169,135	27,700	171,995	-	18,000	850	387,680	
Keith T. Knight, COO	2010	256,731	18,288	-	-	73,425	15,250	363,694	
	2009	259,615	-	-	721,800	-	15,804	997,219	
	2008	299,000	46,550	247,600	-	46,550	16,035	655,735	
Gary Knight, Vice Chairman	2010	134,231	7,625	-	-	30,500	12,637	184,993	
	2009	132,404	-	-	481,200	-	13,087	626,691	
	2008	185,192	22,750	92,850	-	22,750	13,010	336,552	
Randy Knight, Vice Chairman (5)	2010	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000	
	2009	117,231	-	-	-	-	-	117,231	

- (1) Effective August 1, 2008, Messrs. Kevin Knight, Keith Knight, and Gary Knight voluntarily reduced their 2008 salaries to the annual rate of \$290,000, \$250,000, and \$127,500, respectively. Salary reductions were voluntarily made in 2009 and 2010. As of fiscal year end 2009, the annual rates of the salaries of Messrs. Kevin Knight, Keith Knight, and Gary Knight were \$390,000, \$250,000, and \$127,500, respectively. As of fiscal year end 2010, the annual rates of the salaries of Messrs. Kevin Knight, Keith Knight, and Gary Knight were \$440,000, \$275,000, and \$152,500, respectively.
- (2) This column represents the grant date fair value of the stock options under FASB ASC 718 (formerly SFAS 123R) granted to the Named Executive Officers. The fair value was calculated using the Black Scholes value of approximately \$5.18 for options granted on February 29, 2008, and \$6.19 for options granted on May 22, 2008. The fair value of the option awards are accounted for in accordance with ASC 718. For additional information



on the valuation assumptions, refer to note 9 of our financial statements in the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, as filed with the SEC. These amounts reflect our accounting expense to be recognized over the vesting period of the options awarded, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the Named Executive Officers. No stock options were granted to our Named Executive Officers in 2010 or 2009.

- (3) This column represents the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock units (“RSUs”) computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, which was \$16.04 per share based on the market closing price of our stock on grant date of October 30, 2009. These amounts reflect our accounting expense to be recognized over the vesting period of the restricted stock units awarded, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the Named Executive Officers. No RSUs were granted to our Named Executive Officers in 2010.
- (4) See All Other Compensation Table for additional information.
- (5) Mr. Randy Knight was not a Named Executive Officer during 2008.

Table of Contents

## All Other Compensation Table

The following table describes each component of the "All Other Compensation" column in the Summary Compensation Table for 2010.

Name	Year	Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits(1) (\$)	Contributions to Retirement and 401(k) Plans (\$)	Total (\$)
Kevin P. Knight	2010	167,160	850	168,010
David A. Jackson	2010	-	850	850
Keith T. Knight	2010	14,400	850	15,250
Gary Knight	2010	11,787	850	12,637
Randy Knight	2010	-	-	-

- (1) This column represents the total amount of perquisites and other personal benefits provided to the Named Executive Officer, if the aggregate of such benefits were equal to or exceeded \$10,000. For Mr. Kevin Knight, \$150,000 of this amount represents cash air travel allowance and \$17,160 represents cash vehicle allowance. For each of the other Named Executive Officers, this amount includes compensation for cash vehicle allowance.

## Narrative to Summary Compensation Table

See "Executive Compensation – Compensation Discussion and Analysis" for a complete description of our compensation plans pursuant to which the amounts listed under the Summary Compensation Table were paid or awarded and the criteria for such award or payment.

Table of Contents

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth information concerning all outstanding equity grants held by our Named Executive Officers as of December 31, 2010. All outstanding equity awards are in shares of our Common Stock.

Name	Option Grant Date	Option Awards				Stock Awards		
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Stock Award Grant Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(2) (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(3) (\$)
Kevin P. Knight	08/06/2004	67,500	-	12.57	08/05/2014			
	08/19/2005	750,000	-	15.68	08/18/2015			
	05/24/2006	75,000	-	18.44	05/23/2016			
	05/24/2007	36,000	9,000	18.23	05/23/2017			
	05/22/2008	45,000	30,000	17.29	05/21/2018	10/30/2009	50,000	950,000
David A. Jackson	08/07/2003	788	-	11.44	08/06/2013			
	05/24/2006	15,000	-	18.44	05/23/2016			
	05/24/2007	10,000	2,500	18.23	05/23/2017			
	02/29/2008	-	9,304	14.79	02/27/2018			
	05/22/2008	12,000	8,000	17.29	05/21/2018	10/30/2009	45,000	855,000
Keith T. Knight	08/06/2004	22,500	-	12.57	08/05/2014			
	08/19/2005	30,000	-	15.68	08/18/2015			
	05/24/2006	30,000	-	18.44	05/23/2016			
	05/24/2007	16,000	4,000	18.23	05/23/2017			
	05/22/2008	24,000	16,000	17.29	05/21/2018	10/30/2009	45,000	855,000
Gary Knight	08/06/2004	22,500	-	12.57	08/05/2014			
	08/19/2005	22,500	-	15.68	08/18/2015			
	05/24/2006	15,000	-	18.44	05/23/2016			
	05/24/2007	10,000	2,500	18.23	05/23/2017			
	05/22/2008	9,000	6,000	17.29	05/21/2018	10/30/2009	30,000	570,000
Randy Knight	06/01/2005	750	-	16.81	05/31/2015			
	06/09/2005	750	-	15.30	06/08/2015			
	06/01/2006	1,000	-	19.61	05/31/2016			

- (1) See Option Vesting Schedule below for the vesting date of unexercisable options held at fiscal year end by the Named Executive Officers.
- (2) Equity awards listed in this column represent restricted stock units awarded to our Named Executive Officers on Oct. 30, 2009. These restricted stock units will vest gradually over the following 13-year period: 6% vested on January 31, 2011, 5% will

vest on January 31 of 2012 to 2015, 6% will vest on January 31, 2016, 7% will vest on January 31, 2017, 8% will vest on January 31, 2018, 9% will vest on January 31, 2019, 10% will vest on January 31, 2020, 11% will vest on January 31, 2021, 12% will vest on January 31, 2022, and 11% will vest on January 31, 2023.

- (3) Market value of stock awards was based on the market closing price of our stock on December 31, 2010, which was \$19.00 per share.

Table of Contents

## Vesting Schedule Table

The following table describes the vesting schedule as of December 31, 2010, for each unexercisable option listed in the Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table.

Name	Option Grant Date	Option Awards Vesting Schedule
Kevin P. Knight	05/24/2007	20% vested December 31, 2007, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2007.
	05/22/2008	20% vested December 31, 2008, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2008.
David A. Jackson	05/24/2007	20% vested December 31, 2007, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2007.
	02/29/2008	20% vests each year beginning February 28, 2011.
	05/22/2008	20% vested December 31, 2008, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2008.
Keith T. Knight	05/24/2007	20% vested December 31, 2007, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2007.
	05/22/2008	20% vested December 31, 2008, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2008.
Gary Knight	05/24/2007	20% vested December 31, 2007, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2007.
	05/22/2008	20% vested December 31, 2008, and 5% vests at the end of each fiscal quarter after 2008.
Randy Knight		None

## Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth information concerning stock options exercised during 2010 by our Named Executive Officers.

Name	Option Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)

Kevin P. Knight	-	-
David A. Jackson(1)	15,788	\$62,287
Keith T. Knight	-	-
Gary Knight	-	-
Randy Knight	-	-

(1) Stock option exercise detail for David A. Jackson

Exercise Date	Grant Date	Options Exercised (#)	Grant Price (\$)	Market Price on Exercise Date (\$)
02/22/2010	08/07/2003	788	\$11.44	\$19.27
02/22/2010	05/16/2005	15,000	\$15.53	\$19.27

Table of Contents

## Director Compensation

The following table sets forth information concerning the compensation of our non-employee directors for 2010.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in		Stock Awards(2)	Total
	Cash(1)			
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Donald A. Bliss	25,000	22,498		47,498
Michael Garnreiter	27,500	22,498		49,998
Richard J. Lehmann	22,500	22,498		44,998
G.D. Madden	22,500	22,498		44,998
Kathryn L. Munro	25,500	22,498		47,998

- (1) This column represents the amount of cash compensation paid in 2010 for Board and committee service.
- (2) This column represents the expense recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the 2010 fiscal year for the fair value of stock awards granted to each non-employee director in 2010, in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (formerly SFAS 123R). On May 20, 2010, each non-employee director received 1,111 shares of our Common Stock, determined by dividing the current year's director compensation subject to payment in Common Stock, by the closing market price of our Common Stock on the date of grant, or \$20.25 per share.

## Narrative to Director Compensation

The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of our Compensation Committee, establishes the form and amount of compensation paid to our directors who are not 10% shareholders or our officers or employees ("Outside Directors"). In 2010, our Outside Directors received annual compensation of \$45,000 payable 50% in cash and 50% in Common Stock. The number of shares issued on May 20, 2010, was determined by dividing the amount of the compensation subject to payment in Common Stock by the closing market price of our Common Stock on the date of the grant. The Common Stock was issued as stock grants under the Independent Director provision of our 2003 Equity Compensation Plan, which reserved 200,000 shares of our Common Stock for compensatory stock grants to Outside Directors.

No fees were paid for attendance at meetings during 2010; however, in addition to the \$45,000 payable to the Outside Directors, the Chair of the Audit Committee received an annual fee of \$5,000, the Chair of the Compensation Committee received an annual fee of \$3,000, and the Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee received an annual fee of \$2,500.

Directors who are our officers or employees or 10% shareholders do not receive compensation for Board or committee service. During 2010, we did, however, reimburse all directors for travel and other related expenses.





Table of ContentsSECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN  
BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth, as of February 28, 2011, the number and percentage of outstanding shares of our Common Stock beneficially owned by each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of such stock, by each Named Executive Officer and our directors, and by all of our directors and executive officers as a group. Share information for BlackRock, Inc. is based solely upon the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 7, 2011. We had outstanding 83,804,217 shares of Common Stock as of February 28, 2011.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(1)	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(2)	Percent of Class(2)
Kevin P. Knight(3)	5,915,304	7.0%
Gary J. Knight(4)	5,481,926	6.5%
Keith T. Knight(5)	5,740,768	6.8%
Randy Knight(6)	5,261,090	6.3%
Donald A. Bliss(7)	19,419	*
G.D. Madden(8)	47,829	*
Michael Garnreiter(9)	9,250	*
Kathryn L. Munro(10)	13,001	*
Richard J. Lehmann(11)	9,127	*
David A. Jackson(12)	43,096	*
BlackRock, Inc.(13)	5,525,767	6.6%
All directors and executive officers as a group ten (10) persons	22,540,810	26.8%

\* Represents less than 1.0% of the outstanding Common Stock.

- (1) The address of each Named Executive Officer and director is 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, AZ 85043. The address for BlackRock is 40 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022.
- (2) In accordance with applicable rules under the Exchange Act, the number of shares indicated as beneficially owned by a person includes shares of Common Stock and underlying options that are currently exercisable or will be exercisable within 60 days from February 28, 2011. Shares of Common Stock underlying stock options that are currently exercisable or will be exercisable within 60 days from February 28, 2011, are deemed to be outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of the person holding such options and the percentage ownership of any group of which the holder is a member, but are not deemed outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.
- (3) Includes: (a) 4,923,792 shares beneficially owned by Kevin P. Knight over which he and his wife, Sydney Knight, exercise sole voting and investment power pursuant to a revocable living trust; (b) 12,012 shares held by the Kevin P. Knight and Sydney B. Knight Family Foundation over which Kevin P. Knight and his wife, Sydney Knight, as officers of the Foundation, exercise sole voting and investment power on behalf of the Foundation; and (c) 979,500 shares covered by stock options granted to Kevin P. Knight that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days. Kevin P. Knight has pledged as security 2,032,500 of the shares that he beneficially owns.

- (4) Includes: (a) 5,401,551 shares beneficially owned by Gary J. Knight over which he exercises sole voting and investment power as a trustee under a revocable trust agreement; and (b) 80,375 shares covered by a stock option granted to Gary J. Knight that is currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days. Gary J. Knight has pledged as security 1,800,000 of the shares that he beneficially owns.
- (5) Includes: (a) 5,610,753 shares beneficially owned by Keith T. Knight over which he and his wife, Fawna Knight, exercise sole voting and investment power as trustees under a revocable trust agreement; (b) 1,119 shares beneficially owned by Keith T. Knight; (c) 1,119 shares beneficially owned by Fawna Knight; and (d) 2,277 shares owned by minor children who share the same household; and (e) 125,500 shares covered by a stock option granted to Keith T. Knight that is currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days. Keith T. Knight has pledged as security 2,350,000 of the shares that he beneficially owns.

Table of Contents

- (6) Includes: (a) 3,596,267 shares beneficially owned by Randy Knight over which he exercises sole voting and investment power as a trustee under a revocable trust agreement; (b) 1,662,323 shares held by a limited liability company for which Mr. Knight acts as manager and whose members include Mr. Knight and trusts for the benefit of his four children; and (c) 2,500 covered by stock options granted to Mr. Randy Knight that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days. Randy Knight has pledged as security 5,258,590 of the shares that he beneficially owns.
- (7) Includes: (a) 16,919 shares beneficially owned by Donald A. Bliss over which he exercises sole voting and investment powers under a revocable trust agreement; and (b) 2,500 shares covered by stock options granted to Mr. Bliss that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (8) Includes: (a) 43,804 shares held directly by G.D. Madden; (b) 400 shares not held directly by G.D. Madden, but for which he exercises voting control (these shares were purchased and reported by G.D. Madden in 2008 for four grandchildren (100 shares each), none of whom live with G.D. Madden); and (c) 3,625 shares covered by stock options granted to Mr. Madden that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (9) Includes: 9,250 shares covered by stock options granted to Mr. Garnreiter that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (10) Includes: (a) 6,751 shares held directly by Kathryn L. Munro; and (b) 6,250 shares covered by stock options granted to Ms. Munro that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (11) Includes: (a) 5,627 shares held directly by Richard J. Lehmann; and (b) 3,500 shares covered by stock options granted to Mr. Lehmann that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (12) Includes: (a) 1,823 shares held directly by David A. Jackson; and (b) 41,273 shares covered by stock options granted to Mr. Jackson that are currently exercisable or that will become exercisable within 60 days.
- (13) BlackRock has sole voting power over 5,525,767 shares and sole dispositive power over 5,525,767 shares. It has shared voting power and shared dispositive power over no shares.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Our Audit Committee has established policies and procedures relating to the review and approval or ratification of any transaction, or any proposed transaction, in which we were or are to be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any "related person" (as that term is defined in Instruction 1 to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K) had or will have a direct or indirect material interest, referred to as an "interested transaction." Upon review of the material facts of all interested transactions, the Audit Committee will either approve, ratify, or disapprove the interested transactions, subject to certain exceptions, by taking into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, whether the terms are arm's-length and the extent of the related person's interest in the transaction. No director may participate in any discussion or approval of an interested transaction for which he or she, or his or her relative, is a related party. If an interested transaction will be ongoing, the Audit Committee may establish guidelines for our management to follow in its ongoing dealings with the related party and then at least annually must review and assess ongoing relationships with the related party. During 2010, the following interested transactions were subject to such review and approval or ratification.

We provided general business loans to US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC, a transportation company that transacts business with our drayage operations, and in which Larry Knight is a 33% owner. Larry Knight is an employee of the Company and the brother of Kevin Knight, our Chief Executive Officer, and Keith Knight, our Chief Operating Officer. On April 29, 2010, we entered into an agreement with US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC to consolidate the business loan and interest into one single promissory note bearing interest at 5% per annum. The new agreement extends the repayment date to September 2012, with installments due quarterly. The largest aggregate amount of principal outstanding during 2010 was \$4,131,026. The amount of principal paid during 2010 was \$1,092,577 and the amount of interest paid during 2010 was \$107,423. The loan balance from US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC at December 31, 2010 was \$3,038,449. We also performed transportation services for US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC in the ordinary course of business and subject to usual trade terms. As of December 31, 2010, US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC has discontinued operations. The loan to US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC is secured by guaranties of the members of US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC. We are currently working with US West Agriculture Exporters, LLC regarding the repayment of the outstanding balance of the loan. Based on its knowledge of the facts, management believes it will recover the entire outstanding principal balance of the loan and accrued interest.

Table of Contents

The Knight family has been involved in the transportation business for a number of years, and family members of Kevin Knight, Gary Knight, Keith Knight, and Randy Knight have been employed by us since our inception. The Knight family members are employed on the same terms and conditions as non-related employees. During 2010, we employed two individuals who were compensated in excess of \$120,000 and are considered related persons under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K. The aggregate total compensation paid to these two individuals in 2010 was \$337,728. Based on the fact that these two individuals are employed on the same terms and conditions as non-related employees, the Audit Committee ratified these transactions. We also employed nine other related persons during 2010, none of whom received compensation in excess of \$120,000.

See "Corporate Governance – The Board of Directors and Its Committees – Committees of the Board of Directors – The Compensation Committee – Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation" for a description of transactions between us and members of our Compensation Committee or their affiliates.

PROPOSAL NO. 2 –ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Exchange Act (which was added by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the related rules of the SEC), we are including in this Proxy Statement a separate resolution, subject to shareholder vote, to approve, in a non-binding vote, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed on pages 15 to 26.

As described in more detail in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement, the Compensation Committee has structured our executive compensation program to achieve the following key objectives:

Objective	How Our Executive Compensation Program Achieves This Objective
Attract and retain talented executives and motivate those executives to achieve superior results.	· We link compensation to achievement of specified performance goals and continued employment with the Company. We also utilize multi-year vesting requirements for equity-based compensation to promote long-term ownership.
Align executives' interests with our corporate strategies, our business objectives, and the long-term interests of our shareholders.	· Annual cash bonuses for each of our Named Executive Officers are based on objective performance measurements that are important to our success (e.g., earnings growth, operating ratio, and revenue growth).
Enhance executives' incentives to increase our stock price and maximize shareholder value.	· Annual cash incentives based on targets with objective, measurable criteria keep management focused on near-term results. Caps on cash awards are built into our plan design.  · The equity compensation component, which includes awards such as stock options and restricted stock unit grants, provides balance to our other elements of our compensation program and creates incentive for executives to increase shareholder value over an extended period of time.  · We attempt to keep base salaries relatively low and weight overall compensation toward incentive and equity-based compensation.

Promote our culture of controlling costs.

- We provide reasonable perquisites to our Named Executive Officers and believe that such perquisites allow our Named Executive Officers to work more efficiently.
- We consider the tax consequences associated with each element of compensation, including whether the incentive compensation paid by us is deductible for tax purposes.
- Our Named Executive Officers have voluntarily reduced their salaries during periods of challenging economic environment.

Table of Contents

We urge shareholders to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 15 of this Proxy Statement for more information on our executive compensation policies and procedures. The Compensation Committee and the Board believe that the policies and procedures articulated in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis are effective in achieving our goals.

Accordingly, we are asking our shareholders to approve, in a non-binding vote, the following resolution in respect of this Proposal No. 2:

"RESOLVED, that the shareholders approve, in an advisory, non-binding vote, the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K in this Proxy Statement, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables, and narrative discussion."

This advisory resolution, commonly referred to as a "say-on-pay" resolution, is non-binding on the Board of Directors. Although non-binding, the Board and the Compensation Committee will review and consider the voting results when making future decisions regarding our executive compensation program.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "FOR" ADVISORY APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION SET FORTH ABOVE.

**PROPOSAL NO. 3 – ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING FUTURE  
ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Exchange Act, we also are including in this Proxy Statement a separate resolution to request our shareholders to recommend, in a non-binding vote, whether a non-binding shareholder vote to approve the compensation of our Named Executive Officers (that is, a vote similar to the non-binding vote in Proposal No. 2 on pages 30 and 31) should occur every one, two, or three years.

In considering their vote, shareholders may wish to carefully review the information presented in connection with Proposal No. 2 on pages 30 and 31 and the information regarding our compensation policies and decisions regarding our Named Executive Officers presented in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 15.

We believe a three-year frequency is most consistent with our approach to compensation based upon our beliefs that:

- a triennial advisory vote cycle is consistent with our long-term view with regard to executive compensation and would coincide with our triennial review of our overall compensation structure;
- the potential burdens and distractions of an annual vote are significant;
- a triennial advisory vote cycle gives the Board sufficient time to evaluate the results of the advisory vote regarding Named Executive Officer compensation and to implement any desired changes to our Named Executive Officer compensation policies and procedures; and
- a triennial advisory vote cycle will provide our shareholders more time to evaluate the effectiveness of our short- and long-term Named Executive Officer compensation strategies and our related performance.

Accordingly, we are asking our shareholders to approve, in a non-binding vote, the following resolution in respect of this Proposal No. 3:

"RESOLVED, that the shareholders be requested to recommend, in an advisory, non-binding vote, whether to approve the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers every one, two, or three years."



Table of Contents

The frequency option receiving the greatest number of votes cast will be considered the frequency recommended by our shareholders for holding future advisory votes on executive compensation. However, because the vote is advisory and non-binding on the Board or the Company, the Board may decide that it is in the best interests of our shareholders and the Company to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation more or less frequently than the frequency approved by our shareholders.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE "THREE YEARS" WITH RESPECT TO THE FREQUENCY OF HOLDING FUTURE ADVISORY, NON-BINDING SHAREHOLDER VOTES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

**PROPOSAL NO. 4 – RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT  
OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Our Audit Committee has appointed Grant Thornton LLP ("Grant Thornton") to serve as our principal independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. At the Annual Meeting, our shareholders are being asked to ratify the appointment of Grant Thornton as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. Deloitte & Touche LLP ("Deloitte") served as our principal independent public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. A representative of Grant Thornton is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and to be available to respond to appropriate questions, and such representative will have an opportunity to make a statement at the Annual Meeting if he or she desires to do so. A representative of Deloitte is not expected to be present at the Annual Meeting.

Approval by our shareholders of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm is not required by law, any applicable NYSE rule, or by our organizational documents, but the Board of Directors is submitting this matter to our shareholders for ratification as a corporate governance practice. Ultimately, the Audit Committee retains full discretion and will make all determinations with respect to the appointment and retention of the independent registered public accounting firm.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GRANT THORNTON LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM.

**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES**

Deloitte billed us the following amounts for services provided in the following categories for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively:

	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2009
Audit Fees(1)	\$ 597,190	\$ 560,907
Audit-Related Fees(2)	-	-
Tax Fees(3)	13,978	9,178
All Other Fees(4)	2,200	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 613,368</b>	<b>\$ 572,085</b>

(1) "Audit Fees" represents the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Deloitte for the audit of our annual financial statements and the review of financial

statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, or services that are normally provided by Deloitte in connection with statutory or regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years.

- (2) "Audit-Related Fees" represents the aggregate fees billed, other than Audit Fees, for assurance and related services by Deloitte that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and internal control over financial reporting. We were not billed for any Audit-Related Fees in 2010 or 2009.
- (3) "Tax Fees" represents the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by Deloitte for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning.
- (4) "All Other Fees" represents the aggregate fees billed for products and services provided by Deloitte, other than Audit Fees, Audit-Related Fees, and Tax Fees.

### Table of Contents

Our Audit Committee maintains a policy pursuant to which it pre-approves all audit, audit-related, tax, and other permissible non-audit services provided by our principal independent registered public accounting firm in order to assure that the provision of such services is compatible with maintaining the accounting firm's independence. Under this policy, the Audit Committee pre-approves, on an annual basis, specific types or categories of engagements constituting audit, audit-related, tax, or other permissible non-audit services to be provided by the principal independent registered public accounting firm. Pre-approval of an engagement for a specific type or category of services generally is provided for up to one year and typically is subject to a budget comprised of a range of anticipated fee amounts for the engagement. Management and the independent registered public accounting firm are required to periodically report to the Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the accounting firm in accordance with the annual pre-approval and the fees for the services performed to date. If management believes that a new service, or the expansion of a current service, provided by the principal independent registered public accounting firm is necessary or desirable then such new or expanded services are presented to the Audit Committee for its review and approval prior to the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm to render such services. No audit-related, tax, or other non-audit services were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the de minimus exception to the pre-approval requirement under Rule 2-01(c)(7)(i)(C) of Regulation S-X during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

#### Change in Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

On March 23, 2011, we dismissed Deloitte as our independent registered public accounting firm. The decision to dismiss Deloitte was approved by our Audit Committee. On March 29, 2011, we appointed Grant Thornton as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. The decision to retain Grant Thornton also was approved by our Audit Committee.

Deloitte's reports on the Company's consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009 did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of an opinion, and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

During our two most recent fiscal years and through March 23, 2011, there have been no disagreements with Deloitte on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Deloitte, would have caused Deloitte to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreements in its reports on the Company's consolidated financial statements for such years; and there were no reportable events, as listed in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

We provided Deloitte with a copy of the foregoing disclosures that were included in our current report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 29, 2011 (the "Current Report"), and requested that Deloitte review such disclosures and provide a letter addressed to the SEC as specified by Item 304(a)(3) of Regulation S-K. A copy of Deloitte's letter to the SEC is attached as Exhibit 16.1 to the Current Report.

During our two most recent fiscal years and through March 29, 2011, we did not consult with Grant Thornton regarding any of the matters or events set forth in Item 304(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of Regulation S-K.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

To be eligible for inclusion in our proxy materials relating to the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, shareholder proposals intended to be presented at that meeting must be received in writing by us on or before December 10, 2011. However, if the date of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders is more than thirty days before or after May 19, 2012, then the deadline for submitting any such shareholder proposal for inclusion in the proxy materials relating

to the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders shall be a reasonable time before we begin to print or mail such proxy materials. The inclusion of any such shareholder proposals in such proxy materials will be subject to the requirements of the proxy rules adopted under the Exchange Act, including Rule 14a-8.

Table of Contents

We must receive in writing any shareholder proposals intended to be considered at our 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, but not included in our proxy materials relating to that meeting, by February 23, 2012. Pursuant to Rule 14(a)-4(c)(1) under the Exchange Act, the proxy holders designated by an executed proxy in the form accompanying our Proxy Statement for our next annual meeting will have discretionary authority to vote on any shareholder proposal that is considered at the Annual Meeting, but not received on or prior to the deadline described above.

All shareholder proposals should be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to Adam Miller, Secretary, Knight Transportation, Inc., 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043.

See "Corporate Governance – The Board of Directors and Its Committees – Committees of the Board of Directors – The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee" on page 10 for information regarding how shareholders can recommend director candidates for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board of Directors does not intend to present at the Annual Meeting any matters other than those described herein and does not presently know of any matters that will be presented by other parties. If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof, the proxy holders named in the accompanying form of proxy will have discretionary authority to vote proxies on such matters in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Directors, or, if no recommendations are given, in accordance with their judgment, unless the person executing any such proxy indicates that such authority is withheld.

Knight Transportation, Inc.

/s/ Kevin P. Knight  
Kevin P. Knight  
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

April 8, 2011

ATTN: PROXY DEPT.  
5601 W. BUCKEYE RD.  
PHOENIX, AZ 85043

**VOTE BY INTERNET - [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com)**  
Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

**ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS**  
If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by Knight Transportation, Inc. in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access shareholder communications electronically in future years.

**VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903**  
Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

**VOTE BY MAIL**  
Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Knight Transportation, Inc., c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS: M34235-P106380

KEEP THIS  
PORTION FOR  
YOUR RECORDS  
DETACH AND  
RETURN THIS  
PORTION ONLY

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.	For All	Withhold For All All Except	To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "For All Except" and write the number(s) of the nominee(s) on
--------------------------------	---------	--------------------------------	--

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of Proposals 1, 2 and 4, and 3 YEARS on Proposal 3.

the line below.

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal Election of     
 No. 1: Class I  
 Directors.

NOMINEES:

- 01 – Donald A. Bliss
- 02 – Richard J. Lehmann

Proposal No. 2: Advisory vote on executive compensation.

For  Against  Abstain

CUMULATIVE VOTING - If you wish to allocate your votes among the Class I Nominees using cumulative voting, do not check any of the boxes above, but instead, indicate in the space provided below the number of votes you wish to cast for each Class I Nominee (the maximum number of votes you may allocate is the number of shares owned multiplied by two, the number of Class I Nominees).

1 year  2 years  3 years  Abstain

Nominee Number of Votes

Donald A. Bliss

Richard J. Lehmann

Proposal No. 3: Advisory vote on the frequency of holding future advisory votes on executive compensation.

For  Against  Abstain

Proposal No. 4: Ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2011.

Check the box to the right if you exercised cumulative voting above. Please do not check the box unless you want to exercise cumulative voting.

Other Action: In their discretion, the proxies are also authorized to vote upon such other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED. Your signature below should conform to the name in which the shares are held. When shares are held by joint tenants, both shall sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by president or other authorized officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

Signature [PLEASE SIGN Date  
WITHIN BOX]

Signature (Joint Owners)

Date

---



As a Knight Transportation, Inc. shareholder, you can view the shareholder account on a secured Internet website.

By accessing Investor Service Direct SM at [www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd](http://www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd), you can view the account profile, stock detail, and historical Knight Transportation, Inc. stock price information. You can also change your address.

In addition, you can use this site to consent to future access of Knight's annual reports and proxy materials electronically via the Internet.

Knight also provides access to shareholder information, including its annual report and proxy statement, through its website at [www.knighttrans.com](http://www.knighttrans.com).

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:  
Combined Document is available at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com).

---

Detach here from proxy voting card

M34236-P10658

PROXY

KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC.  
5601 West Buckeye Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85043

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FOR THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 8:30 A.M., Phoenix Time

By executing this Proxy, the shareholder constitutes and appoints the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Kevin P. Knight, and the Senior Vice President of Accounting and Finance, Secretary, and Treasurer, Adam Miller, and each of them, as proxies for the shareholder (or if only one proxy is present, that one shall have all power granted herein), with full power of substitution, who may, and by a majority of such proxies, represent the shareholder and vote all shares of Common Stock that the shareholder is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Knight Transportation, Inc. to be held on May 19, 2011, at 8:30 A.M., Phoenix Time, at the Company's headquarters at 5601 West Buckeye Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85043, or at any adjournment thereof, on all matters described in the Notice and Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting as set forth on the reverse side. Cumulative voting will be applied in the election of directors. See the Proxy Statement furnished for an explanation of cumulative voting.

The shareholder acknowledges receipt of the Notice and Proxy Statement for the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, grants authority to any of said proxies, or their substitutes, to act in the absence of others, with all the powers which the shareholder would possess if personally present at such meeting, and ratifies and confirms all that said proxies, or their substitutes, may lawfully do in the shareholder's name, place, and stead.

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KNIGHT TRANSPORTATION, INC., AND THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED IN

ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES NAMED IN PROPOSAL NO. 1, "FOR" PROPOSALS NO. 2 AND 4, AND "3 YEARS" FOR PROPOSAL NO. 3. IF NO CHOICE IS SPECIFIED BY YOU, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED "FOR" THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES NAMED IN PROPOSAL NO. 1, "FOR" PROPOSALS NO. 2 AND 4, AND "3 YEARS" FOR PROPOSAL NO. 3. THE PROXIES, IN THEIR DISCRETION, ARE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE UPON SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OR ANY ADJOURNMENTS THEREOF.

Address

Changes/Comments:

SEE  
REVERSE  
SIDE

TO BE SIGNED ON THE REVERSE SIDE

SEE  
REVERSE  
SIDE