

GERMAN AMERICAN BANCORP, INC.  
Form DEF 14A  
March 29, 2013

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. \_\_)

Filed by the Registrant  x

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  ..

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

GERMAN AMERICAN BANCORP, INC.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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GERMAN AMERICAN BANCORP, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD MAY 16, 2013

We are pleased to notify you that we will hold the 2013 annual meeting of our shareholders on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 6:30 P.M., Eastern Time, at the Huntingburg Event Center, 200 E 14th Street, Huntingburg, Indiana, for the following purposes:

1. to elect four directors, each to serve until the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders;
2. to approve, on an advisory basis, the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
3. to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Our Board of Directors has established the close of business on March 8, 2013 as the "record date" for this annual meeting. This means that you are entitled to vote at this meeting (in person or by legally-appointed proxy) if our stock records show that you owned our Common Shares at that time.

**We invite you to attend this annual meeting in person. Even if you plan to attend, please complete, sign and date the accompanying proxy and return it to our agent promptly in the enclosed postage-paid envelope - or, vote by Internet or by telephone by following the instructions in the accompanying Proxy Statement.**

GERMAN AMERICAN BANCORP, INC.

**CLAY W. EWING**

**Secretary**

April 1, 2013

Jasper, Indiana

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## PROXY STATEMENT

### ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF GERMAN AMERICAN BANCORP, INC.

to be held May 16, 2013

## INTRODUCTION

The Board of Directors of German American Bancorp, Inc. is soliciting proxies from shareholders for its use at the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders, and at any adjournment or adjournments of that meeting. The annual meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 6:30 P.M., Eastern Time, at the Huntingburg Event Center, 200 E 14th Street, Huntingburg, Indiana.

To improve readability, German American Bancorp, Inc., which has prepared this proxy statement, will sometimes speak in this document in the first person (using words such as "we" or "our" or "us") and will address its shareholders using second-person words (such as "you" or "your"). We will also sometimes refer to German American Bancorp, Inc., as "the Company." References to the Board of Directors of the Company in this proxy statement will usually be shortened to "our Board."

We are mailing this proxy statement, together with our 2012 annual report (Form 10-K), a proxy card and an invitation to attend our annual meeting, to our shareholders on or about April 1, 2013.

### **Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 16, 2013:**

This Proxy Statement and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, are available free of charge at [www.edocumentview.com/GABC](http://www.edocumentview.com/GABC).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING AND VOTING

Purposes of the Meeting

The purposes of the annual meeting are:

1. To elect four directors, each to serve until the 2016 annual meeting;
2. To approve, on an advisory basis, the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Shareholders Entitled to Vote at the Meeting

Our Board has established the close of business on March 8, 2013 as the "record date" for this annual meeting. This means that you are entitled to vote at this meeting (and any adjournments) if our records show that you owned our Common Shares at that time. As of this record date, 12,636,656 of our common shares were issued and outstanding, held by approximately 3,438 registered shareholders of record. Each issued and outstanding Common Share as of the record date is entitled to one vote on each matter properly to come before the annual meeting and can be voted only if the record owner of that share, determined as of the record date, is present in person at the meeting or represented by proxy.

## **Voting Shares By Proxy That You Hold In Your Name**

You have three choices:

**VOTE BY INTERNET** - [www.envisionreports.com/GABC](http://www.envisionreports.com/GABC). Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions up until 1:00 A.M. Central Time on May 16, 2013. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site. Follow the steps outlined on the secured website.

**VOTE BY PHONE** - 1-800-652-VOTE (8683). Call toll free within the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico any time on a touch tone telephone up until 1:00 A.M. Central Time on May 16, 2013. There is NO CHARGE to you for the call. Have your proxy card in hand when you call. Follow the instructions provided by the recorded message.

**VOTE BY MAIL** - Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we've provided or mail it to Proxy Services, c/o Computershare Investor Services, P O Box 43102, Providence, RI 02940-5068.

## **Voting Shares That You Hold in Brokerage or Similar Accounts**

Many shareholders hold their shares through a stockbroker, bank, or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. If you hold your shares in one of these ways, you are considered a beneficial owner, not a record owner, and you therefore have no direct vote on any matter to come before the annual meeting. Your broker, bank, or nominee will send you voting instructions for you to use in directing the broker, bank or nominee in how to vote your shares. Your broker, bank or nominee may allow you to deliver your voting instructions via the telephone or the Internet.

If you hold your shares through a broker and you do not timely provide your broker with specific instructions on how to vote your shares, your broker will not be authorized to cast a vote on your behalf on Proposal 1 but will be authorized to cast a vote on your behalf, in its discretion, on Proposal 2. In such cases, a "broker non-vote" may be entered with respect to your shares on Proposal 1 to reflect that your broker was present with respect to your shares at the meeting but was not exercising voting rights on your behalf with respect to those shares.

## **Your Voting Options on Each of the Proposals**

You may vote "for" or "withhold" (meaning you choose to withhold from our Proxy Committee your authority to vote) with respect to the election of each nominee for director (Proposal 1 on the proxy card).



You may vote "for," "against" or "abstain" with respect to:

the nonbinding advisory proposal on the approval of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP (Proposal 2 on the proxy card), and

any other proposal that may properly be brought before the meeting (Proposal 3 on the proxy card; if you return a proxy card, you will appoint our Proxy Committee as your proxy to vote "for," "against" or "abstain" with respect to your shares, and will have no opportunity on the proxy card to direct the Proxy Committee as to such proposals due to their presently unknown nature).

### **Our Board's Voting Recommendations**

Our Board recommends that you vote:

FOR the election as directors of the four individuals named as its nominees in this proxy statement (Proposal 1 on the proxy card); and

FOR the approval, on an advisory basis, of the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending December 31, 2013 (Proposal 2 on the proxy card).

If any other matter is properly brought before the annual meeting, the Company - through the individuals named on the enclosed proxy card acting as our "Proxy Committee," or their designees, and pursuant to the blanket authorization granted under the proxy card - will vote your shares on that matter in accordance with the discretion and judgment of the Proxy Committee.

### **Required Votes to Approve Each Proposal**

Four positions on our Board are scheduled to be filled by vote of the shareholders at the annual meeting. As a shareholder, you are entitled to cast one vote per share for each of up to four nominees for election as directors at the annual meeting, but you may not cumulate your votes (in other words, you may not cast votes representing four times the number of your shares entitled to vote in favor of a single nominee). Directors are elected from among the nominees by a plurality of the votes that are cast among all nominees; this means the individuals whose names are validly placed into nomination at the meeting who receive the four highest numbers of votes cast "for" their election will be elected as directors of the Company. If there are only four individuals who are validly placed into nomination at the annual meeting, and assuming a quorum is established and a vote is held on the election at which each of such nominees receives at least one vote, then all of the four nominees will be elected, regardless of the number of "broker non-votes" or "withhold" instructions our Proxy Committee may have received with respect to one or more of such nominees on the proxy cards or voting instructions that are returned to us.

A majority of the votes cast at the meeting will approve: (i) the proposal to approve the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP and (ii) all other matters that arise at the annual meeting.

Please note, however, that because the vote on the appointment of Crowe Horwath LLP is advisory in nature, the results of such vote will not be binding upon our Board or its committees.

### **Quorum**

Indiana law provides that any shareholder action at a meeting requires that a quorum exist with respect to that meeting. Once a share is represented for any purpose at a meeting, it is deemed by Indiana law to be present for quorum purposes for the remainder of the meeting and (unless a new record date is or must be set for any such adjournment) any adjournment of that meeting.

A majority of the common shares entitled to vote at this meeting, present either in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum for all purposes at the meeting. If a quorum should not be present, the annual meeting may be adjourned from

time to time until a quorum is obtained.

Shares held of record by shareholders who (in person or by proxy) abstain from voting on any or all proposals (and shares represented by "broker non-votes," described above under "Voting Shares That You Hold in Brokerage or Similar Accounts") will be included in the number of shares present at the meeting for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. However, abstentions and broker non-votes as to any proposal will not be considered to be votes that have been "cast" on that proposal and therefore will not affect the outcome of the vote on any proposals described by this Proxy Statement.

#### Voting on Possible Other Matters

We are not aware that any person intends to propose that any matter, other than the two numbered proposals specifically described by this Proxy Statement, be presented for consideration or action by our shareholders at our annual meeting. If any such other matter should properly come before the meeting, however, favorable action on such matter would generally require the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, unless our articles of incorporation or bylaws or applicable law require otherwise. If you vote by proxy, you will be granting our Proxy Committee authority to vote your shares on any such other matter in accordance with their discretion and judgment.

#### Revocation of Proxies or Voting Instructions

A shareholder of record who has delivered a proxy card in response to this solicitation may revoke it before it is exercised at the annual meeting by executing and delivering a timely and valid later-dated proxy, by voting by ballot at the meeting or by giving written notice to the Secretary. If a shareholder of record has voted via the Internet or by telephone, such shareholder may also change that vote with a timely and valid later Internet or telephone vote, as the case may be, or by voting by ballot at the meeting. Attendance at the meeting will not have the effect of revoking a proxy unless a shareholder gives proper written notice of revocation to the Secretary before the proxy is exercised or the shareholder votes by ballot at the meeting. Beneficial owners who have directed their broker, bank or nominee as to how to vote their shares should contact their broker, bank or nominee for instructions as to how they may revoke or change those voting directions.

#### Solicitation of Proxies

Our Board is making this solicitation of proxies for our annual meeting. Our Company will bear all costs of such solicitation, including the cost of preparing and mailing this proxy statement and the enclosed form of proxy. After the initial mailing of this proxy statement, proxies may be solicited by mail, telephone, facsimile transmission or personally by directors, officers, employees or agents of the Company. Brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries will be requested to forward soliciting materials to beneficial owners of shares held by them for the accounts of beneficial owners, and we will pay their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

PROPOSAL 1  
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our full Board currently consists of twelve directors, of whom eleven served on our Board at the time of the 2012 annual meeting of the Company's shareholders. Our Board is divided into three classes, and directors in each class serve a three-year term. The terms of each class expire at successive annual meetings so that the shareholders elect one class of directors at each annual meeting. The current classification of our Board is:

Terms expiring at this annual meeting:	Douglas A. Bawel, Marc D. Fine, J. David Lett, and Thomas W. Seger
Terms expiring at the 2014 annual meeting:	Christina M. Ernst, Gene C. Mehne, M. Darren Root and Mark A. Schroeder
Terms expiring at the 2015 annual meeting:	Richard E. Forbes, U. Butch Klem, Chris A. Ramsey, and Michael J. Voyles

Our Board, on the recommendation of the Governance/Nominating Committee, has nominated Messrs. Bawel, Fine, Lett and Seger for re-election at this year's annual meeting. If re-elected, each of our Board's four nominees will serve on our Board until the annual meeting in 2016, or until his successor is duly elected and qualified in accordance with the Company's Bylaws. If any of these nominees should become unable to accept election, our Proxy Committee may vote for other person(s) selected by our Board. Our Board has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable to accept election.

The tables below present certain information concerning our Board's nominees for election at this year's annual meeting, followed by information concerning those Board members who are not standing for election this year. This information includes their present principal occupations, which have been the same for the last five years, unless otherwise noted. The biographies of each of the nominees and continuing directors below contains information regarding the experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that caused the Governance/Nominating Committee and our Board to determine that the person should be re-elected (or should continue to serve even if not standing for re-election) as a director for the Company in 2013.

Following these tables is information concerning our corporate governance and committee structures. We have noted in the tables the Committee memberships of those directors who serve on those standing committees about which information is provided elsewhere in this document, namely our Compensation/Human Resources, Audit, and Governance/Nominating Committees. Our directors also serve on other committees of our Board and the board of directors of the Company's banking subsidiary that are not required to be described by this Proxy Statement and which are therefore not identified in these listings.

Elsewhere in this proxy statement you will find information concerning the numbers of our common shares that are beneficially owned by each of our directors (see "OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON SHARES BY OUR DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS") and information regarding the compensation of our directors (see "EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION"). We urge you to review all of this information when deciding how to vote on Proposal 1.

**Our Board recommends that you vote FOR all four of the nominees named below.**

**Nominees for Election at the 2013 Annual Meeting:**

***Douglas A. Bawel***

Douglas Bawel, 57, a director of the Company since 2004, is Chairman of the Credit Risk Management Committee and a member of its Compensation/Human Resources Committee, is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Jasper Engines & Transmissions, a \$310 million privately-held manufacturer based in Jasper, Indiana, with over 1,750 employees. Mr. Bawel previously served from January 1999 to June 2007 as an outside director of Steel Technologies, Inc., a publicly-held company and served as Chair of its Marketing Management Group and a member of its Audit Committee. Our Board values Mr. Bawel's insights gained from his years of management experience with Jasper Engines and Transmission, and his past experience in serving on another publicly-held company's board of directors.

***Marc D. Fine***

Marc D. Fine, 53, has served as a director of the Company since his election to a newly-created Board seat, effective January 1, 2012. Mr. Fine was a director of the former Bank of Evansville, having been among its founding director group in 2001. Mr. Fine has practiced business law in Evansville, Indiana since 1984 and was a founding partner of the law firm of Rudolph, Fine, Porter & Johnson, LLP, in Evansville, of which he is presently the Managing Partner. He is also active in many civic and community organizations and is a Commissioner of the Indiana Gaming Commission (since 2008), an official agency of the State of Indiana that oversees the state's gaming industry. Our Board believes that Mr. Fine's experience in business (including the banking business), state government, and law, in addition to his involvement in the Evansville business and civic communities, is of significant benefit to it.

***J. David Lett***

J. David Lett, 60, a director of the Company since 2000 and a member of its Governance/Nominating Committee, has practiced law for over 31 years with Lett & Jones, a law firm in Martin County, Indiana (part of the Company's southern Indiana market area) that provides legal services to a wide range of individual, governmental and organizational clientele in Martin, Daviess and Dubois Counties, including the Company and its subsidiaries. Mr. Lett's professional and civic relationships and stature within these communities position him well to offer valuable insight and perspective on a variety of matters relating to the Company's banking, insurance, investment, and trust services.

*Thomas W. Seger*

Thomas W. Seger, 55, has served as a director of the Company since his election to a newly-created board seat, effective August 16, 2011 and is Chairman of our Board's Compensation/Human Resources Committee and Governance/Nominating Committee. Mr. Seger is vice president of Wabash Valley Produce, a large poultry producer, headquartered in Dubois, Indiana, and president of Simple Transport, which is also located in Dubois. As a result of Mr. Seger's 34 years' of experience in poultry and agriculture, Mr. Seger brings to our Board unique perspectives based on his knowledge of the agricultural industry on a local, regional, and national level.



**Continuing Directors of the Class with Terms Expiring at the 2014 Annual Meeting:**

***Christina M. Ernst***

Christina M. Ernst, 63, has been a director of the Company since 2004 and presently serves as a member of its Compensation/Human Resources Committee. She has served since 1988 as Chairman and President of Miller Construction Company, Inc., an electrical power line contractor based in Vincennes, Indiana, with approximately 100 employees. Among her duties is overseeing the investment of approximately \$525 million of assets of a Taft Hartley benefit fund as a trustee and member of the investment committee. Ms. Ernst previously served on the board of directors of another publicly held community bank holding company based in Vincennes, Indiana, prior to its acquisition by a larger bank in 1998. Our Board believes that Ms. Ernst brings varied business and investment management experiences, and knowledge of the Knox County community, to it.

***Gene C. Mehne***

Gene C. Mehne, 68, has served as a director of the Company and its predecessors since 1979, and has been a member of its Audit Committee most of that time through the present. Mr. Mehne, a Purdue University graduate with a degree in Agriculture, represents the agricultural community within the Company's southern Indiana markets, having served as Manager of his family's farm corporation, Mehne Farms, Inc., since 1979 and its President since 1997. Mr. Mehne is also active in Dubois County agricultural associations. Our Board believes that Mr. Mehne brings agribusiness knowledge to it, as well as significant institutional knowledge of the businesses of the Company and the Bank as a result of his long tenure on our Board.

***M. Darren Root***

M. Darren Root, 52, was appointed to the Board effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Root was also appointed to the Audit Committee of the Company and its bank subsidiary. Mr. Root is president and founding member of Root & Associates LLC, a Bloomington, Indiana-based accounting firm, and CEO of RootWorks LLC, a membership-based consulting firm dedicated to educating small and mid-size accounting firms on technology, practice management, marketing, branding and more. Mr. Root holds CPA, CITP (Certified Information Technology Professional), and CGMA (Chartered Global Management Accountant) credentials. Mr. Root co-authored the book "The E-Myth Accountant" and serves as Executive Editor of CPA Practice Advisor. Our Board believes that Mr. Root's knowledge base in the areas of accounting, audit, finance, and technology enhances Board and Audit Committee decision-making, and that he brings a depth of knowledge of the Bloomington, Indiana market area to the Board.

***Mark A. Schroeder***

Mark A. Schroeder, 59, has served as a director of the Company since 1991, as its Chief Executive Officer since 1999 and as its Chairman since 2009. Mr. Schroeder, who was certified as a public accountant in Indiana in 1995, has 40 years of day-to-day banking experience as the Company's chief lending officer and as the Company's chief financial officer and chief operating officer. Mr. Schroeder is active in Indiana and national industry organizations, including the boards of directors of leading state (1999-2011) and national (2004-2011) community banking industry associations, and since 2007 has served on the Board of Members of the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions, an official agency of the State of Indiana that oversees the banking and finance industry. Our Board believes that Mr. Schroeder's banking industry knowledge and experience, and his insights as CEO, are invaluable to it.

Continuing Directors of the Class with Terms Expiring at the 2015 Annual Meeting:

***Richard E. Forbes***

Richard E. Forbes, 65, has served as a director of the Company since 2006, and is the Chairman of its Audit Committee. Certified as a public accountant in 1970, Mr. Forbes became chief financial officer of MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc., a cabinet-manufacturing subsidiary of Fortune Brands (a Fortune 500 company), in 1987, and later became that subsidiary's President (2000) and CEO (2002). From January 2007 until his retirement from active employment in January 2011, Mr. Forbes led another subsidiary of Fortune Brands, namely Fortune Brands Home and Security, Inc., as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Our Board values Mr. Forbes's business backgrounds in manufacturing as well as his knowledge and experience in finance and accounting matters (he has been designated as the Audit Committee's "audit committee financial expert" since his election to our Board).

***U. Butch Klem***

U. Butch Klem, 62, has served as a director of the Company since 2004, and is a member of its Compensation/Human Resources Committee and its Governance/Nominating Committee. Mr. Klem, President and CEO of U.B. Klem Furniture Company, a furniture manufacturer based in Jasper, Indiana, founded that company in 1973, and has grown it to a medium-sized manufacturer employing over 100 people. In the course of managing that growth, Mr. Klem has gained experience in sales, human resources, accounting and finance. Mr. Klem has been our Board's "lead independent director" since 2009, and he provides our Board with leadership as well as his business insights gained from his successful entrepreneurial activities.

***Chris A. Ramsey***

Chris A. Ramsey, 56, has served as a director of the Company since his election to a newly-created board seat, effective January 1, 2012.. Mr. Ramsey is president of Ramsey Development Corp. of Indiana, Inc. (a real estate company based in Tell City, Indiana) and the owner of several businesses in the construction and real estate industry with over 27 years' experience in real estate. Mr. Ramsey has served on the boards of directors of the former Bank of Evansville and the former Tell City National Bank (Tell City, Indiana). Mr. Ramsey therefore brings valuable bank director experience as well as real estate experience to our Board.

***Michael J. Voyles***

Michael J. Voyles, 64, has served as a director of the Company since 1998 (and as a member of the board of a predecessor banking company for 13 years prior to its affiliation with the Company), and is a member of its Audit Committee. Mr. Voyles, who currently is President of Voyles Properties, LLC (real estate holdings) and M.J.V. Inc. (rental properties), was President of Voyles Supermarket, Inc. (retail groceries) based in Petersburg, Indiana, from 1985 through its sale on January 2009. Our Board has benefited and expects to continue to benefit from Mr. Voyles's varied business experiences as well as his knowledge of the Petersburg (and surrounding Pike County) Indiana community.

#### Board Leadership Structure

Our Board is led by a lead independent director and by a Chairman of the Board. The lead independent director assists our Board in assuring effective corporate governance and serves as chairperson of meetings of the independent directors that are held without the presence of any directors who may at that time be deemed not to be independent. The lead independent director also chairs meetings of our Board during any meetings or portions of meetings if the Chairman of the Board is absent. The Chairman of the Board chairs meetings of our Board (other than the separate sessions only of the Board's independent directors) and of our shareholders. Mr. Klem is our Board's lead independent director and Mr. Schroeder (our Chief Executive Officer) is our Chairman of the Board.

Our Board believes that this leadership structure is the most appropriate for our Company. Our Board believes that it benefits by the efficiencies achieved in having the role of CEO and Chairman combined in the same individual (Mr. Schroeder), and that the detailed knowledge of our day-to-day operations and business possessed by our Chairman of the Board as a result of his also acting as our CEO greatly enhances the decision-making processes of our Board as a whole. The independence of the Board as a whole is not compromised, however, as a result of the active involvement of Mr. Klem as the designated lead independent director, who is in a position to ensure that the powers and duties of the Chairman are being handled responsibly despite the dual role held by the Chairman as CEO. Furthermore, consistent with NASDAQ listing requirements, the independent directors regularly meet in independent sessions without Mr. Schroeder in attendance.

## Director Independence

In accordance with rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market, our Board affirmatively determines the independence of each Director and nominee for election as a Director. Our Board has determined that each of the Directors of the Company (identified above) is independent under the definitions and interpretations of NASDAQ because none of them have any relationship with the Company that, in the opinion of our Board, would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director, except that Mark A. Schroeder is not independent because he is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company.

Our Board has not established its own definitions (different from the definitions and interpretations of NASDAQ) for determining whether its members are independent, but rather reviews such independence determinations on the basis of the total mix of information available to our Board at the time of the making of each such determination. Included in this information are any relationships (such as the ordinary course loan transactions by the Company's bank subsidiary with members of our Board and their related persons, or the membership of directors in law firms that may provide legal services to the Company and its subsidiaries) that the Company has or may have with its directors that are disclosed in the Company's most recent proxy statement or that become known to our Board from time to time after the issuance of that proxy statement.

In considering the independence of Directors Fine and Lett, the Board reviewed the Company's relationships with the law firms of which those directors are partners. Both of those law firms have their offices in the geographic markets served by the Company's banking and other subsidiaries. Mr. Lett's firm has served as counsel for the Company's subsidiaries in the past and expects that it may continue to do so in the future. Payments by the Company and its subsidiaries to Mr. Lett's firm for that firm's services during 2012 did not exceed \$10,000 and are not expected to exceed \$10,000 on an annualized basis in the future. Mr. Fine's firm from time to time represents the interests of the Company and its subsidiaries in legal matters arising in the Evansville area. The Company, however, does not expect that its payments to either of these two law firms will exceed the threshold dollar amounts that are specified by the related person transaction reporting rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission for reporting such transactions in the Company's annual meeting proxy statements, or by the rules of NASDAQ for determining when such payments might affect director independence. On the basis of this review, our Board determined that these law firm relationships did not interfere with the ability of either of those two directors to exercise his independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities as a director of the Company.

## Subsidiary Board Memberships

All members of our Board also serve on the board of directors of German American Bancorp, our wholly-owned bank subsidiary. In addition:

several of our directors participate in selected meetings of the separate advisory boards of certain banking regions of our bank subsidiary, as follows: Mr. Ramsey, East Region; Mr. Lett, West Region; Mr. Fine, South Region; and Mr. Klem, floats between Regions.

Directors Ernst, Mehne, Schroeder, Ramsey and Voyles are members of the boards of directors of two of our other principal operating subsidiaries, German American Financial Advisors & Trust Company and German American Insurance, Inc.

#### Risk Oversight

All members of our Board oversee the management of our Company's affairs directly and through its committees. In doing so, our Board acts at all times with a view to the best interests of our Company and our shareholders. In fulfilling its mandate, our Board, among other matters, is responsible for reviewing the principal risks of our Company's business to ensure the appropriate systems are in place to manage these risks. The Audit Committee of our Board is charged with the responsibility to assist our Board in monitoring our principal financial risks and the processes employed to manage such risks. In discharging its mandate, the Audit Committee of our Board discusses with management our major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including our risk assessment and risk management practices.

## Committees and Attendance

Our Board held 9 meetings during 2012. All of the directors who acted as such at any time during 2012 attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of our Board and the committees on which he or she served that were held during 2012.

Our Board has standing committees that address issues relating to audit, executive compensation and nominations:

The Audit Committee, presently consisting of Directors Forbes, Mehne, Root, and Voyles, met 5 times in 2012. The Audit Committee oversees the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting.

The Compensation/Human Resources Committee, presently consisting of Directors Bawel, Ernst, Klem, and Seger, met 2 times during 2012. The Compensation/Human Resources Committee sets compensation for officers other than executive officers, and makes recommendations to our Board with respect to the compensation of executive officers.

The Governance/Nominating Committee, presently consisting of Directors Klem, Lett and Seger, met 2 times during 2012. The Governance/Nominating Committee assists our Board with respect to the composition, performance and functioning of our Board (including the recommendation of nominees for election or appointment to our Board) and the effectiveness of the Company's corporate structure and governance.

Each of the members of the Audit Committee, Compensation/Human Resources Committee and the Governance/Nominating Committee is an independent director, as that term is defined by the listing standards of NASDAQ. In addition, each member of the Audit Committee satisfies the additional independence requirements specified by those listing standards for audit committee members.

## Corporate Governance Guidelines

The Board's Corporate Governance Guidelines are available for review by shareholders in the Corporate Profile - Governance Documents section of the Investor Relations portion of the Company's web site, [www.germanamerican.com](http://www.germanamerican.com). These Guidelines address (among other matters):

•

the composition and structure of the board, including the independence of directors and board leadership, each of which are discussed above;

the criteria and procedures for assessing the effectiveness and suitability for service of directors and proposed directors;

- the responsibilities and compensation of directors;
- the identification, structure and composition of the committees of our Board;

the policy of our Board to hold executive sessions of the independent board members (without the presence of management or other directors deemed by our Board not to be independent) in connection with each regularly scheduled Board meeting, and at other times as necessary; and

- procedures by which shareholders may communicate with our Board.



In addition, the Corporate Governance Guidelines establish expectations for ownership of our common stock by our non-employee directors and our chief executive officer. Under these guidelines, non-employee Directors are expected to attain an investment position in shares of the our common stock (measured by the same rules as are used for determining the number of shares beneficially owned in our annual meeting proxy statement) equal to a multiple of three times their current annual cash retainer and the chief executive officer is expected to attain an investment position in our common shares equal to three times his or her base salary. Exceptions to these ownership guidelines may be approved by the lead independent Director for good reason.

#### Director Nominations Process

Our Board adopted a charter for the Governance/Nominating Committee in 2004 and reviewed and confirmed the charter's continued adequacy and effectiveness at its annual reorganization meeting in June 2012. The charter directs the Governance/Nominating Committee to evaluate candidates for nomination by our Board for election to our Board, and specifies that our Board will consider for nomination for election to our Board only those candidates who are recommended for nomination by the Governance/Nominating Committee. A current copy of the charter is available for review by shareholders in the Corporate Profile - Governance Documents section of the Investor Relations portion of the Company's web site, [www.germanamerican.com](http://www.germanamerican.com).

In evaluating candidates for membership on our Board, the Governance/Nominating Committee is required by the charter to consider favorably those candidates who, in the Governance/Nominating Committee's judgment, (a) possess demonstrated business and financial judgment, strategic thinking, general management experience or perspective, leadership, experience in industry with comparable complexities, general knowledge of financial services industry, and familiarity with local, state, regional and national issues affecting business; (b) have a background that serves our Board's interest in a membership comprised of individuals with varied occupational experience and perspective; (c) have sufficient time to devote to the Company's business; (d) possess the highest moral and ethical character and agree to uphold and assure compliance of the Company's Code of Business Conduct; (e) have a history of community involvement and civic-mindedness; (f) are not engaged (directly or indirectly) in any activity adverse to, and do not serve on the board of directors of (or have any material ownership interest in), any other company whose interests are adverse to, or in conflict with, the Company's interests; and (g) possess the ability to oversee, as a director, the business and affairs of the Company for the benefit of all constituencies of the Company.

The charter further specifies that, in connection with each annual meeting of shareholders, the Governance/Nominating Committee will consider candidates (based on individual qualifications and the needs of our Board as determined from time to time by the Governance/Nominating Committee) that have been recommended by shareholders for nomination at the annual meeting, if the recommendations are submitted by letter addressed to the attention of the Chairman of the Governance/Nominating Committee in care of the Secretary of the Company, mailed by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested), and received by the Secretary at the Company's principal executive offices on or before December 1 of the year preceding the annual meeting for which the recommendation is made.

In addition to considering candidates who are recommended by shareholders, the Governance/Nominating Committee will meet from time to time with members of our Board, including the chief executive officer and other officers who may be members of our Board, and with other executive officers of the Company with a view to identifying persons who may be qualified to serve on our Board. The Governance/Nominating Committee may also, in its discretion as granted by the charter, engage a third-party search firm to assist in identifying and evaluating potential candidates. All candidates (regardless of whether identified through shareholder recommendations) shall be evaluated according to the same standards, except that (a) incumbent directors who are standing for re-election may receive preference on account of their prior experience with the business and affairs of the Company, and (b) candidates who may be considered for election to our Board pursuant to any understanding or agreement negotiated by the Company with any third party may receive preference in accordance with the special terms of such understanding or agreement.

The charter provides that the Governance/Nominating Committee shall not recommend any candidate to our Board as a nominee for election as director unless such candidate (a) will be at least 25 years of age at the time of election, (b) will not serve, at the time of election, as a director of more than two other companies that file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (c) in the judgment of the members of the Governance/Nominating Committee, has the ability to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, (d) has not been involved in any legal proceedings of the type described by Item 401(f) of Regulation S-K of the Securities and Exchange Commission which legal proceedings would be disc losable in the Company's next proxy statement, and (e) will satisfy the director qualification requirements established from time to time by the Company's Bylaws, unless the Governance/Nominating Committee has determined that it would be in the best interests of the Company for our Board to waive such Bylaws qualification requirements in respect of that particular candidate. In addition, the charter provides that the Governance/Nominating Committee shall consider candidates with a view to ensuring that at least two thirds of the members of our Board (assuming that all candidates recommended by the Governance/Nominating Committee are elected to our Board) will, as a result of prior service on our Board or otherwise, have business experience in the banking, insurance, or securities industries.

While the Company hopes and intends that the application of the above criteria will result in a board of directors that is comprised of individuals from different walks of life and experiences and will in that sense be a diverse group, the Governance/Nominating Committee has not adopted a diversity policy and does not consider race, gender, national origin or other traditional classifications in considering qualifications or desirability of a candidate for service on our Board of the Company.

The Governance/Nominating Committee recommended to our Board that the four nominees named in this proxy statement, each an incumbent director, be nominated for election at this year's annual meeting.

#### Communication with Directors and Director Attendance at Annual Meetings

Our Board has adopted a procedure by which shareholders may send communications to our Board as part of the Corporate Governance Guidelines. These Guidelines are available for review by shareholders in the Corporate Profile - Governance Documents section of the Investor Relations portion of the Company's web site, [www.germanamerican.com](http://www.germanamerican.com). Further, our Board had adopted a resolution that declares that it is the policy of this Board that all members of our Board, regardless of whether they are standing for re-election at any such meeting, are strongly encouraged to attend each annual meeting of the shareholders of the Company that occurs during their tenure on our Board. All of the members of our Board who were in office in 2012 attended the 2012 annual meeting of shareholders except Director Bawel, Forbes and Ramsey.

#### OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Our executive officers are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Positions</u>	<u>Age</u>
Mark A. Schroeder	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and its bank subsidiary; Director of the Company and its principal subsidiaries.	59
Clay W. Ewing	President - Commercial and Retail Banking of the Company and its bank subsidiary.	57
Bradley M. Rust	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Senior Administrative Officer, of the Company and its bank subsidiary.	46
Randall L. Braun	Senior Vice President / Head of Retail Banking	53

Keith A.  
Leinenbach

Senior Vice President / Chief Credit Officer

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Mr. Schroeder has been our Chief Executive Officer, and each of Mr. Ewing and Mr. Rust has held executive officer positions with management responsibilities in his current functional area of responsibility for the Company and its subsidiaries, for the last five years. Mr. Braun and Mr. Leinenbach were first designated by the Board of Directors as "executive officers" of the Company for certain securities law purposes at the annual reorganization meeting of our Board of Directors held in 2012. Mr. Braun joined the Company in November 2011 and before that spent over 20 years with Fifth Third Bank. Prior to 2009, Mr. Braun served as Senior Vice President, Senior Commercial Banker for Fifth Third at a location in Southern Indiana and then from 2009 through 2011 served in a similar capacity at a South Florida Fifth Third location. Mr. Leinenbach has served as Chief Credit Officer of the Company since January 2012 and before that spent over 11 years with German American as a Regional Commercial Credit Officer.

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## OWNERSHIP OF OUR COMMON SHARES BY OUR DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table presents certain information as of March 1, 2013, regarding the beneficial ownership of our common shares by our directors and executive officers.

Name	Common Shares Beneficially Owned <sup>1</sup>		Percentage of Outstanding Shares
Douglas A. Bawel	24,288	2	*
Christina M. Ernst	23,211	3	*
Marc D. Fine	21,453		*
Richard E. Forbes	17,561	4	*
U. Butch Klem	175,731	5	1.4%
J. David Lett	191,895	6	1.5%
Gene C. Mehne	15,593	7	*
Chris A. Ramsey	155,670	8	1.2%
M. Darren Root	3,000		*
Mark A. Schroeder	76,866	9	*
Thomas W. Seger	359,931	10	2.9%
Michael J. Voyles	82,664	11	*
Clay W. Ewing	38,827		*
Bradley M. Rust	20,235	12	*
Randall L. Braun	2,759		*
Keith A. Leinenbach	13,646		*
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	1,223,349 <sup>13,14</sup>		9.7%

\* Represents less than one percent.

<sup>1</sup> Common Shares Beneficially Owned includes shares that the indicated individual had the right to purchase by exercise of stock options on March 1, 2013, all of which were then fully vested and exercisable. Unless otherwise indicated in a footnote, each person possesses sole voting and investment powers with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned by him or her, and he or she is deemed to share voting and investment powers over shares indicated as held by a spouse, children or other family members residing with him or her or by partnerships or corporations with which he or she is associated.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 23,640 shares held by Mr. Bawel's children, and 2,000 shares that Mr. Bawel has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 2,561 shares held by Ms. Ernst's spouse and 2,000 shares that Ms. Ernst has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>4</sup> Includes 1,000 shares that Mr. Forbes has the right to acquire upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>5</sup> Includes 83,347 shares owned by Mr. Klem's wife, and 2,000 shares that Mr. Klem has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>6</sup> Includes 886 shares held jointly by Mr. Lett and his wife; 2,433 shares owned by Mr. Lett's wife; 179,608 shares held by the estate of Mr. Lett's mother; and 4,051 shares that Mr. Lett has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>7</sup> Includes 4,282 shares owned by Mr. Mehne's wife; 1,778 shares held by the Mehne Farms, Inc. qualified plan; and 4,052 shares that Mr. Mehne has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options. Of these shares, 2,266 are pledged.

<sup>8</sup> Includes 148,272 shares held by companies of which Mr. Ramsey is an officer.

<sup>9</sup> Includes 21,623 shares held jointly by Mr. Schroeder and his wife and 2,002 shares Mr. Schroeder has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>10</sup> Includes 46,231 shares owned by Mr. Seger's spouse, 175,425 held jointly by Mr. Seger and his wife, 44,802 shares held in a Foundation of which Mr. Seger is administrator, and 92,667 shares owned by companies of which Mr. Seger is an officer.

<sup>11</sup> Includes 3,841 shares held jointly by Mr. Voyles and his wife; 35,461 shares held by a generation skipping trust of which Mr. Voyles is trustee; and 4,052 shares that Mr. Voyles has the right to purchase upon the exercise of stock options.

<sup>12</sup> Includes 10,428 shares held jointly by Mr. Rust and his wife.

<sup>13</sup> Includes 21,157 shares that the directors and named executive officers of the Company have the right to acquire upon the exercise of stock options (all of which were exercisable at March 1, 2013) and 877,285 shares as to which voting and/or investment powers were shared by members of the group with others. Of these shares, an aggregate of 2,266 are pledged.

<sup>14</sup> Also includes an aggregate of 35,135 shares that are held by the Company's trust subsidiary in fiduciary accounts for customers. Our directors (by Board action) and executive officers may be deemed to have the power to direct the trust subsidiary's voting decisions with respect to all of these fiduciary shares, and to direct the trust subsidiary's disposition decisions with respect to all of these fiduciary shares. Our directors and executive officers have no pecuniary interest in any of these trust subsidiary shares. Further, any exercise by them of any power to direct the voting or disposition of these shares by the trust company would be subject to the trust company's fiduciary duties under applicable law and the governing fiduciary instruments.

#### PRINCIPAL OWNERS OF COMMON SHARES

Listed below are the only individuals and entities known by the Company to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding common shares of the Company as of March 1, 2013 (assuming that their holdings have not changed from

such other date as may be shown below):

Name	Common Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Outstanding Shares
BlackRock, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	716,681	5.7% <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based solely on BlackRock, Inc.'s statement on Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 3) of beneficial ownership as of December 31, 2012, which was filed on February 8, 2013, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The address of BlackRock, Inc. is 40 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage is calculated on the basis of 12,636,656 common shares outstanding as of March 1, 2013.

#### PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

**Audit Fees.** The Company has paid, or expects to pay, fees (including cost reimbursements) to Crowe Horwath LLP ("Crowe Horwath") for the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements for the calendar years 2012 and 2011, the integrated audit over internal controls as required under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for 2012 and 2011, the review of the interim consolidated financial statements included in quarterly reports during the years 2012 and 2011, and review of registration statements and providing related consents of \$213,000 for 2012 and \$223,500 for 2011.

**Audit-Related Fees.** The Company has paid, or expects to pay, fees (including cost reimbursements) to Crowe Horwath for audit-related services rendered during 2012 and 2011 of \$31,200 for 2012 and \$45,700 for 2011. These services included employee benefit plan audits, HUD audit, reading press releases of the Company, participating in meetings of the Company's Disclosure Committee and assistance with various accounting and reporting matters.



**Tax Fees.** The Company has paid, or expects to pay, fees (including cost reimbursements) to Crowe Horwath for tax services rendered during 2012 and 2011 of \$63,490 for 2012 and \$97,100 for 2011. These services included tax return preparation for the company as well as acquired entity, employee benefit plan information return preparation, implementation of investment and insurance subsidiaries, and assistance with tax reporting matters and consulting.

**Other Fees.** The Company has paid, or expects to pay, fees (including cost reimbursements) to Crowe Horwath for all other services rendered during 2012 and 2011 of \$2,600 for 2012 and \$27,415 for 2011. In both 2012 and 2011, this included fees for accounting research software and in 2011 this also included consultation on corporate finance and capital planning matters.

**Pre-Approval by Audit Committee of Principal Accountant Services.** The Audit Committee of our Board (or a member of the Audit Committee acting under authority delegated to him or her by the Audit Committee) approves in advance all services proposed to be performed for the Company or its subsidiaries by any independent registered public accounting firm that performs (or proposes to perform) audit, review or attest services for the Company or its subsidiaries. Under these SEC rules, the requirement for advance Audit Committee approval of services (other than audit, review or attest services) is waived if they were not recognized to be non-audit services at the time that the independent registered public accounting firm was engaged to provide those services, and certain other conditions are satisfied. None of the services of Crowe Horwath that were covered by the fees described above were performed without the prior approval of the Audit Committee (or the prior approval of a member of the Audit Committee acting under delegated authority) in reliance upon this waiver provision of the SEC rules.

## REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Our Board adopted an amended and restated charter for the Audit Committee in 2004 and reviewed and confirmed the charter's continued adequacy and effectiveness at its annual reorganization meeting in 2012. The Audit Committee charter is available in the Corporate Profile - Governance Documents section of the Investor Relations portion of the Company's web site, [www.germanamerican.com](http://www.germanamerican.com). The charter states that the purpose of the Audit Committee is to oversee the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting. It is not, however, the Audit Committee's responsibility under the charter to prepare and certify the Company's financial statements, to guarantee the independent registered public accounting firm's report, or to guarantee other disclosures by the Company. Audit Committee members are not employees of the Company and are not performing the functions of auditors or accountants. The Board has designated each of Mr. Forbes and Mr. Root as an "Audit Committee Financial Expert."

### Independence of Audit Committee Members

The Audit Committee is currently comprised of four members of our Board, whose names appear below this Report of Audit Committee. All of the members of the Audit Committee are independent, as that term is defined by NASDAQ listing requirements that are applicable to the members of the Company's Audit Committee.

#### Review with Management and Independent Accountants

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and its accounting and financial reporting processes. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and to issue a report thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to oversee these processes.

In this context, the Audit Committee has met and held discussions with management and with Crowe Horwath, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company, with respect to the Company's consolidated financial statements for the calendar year 2012. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2012, were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed these consolidated financial statements with management. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees).

The independent registered public accounting firm also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Rule 3520, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm that firm's independence. The Audit Committee also considered whether the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of non-audit services to the Company is compatible with maintaining that firm's independence.

Based upon the discussions and reviews referred to above, the Audit Committee has recommended to our Board that the consolidated financial statements referred to above be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Richard E. Forbes, Chairman  
Gene C. Mehne  
M. Darren Root  
Michael J. Voyles

## EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### Our Compensation Objectives

We seek to compensate our executives in a fair, reasonable and competitive manner. In designing and implementing our compensation program for our executive officers, we primarily intend to:

- attract and retain highly-skilled executives in a competitive environment; and
- provide financial incentives intended to align the executive officers' interests with those of our shareholders.

The primary components of each named executive's compensation are:

- base salary;
- incentive cash compensation; and
- long-term equity incentive compensation (paid in the form of cash compensation and restricted stock grants).

#### How We Set Executive Compensation

None of the named executive officers has an employment agreement with the Company. As a result, the Committee has considerable discretion in recommending to the Board the annual compensation of the named executive officers. The Company has a compensation philosophy that provides guidance to the Committee when making decisions surrounding the named executive officers. The philosophy generally targets market median for base salaries with a strong emphasis on incentive compensation programs that provide a strong link between pay and performance. The Company believes in rewarding the named executive officers with significant incentive compensation awards if performance is high versus peer. This is a critical piece in the compensation plan design at the Company and is shown through the ability of the named executive officers to earn both a short-term and a long-term incentive payout annually.

In setting the compensation of the named executive officers for 2012, the Committee reviewed data (included in a published financial institution compensation survey that included financial institutions of comparable sizes located in the Midwest) concerning the compensation provided to similarly situated executives. Additionally, in early 2012 the Committee engaged Blanchard Consulting Group (an independent third party consultant) to conduct an executive total compensation review. As part of this compensation review, the Committee worked with Blanchard Consulting Group to determine a peer group of publicly traded banks to utilize in the compensation review.

In previous years, the Committee reviewed a Midwest Banking Peer Group when determining the short and long-term incentive goals. Several of these peers were also included in the peer group the Committee selected with the assistance of Blanchard Consulting Group. The twenty banking companies that were included in the peer group for 2012 were the following:

Horizon Bancorp	S.Y. Bancorp, Inc.	LCNB Corp.	Ohio Valley Banc Corp.
Bank of Kentucky Financial Corporation	Ames National Corporation	Peoples Bancorp Inc.	MainSource Financial Group
First Financial Corporation	1 <sup>st</sup> Source Corporation	Firstbank Corporation	Farmers National Banc Corp.
Lakeland Financial	Community Trust Bancorp	First Busey Corp	West Bancorp
Heartland Financial USA	Great Southern Bancorp	QCR Holdings	MidWestOne Financial

#### Independent Compensation Consultant

During 2012, the Compensation Committee engaged Blanchard Consulting Group as an independent third-party compensation consultant to assist with executive, staff and director compensation decisions. Blanchard Consulting Group is a national firm with an exclusive focus on the banking and financial services industry. As our independent consultant, Blanchard Consulting Group does not provide any services to the Company besides compensation consulting services. Blanchard Consulting Group reports directly to the Compensation Committee and the scope of 2012 projects included an executive total compensation review, a director compensation review, a staff/management compensation review and assistance with reviewing and revising our incentive plans throughout the organization. The Committee and executive management utilized Blanchard Consulting Group's reports and reviews to assist with decisions during 2012. However, the Committee did not solely rely on the consultant's reports and recommendations. The ultimate decisions made by the Committee were a balance between internal views and strategy along with the outside perspective of our independent consultant.

## Compensation Components

The executive compensation program consists of three basic elements:

- base salary;
- short-term cash incentive awards for annual performance; and

• long-term incentive awards granted under the 2009 LTI Plan for performance over a longer period (historically, three years).

In addition, we offer a 401(k) retirement plan and certain executive officers are eligible for certain nonqualified deferred compensation plans. One named executive officer is a participant in a frozen tax-qualified defined benefit plan.

### Base Salary

The Company attempts to provide the executive officers with a base salary that is market competitive with the salaries offered by other bank holding companies of comparable size in Indiana and the surrounding states. The compensation philosophy targets the median of the competitive market for base salaries. The Company reviewed market data provided by Blanchard Consulting Group to assist with 2012 base salary decisions.

The Committee determined the 2012 salaries for the named executive officers by reviewing the market data and considering recommendations from the CEO for each of the named executive officers except for the CEO. The recommendations and final decisions incorporated a number of items such as market competitive level, experience of the individual, performance of the individual, and desired positioning considering the incentive compensation programs at the Company. The Committee then recommended to the Board that the CEO's and each named executive officer's 2012 base salary be the value disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table (shown later in this document), and the Board accepted this recommendation. The base salary adjustments for each named executive officer for 2012 (as compared to their base salaries in 2011 (if then a named executive officer)) ranged from approximately 5% to 7.5%.

### Short-Term Cash Incentive Awards

For services rendered during 2012, the Company continued to maintain an Executive Management Incentive Plan (a "Plan") for certain key officers, including the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table below. Under this Plan, the Company pays additional compensation in the form of annual cash incentive awards rewarding performance, contingent upon the achievement of certain goals.

Generally, the Plan provides each officer with a "balanced scorecard." The "balanced scorecard" establishes specific corporate and shareholder-related performance goals balanced by the officer's area of responsibility, his or her business unit, and his or her expected individual level of contribution to the Company's achievement of its corporate goals. Cash incentive payments that are authorized to be paid to eligible executive officers under the Executive Management Incentive Plan are payable in quarterly installments during the year following the year in which the services were performed and are contingent only upon such executive officer's continued employment with the Company through the date of payment of each quarterly installment.

At a regular meeting of the Board in April of 2012, the Board (by the vote of the members of the Board who are not "interested directors" within the meaning of NASDAQ's independence rules, and at the recommendation of the Committee) established target cash incentive awards for executive officers (which would not have included Messrs. Braun or Leinenbach as they had not yet been appointed executive officers (although such target incentives were similarly established or approved by the Company's Chief Executive Officer for such executives)) as percentages of their 2012 base salary (which ranged from 25% to 50% of base salary, depending upon the executive), with maximum awards (payable only if performance and other criteria were substantially exceeded) of as much as two times the target awards. The scorecard of Mark A. Schroeder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company (the "CEO"), specified a target award of 50% of his base salary for 2012. As a result, if all targeted corporate and individual performance criteria were deemed to have been exceeded by the requisite amount with respect to the CEO's scorecard during 2012, the CEO could have earned a maximum cash incentive award for his services during 2012 equal to 100% of his 2012 base salary. The Board also approved and incorporated a minimum net income trigger into the Plan for 2012. If this minimum net income trigger is not obtained then the entire plan will not be funded and no payouts will be made to any participants under the Plan.

Cash incentive award entitlements for services during 2012 under the scorecards were based on:

- formula assessments of 2012 corporate performance; and
- formula and/or discretionary assessments of personal or departmental performance during 2012.

Corporate performance accounted for 80% of the potential cash incentive scorecard award for each named executive officer.

For 2012, the six selected short-term corporate performance criteria were:

- Income/revenue measures (applied to all named executive officers):

Fully-diluted earnings per common share growth (20% weight);

Revenue per salary and benefits (10% weight); and



Non-interest income to total revenue ratio (10% weight).

- Consolidated balance sheet measures (applied to all named executive officers except for Mr. Braun):

Growth in core organic taxable loans (20% weight)

Growth in core organic deposits and repurchase agreements (10% weight); and

Non-performing assets to total assets ratio (10%).

For Mr. Braun, the consolidated balance sheet measures were total retail loan growth (weighted 20%) and growth in core organic deposits and repurchase agreements (20% weight).

For 2012, discretionary/individual measures (20% weight for named executive officers) were based on overall performance of the executive based on the Board's assessment (of the CEO's performance) and the CEO's assessment or approval (of the performance of the other named executive officers).

The Committee establishes the target awards to be challenging, but reasonably attainable. In selecting the performance measures, the Committee notes the following:

We defined core organic taxable loan growth to mean the growth in the average balance of our consolidated core organic taxable loans in December 2012 as compared to our average balances of our consolidated core organic loans in December 2011.

We defined core organic deposit and repurchase agreement growth to mean the growth in the average balance of our consolidated core organic deposits and repurchase agreements in December 2012 as compared to our average balances of our consolidated core organic deposits and repurchase agreements in December 2011.

We determined the non-performing assets to total assets ratio based on the average of the four quarter end ratios during 2012. This performance measure was added to our balanced scorecards in 2012 based on the importance of incorporating credit quality into incentive plans.

For Mr. Braun, total retail loan growth is defined as the December average of the consumer loans and mortgage loans outstanding.

In addition, other discretionary/individual performance measures or business unit or department performance is considered. The criteria relating to business unit performance or departmental performance (if such performance was applicable to a particular executive's scorecard) were geared to performance of the business unit or department headed by each particular executive. These criteria were assigned a weighting percentage based on the executive's position and authority.

In the first quarter of 2013, the Board, upon the recommendation of the Committee, determined the short-term cash incentive award amounts payable in 2013 to the executive officers, including the CEO, for their services during 2012, and such amounts are included in the 2012 information in the Summary Compensation Table. The Committee's recommendations were based on the Committee's assessment of the degree to which the corporate and personal goals established by the 2012 scorecards of the executive officers were achieved. The executive officers received awards that were in each case determined in accordance with the formulas relating to the short-term corporate performance criteria established by the respective 2012 scorecards and, for those officers with a discretionary component on their 2012 scorecards, a discretionary award within the targeted ranges. The 2012 short-term cash incentive payouts ranged from 22% to 65% of salary for the named executive officers.

## Long-Term Incentive Awards

The 2009 LTI Plan provides for the award of incentive and non-qualified stock options and other equity-based awards, including restricted stock ("LTI Awards"). The purpose of granting LTI Awards is to provide long-term incentive compensation to complement the short-term focus of annual cash incentive awards.

Scorecard target amounts of LTI Awards are established upon recommendation of the Committee based upon the executive officer's level of responsibility, and are earned in proportion to the extent to which the Company has achieved certain corporate financial targets on an average basis over the three-year period ending in the year for which the scorecard is established. During 2012, the Committee determined that implementing a three-year "clawback" provision in the Plan was appropriate and any LTI Awards earned in 2012 and thereafter are now subject to "clawback" if the calculations are later determined to have been based on misrepresented financial results. Additionally, the Committee determined that any LTI Award grants should be subject to a three-year vesting schedule. As such, 1/3 of the award will vest each year following the date of grant.

At a regular meeting of the Board in April of 2012, the Board (by the vote of the members of the Board who are not "interested directors" within the meaning of the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc., and at the recommendation of the Committee) established target long-term incentive awards for executive officers as percentages of their 2012 base salary (which ranged from 25% to 50% of base salary, depending upon the executive), with maximum awards (payable only if the stated corporate criteria were substantially exceeded) of as much as two times the target awards. The CEO established or approved the targets for Messrs. Braun or Leinenbach as they had not yet been appointed executive officers at the time of such meeting. The scorecard of the CEO, specified a target award of 50% of his base salary for 2012. If all targeted corporate performance criteria were deemed to have been substantially exceeded by the requisite amount with respect to the CEO's scorecard during 2012, the CEO could have earned an LTI Award for his services during 2012 equal to 100% of his 2012 base salary. LTI Award targets for services during 2012 under the scorecards were based on the following selected long-term corporate performance criteria, each as measured as an average over the three-year period ending December 31, 2012 and benchmarked against a peer group (the "Long-Term Corporate Performance Criteria"):

- return on common equity (50% weight); and
- fully-diluted earnings per common share growth (50% weight).

Like the short-term cash incentive awards, the Committee establishes the target LTI Awards to be challenging, but reasonably attainable. In selecting the performance measures, the Committee notes the following:

We determined the extent to which the Company achieved the return on common equity measure by determining the percentile rankings of the Company for return on common equity compared to a Midwest publicly-held peer group of banks as shown previously in this section for 2012. For 2010 and 2011 the respective peer group that was used was disclosed in our prior year proxy disclosures. Generally, a number of the peer banks have been included in each of the three years of calculations, but each year the peer group has varied slightly. To calculate the percentile ranking we averaged the three percentile rankings from 2010, 2011 and 2012.

We determined the extent to which the Company achieved the fully-diluted earnings per common share growth measure by determining the percentile rankings of the Company for fully-diluted earnings per common share growth compared to a Midwest publicly-held peer group of banks shown previously in this section for 2012. In 2010 and 2011 the peer groups that were utilized were disclosed in our prior year disclosures. To determine the three year average positioning we averaged the percentile ranking of our Company versus the 2012, 2011 and 2010 peer group percentile rankings.

In addition, the LTI Awards are further subject to a minimum net income trigger that is the same as the short-term cash incentive award trigger. If this minimum net income trigger is not achieved for 2012, then no LTI Awards will be made under the Plan.

At a special meeting of the Board during the first quarter of 2013, the Board determined that the corporate goals established by the scorecards for the LTI Awards were met, at least at the threshold level, for both the return on common equity and fully-diluted earnings per common share growth criteria and for the minimum net income trigger for the payment of any LTI Award for the three-year period under consideration. As a result, the Board approved the grant of a combination of Restricted Stock Awards and long-term cash payments to the five named executive officers at 128% of their respective target levels in satisfaction of their 2012 earned LTI Awards under the 2009 LTI Plan. The LTI Awards that were earned in 2012 ranged from 32% to 64% of salary for the named executive officers. Each Restricted Stock Award consisted of:

newly-issued common stock of the Company (subject to certain restrictions and forfeiture conditions) having an aggregate fair market value of approximately 50% of each named executive officer's total LTI Award earned in 2012 (rounded up to the nearest whole number 30-share block divisible by three); and

rights to receive cash payments in a dollar amount approximately equal to the dollar value of the previously-mentioned restricted stock (which cash rights are subject to similar forfeiture conditions).

Holders of the common stock issued as part of the Restricted Stock Award (which were issued effective March 15, 2013, at fair market value) are entitled to dividends on such shares unless and until the shares are forfeited in accordance with the terms of the Restricted Stock Awards. The LTI Awards earned in 2012 (and consisting of the Restricted Stock Awards and the related right to receive the cash payments) will vest and be paid, assuming the continued service of each of the holders through such vesting date, as follows: 1/3 on December 5, 2013, 1/3 on December 4, 2014 and 1/3 on December 5, 2015. Vesting of such LTI Awards will be accelerated in the event of the holder's death or disability while in the service of the Company or upon such other event as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion. Vesting will also be accelerated upon certain extraordinary events (such as a change in control).

#### Retirement/Deferred Compensation Benefits

*German American Bancorp 401(k) Savings Plan.* The 401(k) Plan is a tax-qualified defined contribution plan that enables eligible employees to defer income taxation on up to 60% of their compensation (not to exceed \$17,000 (for 2012) or \$22,500 (for 2012) for employees age 50 or older). We currently provide fully vested matching contributions equal to 100% of each employee's pre-tax contributions up to the first 3% of compensation plus 50% of the employee's pre-tax contributions up to the next 2% of compensation.

Participants in the plan direct the investment of their account balances and are eligible for loans, certain in-service withdrawals, and distributions upon termination of employment. All five named executive officers participate in the 401(k) Plan.

*German American Bancorp Nonqualified Savings Plan.* Under the German American Bancorp Nonqualified Savings Plan, established in 2004 (the "Nonqualified Savings Plan"), highly compensated or management employees of the Company and its subsidiaries who are specifically designated from time to time by the Committee as eligible to participate in the Plan may, through payroll deduction, make employee deferral contributions between 1% and 60% of their regular earnings. Participants in the plan direct the investment of their account balances. The Plan was amended in 2008 to bring it into technical compliance with the requirements of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code").

We make matching contributions under the Nonqualified Savings Plan according to following formula:

100% of the first 3% of the participant's eligible compensation contributed to the Nonqualified Savings Plan and the German American Bancorp 401(k) Savings Plan ("401(k) Plan") as "Deferral Contributions" (as defined under the respective plans) for the plan year, plus

50% of the next 2% of the participant's eligible compensation contributed to the Nonqualified Savings Plan and the 401(k) Plan as "Deferral Contributions" (as defined under the respective plans) for the plan year.

In no event, however, may the aggregate employer matching contributions on behalf of any participant in any plan year, considering both the matching contribution under the Nonqualified Savings Plan and any employer matching contribution under the 401(k) Plan, exceed 4% of such participant's eligible compensation.

As elected by the participant, each participant (or his or her beneficiary) will receive a lump sum distribution or series of installment distributions from the Nonqualified Savings Plan, beginning upon termination of employment, retirement, early retirement or disability. The Nonqualified Savings Plan contains certain provisions that may accelerate the timing of distributions that would be triggered by certain changes in control of the Company. During 2012, three of the named executive officers (i.e., Messrs. Schroeder, Ewing and Rust) in the Summary Compensation Table have an account under the Nonqualified Savings Plan.

*Employees Pension Plan of German American Bancorp.* The Pension Plan is a frozen tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan. The plan has been frozen (meaning that no additional employees can become participants and no additional benefits are accruing under the plan) since January 1, 1999. Of the named executive officers, only the Chief Financial Officer is a participant in the Pension Plan, and he is 100% vested in the pension benefit.

*Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement.* The Chief Financial Officer participates in an Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement with the Company that provides for a supplemental retirement benefit in the amount of \$26,340 per year for fifteen years and an additional death benefit of \$10,000. The Chief Financial Officer is 100% vested in the benefit and amounts become payable upon his termination of employment or retirement. The arrangement constitutes a non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The benefit is forfeited in the event he is terminated for "Cause" as described in the agreement. This plan was amended in December 2008 to bring the arrangement into technical compliance with requirements of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

*German American Bancorp Deferred Director Compensation Plan.* The Deferred Director Compensation Plan allowed members of the Company's Board to elect to defer the receipt and taxation on a portion of their director fees while serving on the Board. The Plan was frozen as of December 31, 1996, and no additional fees have been deferred into the Plan since then. Of the named executive officers, only Mr. Schroeder is a participant in the Deferred Director Compensation Plan.

#### Other Compensation

Detailed information regarding other compensation is provided in note 5 to the Summary Compensation Table below. In general, we believe that perquisites should not constitute a significant portion of any executive officer's compensation. Moreover, certain of the perquisites provided to executive officers also provide a benefit to us. For

example, we reimburse certain club dues to encourage our executive officers to have a presence in the community to promote the business of the Company. In addition, as part of decision to hire Mr. Braun in 2011, the Company agreed in an at-will offer letter to (i) certain compensation guarantees (i.e., total compensation of not less than \$250,000 per calendar year (through 2014), subject to continued service), and (ii) the reimbursement of certain moving-related expenses. Details on these items are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table.

#### Tax Issues

Under section 162(m) of the Code, subject to an exception for qualifying performance-based compensation, we cannot deduct compensation of over \$1 million in annual compensation paid to certain executive officers. We seek to avoid payments that would not be deductible under section 162(m) of the Code.



### Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation/Human Resources Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the above "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," and, based on such review and discussion, the Committee recommended to the Board that the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" be included in this Proxy Statement, from which it will be incorporated by reference into the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Thomas W. Seger, Chairman  
Douglas A. Bawel  
Christina M. Ernst  
U. Butch Klem

### Risk Assessment

We believe that our compensatory plans or programs provide appropriate incentives for all of our employees, including but not limited to our employees engaged in marketing and selling particular types of banking, insurance, securities or other financial products or services, and our executive officers. We also believe that those plans and programs, considered individually and as a whole, neither encourage excessive or unnecessary risk that would adversely affect the long-term value or performance of our Company nor encourage employees to manipulate earnings in order to enhance the benefits payable under such plans or programs.

We believe that our annually-reconstituted Management Incentive Plan for our executive officers (described above under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," and considering both the short-term and long-term award structures created by that plan) is well designed to align our strategic objectives with short-term and long-term shareholder value, because:

the corporate performance metrics (as specified by the balanced scorecards) take into consideration asset quality, balance sheet, income statement and equity factors, and

threshold goals under such scorecards were (are) reasonably achievable with good performance, and therefore were sufficiently challenging but not overly difficult, and

specified performance metrics did (do) not include steep cliffs for not achieving nor exponential upside to achieving them;

based on peer group comparisons, the incentives payable to our executive officers under their balanced scorecards were (are) capped at reasonable levels and the maximum awards represent an appropriate portion of total pay;

our inclusion of an award based on a three-year performance period discourages activities that do not benefit us over a long term;

denomination of long-term awards in payments of restricted Company stock (coupled with a proportionate cash entitlement) gives further incentive to our executives to focus on sustained value creation; and

- for LTI Awards issued with respect to the 3-year performance period ending December 31, 2012, such awards now vest over a 3-year period, further aligning performance with retention and commitment.

Similarly, we believe that the compensation programs available to our employees generally, and in our investments and insurance areas in particular (such as permitted payments for referrals, account opening incentives, and insurance, mortgage loan, and brokerage commissions and other payments based on products and services sold or provided or business developed or produced) are appropriately aligned with our Company's strategy and objectives for long-term value creation for shareholders, and properly reward various performance outcomes.

Executive Compensation

The following tabular and other information describes the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer, our Chief Financial Officer, and our three other executive officers employed at the end of 2012 (we refer to these individuals as our "Named Executive Officers" or "NEOs"), for their services to the Company and its subsidiaries during 2012 and certain prior years.

## Summary

The following table provides a summary of compensation for 2010 through 2012 with respect to our named executive officers.

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (1)	Option Awards (2)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (3)	Change in	All Other Compensation (5)	Total
							Pension Value and Non-qualified Deferred Compensation (4)		
							Earnings (\$)	(\$)	(\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Mark A. Schroeder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	2012	305,000		107,767		295,986	26,620	100,077	835,450
	2011	290,000		97,613		306,358	21,073	98,833	813,877

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	2010	280,000	100,860	292,540	13,216	85,472	772,088
	2012	215,000	55,380	166,328		43,865	480,573
Clay W. Ewing, President – Commercial and Retail Banking	2011	200,000	53,944	165,576		41,853	461,373
	2010	190,000	54,940	164,396		34,606	443,942
	2012	182,500	35,552	105,594	10,856	31,899	366,401
Bradley M. Rust, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	2011	170,000	34,421	108,073	11,901	30,660	355,055
	2010	155,000	33,620	100,579	9,411	24,358	322,968
						52,241	349,635
Randall L. Braun,* Senior Vice President / Head of Retail Banking	2012	160,000	51,554	25,981	59,859		
						20,777	283,897
Keith A. Leinenbach,* Senior Vice President / Chief Credit Officer	2012	160,000	25,981	77,139			

\* - Messrs. Braun and Leinenbach first became named executive officers in 2012. Compensation paid to them prior to 2012 is therefore not presented in this proxy statement.

(1) Amounts reported in this column represent (i) the restricted stock portion of the LTI Awards that were granted in 2013, 2012, and 2011, as applicable, based on criteria established for the three-year periods ending December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2010, respectively, and (ii) with respect to Mr. Schroeder, a restricted stock retention award in the amount of \$9,998 that was granted to each of the Board members on or about December 17, 2012 (such award, which will vest on December 5, 2013, subject to continued service on the Board, is also disclosed in the Director Compensation table, below). The restricted stock awards granted as part of the LTI Awards in this column vest as follows: (a) for the grant related to 2010, such shares became vested as of December 5, 2011, (b) for the grant related to 2011, such shares became vested as of December 5, 2012, and (c) for the grant related to 2012, such shares will become vested as follows: 1/3 on December 5, 2013, 1/3 on December 4, 2014 and 1/3 on December 5, 2015. In accordance with our interpretation of SEC guidance on this subject, we report these awards for purposes of our Summary Compensation Table as being awarded in the final year of the related three-year performance period, even though we accrue the related expense in different time periods for financial reporting purposes. The cash portion of the LTI Award amounts has been reported as "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" (column (g)).

(2) No stock options were granted to the named executive officers in 2010, 2011 or 2012.

(3) The amounts in this column represent: (a) short-term cash incentive awards that were earned based on performance during 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively and as applicable, under the Company's Management Incentive Plan (see "Compensation Discussion and Analysis section on Compensation Components Short-Term Cash Incentive Awards" above) (these cash incentive awards are generally paid (subject to the executive's continued employment) to the executive in quarterly installments during the year following the year in which they were earned (for instance, 2012 amounts will be paid in 2013)), and (b) the cash portion of the LTI Awards that were based on performance for the three-year periods ended December 31, 2010, December 31, 2011, and December 31, 2012, respectively. Such amounts became or will become payable and vested as follows: (a) for the grant related to 2010, such amount vested and were paid as of December 5, 2011, (b) for the grant related to 2011, such amount vested and were paid as of December 5, 2012, and (c) for the grant related to 2012, such amount will become vested and payable according to the following schedule: 1/3 on December 5, 2013, 1/3 on December 5, 2014 and 1/3 on December 5, 2015 (subject to the NEOs' continued employment) (see "Compensation Discussion and Analysis section on Compensation Components Long-Term Incentive Awards" above). The table below sets forth the amounts of each award based on performance for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

	<b>Schroeder</b>	<b>Ewing</b>	<b>Rust</b>	<b>Braun</b>	<b>Leinenbach</b>
<b>To be Paid/Vested on or before 12/5/2015</b>					
Short-Term Cash (\$)(a)	198,555	111,628	71,066	34,640	51,920
Long-Term Cash (\$)(b)	97,431	54,700	34,528	25,219	25,219
Long-Term Stock (\$)(b)	97,769	55,380	35,552	25,981	25,981
Director Restricted Stock Award (\$)(c)	9,998				
<b>Paid/Vested on or before 12/5/2012</b>					
Short-Term Cash (\$)	209,670	112,320	74,154		
Long-Term Cash (\$)	96,688	53,256	33,919		
Long-Term Stock (\$)(d)	97,613	53,944	34,421		

**Paid/Vested on or before 12/15/2011**

Short-Term Cash (\$)	191,800	109,896,239
Long-Term Cash (\$)	100,740	54,500 33,340
Long-Term Stock (\$) (e)	100,860	54,940 33,620

(a) As noted above, the short-term cash awards for 2012 are being paid in quarterly installments (subject to continued service) throughout 2013.

(b) As noted above, these amounts represent the cash and restricted stock portions of LTI Awards as of March 15, 2013, the date on which such awards were formally granted. Each portion of the LTI Award will vest over 3-year period in 1/3 increments on December 5, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively.

(c) As noted above and as detailed in the Director Compensation section, below, Mr. Schroeder was awarded a grant of restricted stock on 453 common shares of the Company on December 17, 2012. Subject to his continued service on the Board, the shares will vest on December 5, 2013.

(d) These amounts reflect the value of stock-based LTI Awards as of March 15, 2012, the date of grant.

(e) These amounts reflect the value of stock-based LTI Awards as of March 15, 2011, the date of grant.

(4) With respect to Mr. Schroeder, the amounts specified in Column (h) are attributable to the above-market portion of earnings credits under our Deferred Director Compensation Plan of \$13,216 for 2010, \$21,073 for 2011 and \$26,620 for 2012. With respect to Mr. Rust, the amounts specified in Column (h) reflect (i) the increase in the present value of his accrued benefit under an Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Agreement of \$5,171 for 2010, \$5,491 for 2011 and \$5,829 for 2012, and (ii) the increase in the present value of his frozen accrued benefit under the Employees' Pension Plan of German American Bancorp of \$4,240 for 2010, \$6,410 for 2011, and \$5,027 for 2012.

(5) The amounts specified in Column (i) include the following:

Name	Perquisites & Other Personal Benefits (a)	Relocation Expense Reim-bursement (b)	Payments/ Accruals on Termination Plans	Company Contributions to Defined Contribution Plans	Cash Dividends on Restricted Stock	Life Insurance Premiums (c)
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Mark A. Schroeder	2012 67,206			30,154	1,995	722
	2011 66,177			29,351	2,583	722
	2010 59,508			23,247	1,995	722
Clay W. Ewing	2012 23,859			18,181	1,103	722
	2011 21,983			17,741	1,407	722
	2010 18,772			14,046	1,071	717
Bradley M. Rust	2012 17,303			13,662	704	230
	2011 16,596			12,992	861	211
	2010 13,238			10,333	662	125

Randall L. Braun	2012	4,975	46,403	557	306
Keith A. Leinenbach	2012	11,480		8,779	263
					255

(a) Amounts include (i) imputed income from personal use of automobile provided by the Company (for Messrs. Schroeder and Ewing), (ii) country club dues paid by the Company (for Messrs. Schroeder, Ewing and Braun), (iii) a 5% discount off the market price of Company stock purchased by the NEOs under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, (iv) a cash "retirement allowance" (intended to help salaried employees defray the cost of saving for retirement following the elimination in 2004 of a Company-funded retirement contribution to the 401(k) plan) for each year (and which, for 2012, was provided in the following amounts: \$35,897 (Schroeder), \$21,974 (Ewing), \$16,408 (Rust), and \$10,421 (Leinenbach), and for 2011, was provided in the following amounts: \$34,942 (Schroeder), \$21,387 (Ewing), and \$15,467 (Rust), and for 2010, was provided in the following amounts: \$27,689 (Schroeder), \$16,712 (Ewing), and \$12,426 (Rust)), included in the NEO's paychecks throughout the year, (v) a "longevity payment," paid in November of each year, (vi) health club reimbursements and other fringe benefits for Mr. Braun, and (vii) with respect to Mr. Schroeder, \$25,400 of director fees in 2012, \$24,000 in 2011, and \$27,000 in 2010.

(b) Amount includes \$34,403 of Company-paid moving expenses plus a tax gross-up payment on the moving expenses of \$12,000.



(c) The listed NEOs receive group term life insurance coverage equal to one-times base salary. The amounts in this column reflect the imputed income on the premiums for the executive officers' coverage.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

As noted above under the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section on "Compensation Components," our Board at a special meeting held in the first quarter of 2012 adopted "balanced scorecards" that substantially established, for each of our current named executive officers, the Board's targeted performances during the one- and three-year periods ending December 31, 2012, by which they would be considered for short-term and long-term incentive grants at the conclusion of 2012. As a meeting the first quarter of 2013, and based on the extent to which the Board deemed the performance criteria to be satisfied, the Board authorized the payment of short-term incentive awards (payable quarterly in 2013 in cash) to the named executive officers for 2012 performance, and LTI Awards for performance for the three-year performance period ending December 31, 2012.

The following table provides additional information regarding grants of plan-based awards for the three-year service period ending December 31, 2012 (based on the threshold, target and maximum award levels as they existed as of December 31, 2012 under the balanced scorecards) to the current named executive officers.

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS

Name	Grant Date*	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)	Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)	All Other	All Other Awards:
				Stock	Number of
				Awards: Securities	Exercise or
				Number	Base
				of	Price
				Shares	Options (#)
				of Stock	of
				or Units	Option
					Awards

								(#) (3)			(\$/Sh)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum				
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#)	(#)	(#)				
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)	
Mark A. Schroeder	4-30-12	114,375	228,750	457,500	1,770	3,540	7,050				
	12-17-12							453			
Clay W. Ewing	4-30-12	64,500	129,000	258,000	990	1,980	3,960				
Bradley M. Rust	4-30-12	41,063	82,125	164,250	630	1,260	2,550				
Randall L. Braun	4-30-12	30,000	60,000	120,000	480	930	1,860				
Keith A. Leinenbach	4-30-12	30,000	60,000	120,000	480	930	1,860				

\*As explained above, the grants of short-term awards and long-term awards with respect to 2012 performance were made in March 2013, but such 2012 grants were awarded with reference to performance goals that were substantially established at a special meeting of the Board held on April 30, 2012. Solely for purposes of this presentation, the "grant date" is considered to be the date of the substantial establishment of the balanced scorecard performance goals at the April 30, 2012 meeting of the Board.

(1) These columns reflect the estimated threshold, target and maximum levels of the potential grants under the short-term incentive plan and the estimated cash portion of the long-term incentive plan (under the balanced scorecard performance goals that were substantially established by Board action on April 30, 2012). The actual amounts of the awards (as fixed by action of the Board on March 4, 2013) have been reported in the Summary Compensation Table, above, and details of these actual amounts are set forth in the table included in footnote 3 to the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) These columns reflect the estimated threshold, target and maximum levels of restricted shares that could have been awarded under the long-term incentive plan (under the balanced scorecard performance goals that were substantially established by Board action on April 30, 2012). The estimated number of restricted shares was determined by taking one-half the projected long-term incentive award and dividing this amount by the market price of the Company's common shares at the end of the Fiscal Year (based on the NASDAQ Official Closing Price of \$21.72 for the Company's common shares on December 31, 2012 then rounded up to the nearest whole number 30-share block divisible by three).

(3) As noted above and as detailed in the Director Compensation section, below, Mr. Schroeder was awarded a grant of restricted stock on 453 common shares of the Company on December 17, 2012. Subject to his continued service on the Board, the shares will vest on December 5, 2013

#### Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table provides information regarding stock options exercised and stock grants becoming vested in 2012 with respect to the named executive officers. The stock grants consist of the restricted stock portion of the LTI Awards granted in April 2012, based on performance for the three-year period ending December 31, 2011. Restrictions on these shares lapsed on the vesting date of December 5, 2012.

#### OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Mark A. Schroeder	2,050	9,215	4,750	104,595
Clay W. Ewing			2,625	57,803
Bradley M. Rust			1,675	36,884
Randall L. Braun			1,325	29,177
Keith A. Leinenbach			625	13,763



Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table includes information regarding the outstanding equity awards of Mr. Schroeder at December 31, 2012. None of our other named executive officers had outstanding equity awards at December 31, 2012.

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

Option Awards		Stock Awards							
Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not Vested (1)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Vested (\$)
Mark A. Schroeder	1,000.00			13.14	06/01/2015				
	1,000.00			13.25	06/01/2016				

## Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

As noted under Compensation Discussion and Analysis above under the section entitled "Retirement/Deferred Compensation Benefits," Messrs. Schroeder, Ewing and Rust participated in the Nonqualified Savings Plan in 2012. In addition, Mr. Rust was the only participant in an Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement that provides for a supplemental retirement benefit (which, as a defined benefit, is disclosed in the "Pension Benefits" section below).

The following table provides information regarding nonqualified deferred contribution and earnings credits for 2012 with respect to the named executive officers.

## NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$) (3)	Aggregate Earnings in Last FY (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at last FYE (\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Mark A. Schroeder (1)	16,018	39,705	27,109		259,081
(2)	0	0	29,376		266,206
Clay W. Ewing (4)	0	16,122	3,127		33,909
Bradley M. Rust (4)		6,855	0		7,388
Randall L. Braun					
Keith A. Leinenbach					

(1) Amounts in line (1) relate to the CEO's participation in the Nonqualified Savings Plan. Earnings reported in line (1), column (d), represent the change in market value of the investments in which Mr. Schroeder directs the investment of his account.

(2) Amounts in line (2) relate to the CEO's participation in the Deferred Director Compensation Plan, which has been frozen since December 31, 1996. Earnings reported in line (2), column (d) represent earnings under the Plan.

(3) Amounts in column (c) represent the matching contributions accrued under the Nonqualified Savings Plan in 2012 that will be contributed in 2013.

(4) Earnings reported in column (d) represent the change in market value of the investments in which Messrs. Ewing and Rust direct the investment of their accounts.

#### Pension Benefits

As noted under the heading in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, above, entitled "Retirement/Deferred Compensation Benefits," we sponsor a frozen tax-qualified defined benefit plan known as the "Employees' Pension Plan of German American Bancorp." Of the named executive officers, only the Chief Financial Officer participates in this plan.

In addition, the Chief Financial Officer was the only participant in the Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement that provides for a supplemental retirement benefit in the fixed amount (i.e., the benefit does not further increase based on either the age or the service of the Chief Financial Officer) of \$26,340 per year for fifteen years and an additional \$10,000 death benefit. The Chief Financial Officer is 100% vested in the benefit and amounts become payable upon his death, disability, termination of employment or retirement. Except in cases of death or disability, the benefit will commence on the first day of the month following his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. If he terminates employment prior to age 65 but after age 60, he may elect to commence benefits prior to age 65 but a reduction will be applied equal to 6% per year for each year in which benefits are commenced prior to age 65. Death benefits, including a \$10,000 burial benefit, are payable to the Chief Financial Officer's beneficiary under the plan.

The following table provides information regarding benefits and distributions under the *Employees Pension Plan of German American Bancorp* with respect to the named executive officers.

#### PENSION BENEFITS

Name	Plan Name
------	-----------

(a)	(b)	Number of Years Credited Service (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Mark A. Schroeder				
Clay W. Ewing				
Bradley M. Rust	Employees' Pension Plan of German American Bancorp Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement	6	30,714	None
Randall L. Braun Keith A. Leinenbach		19	50,469	None



### Potential Payments on Termination or Change in Control

We are not party to any severance or other employment agreements with named executive officers. In addition, we have not entered into any change in control agreements with any of the named executive officers. The only potential termination/change in control benefits are as follows (determined as if the change in control occurred on December 31, 2012):

the 1999 LTI Plan provides that upon a change in control, and unless otherwise determined by the Board, all unvested awards become vested and all related restrictions lapse. All options issued under the 1999 LTI Plan are currently fully vested, and no restricted stock awards are currently outstanding under the 1999 LTI Plan (quantification is not applicable as all options issued under the 1999 LTI Plan are fully vested and there are no restricted stock awards outstanding under the 1999 LTI Plan);

the 2009 LTI Plan provides that upon a change in control, and unless otherwise determined by the Board, all unvested awards become vested and all related restrictions lapse.

With respect to awards granted to the named executive officers in the form of LTI Awards, no options have been issued under the 2009 LTI Plan, and any restricted stock awards granted as LTI Awards became fully vested (with the restriction lapsing) as of December 5, 2012 (quantification is not applicable as no options have been issued under the 2009 LTI Plan and all restricted stock awards issued under the 2009 LTI Plan on or before December 31, 2012 (the date on which the change in control was deemed to occur for purposes of this presentation) were fully vested as of December 5 2012);

With respect to the 453 restricted shares granted to Mr. Schroeder as director of the Company on December 17, 2012, such shares were not vested as of December 31, 2012 and had a change in control occurred as of such date, Mr. Schroeder would have been entitled to vesting of such shares which would have had a value of \$9,839 (based on a closing price of \$21.72 per share on December 31, 2012).

As noted under Compensation Discussion and Analysis above, under the section entitled "Retirement/Deferred Compensation Benefits," Messrs. Schroeder, Ewing and Rust were participants in the Nonqualified Savings Plan as of December 31, 2012. If elected by the participant, he (or his or her beneficiary) will receive a lump sum or installment distribution of his deferrals and matching contributions from the Nonqualified Savings Plan, beginning upon termination of employment, retirement, early retirement or disability. In the event of a change in control of the Company, any unvested amounts allocated to a participant's account shall become fully vested (the named executive officers have elected to receive their account balances under the Nonqualified Savings Plan (account balances as of December 31, 2012 are disclosed in column (f) of the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation table, above) as follows: in a single lump sum payment upon the attainment of normal retirement age as defined under the Nonqualified

Savings Plan (Messrs. Schroeder, Ewing and Rust). In addition, Mr. Rust has elected to receive his benefits in a single lump sum payment upon a change in control of the Company);

as noted under Compensation Discussion and Analysis above, under the section entitled "Retirement/Deferred Compensation Benefits" and the Pension Benefit disclosure above, the Chief Financial Officer's frozen accrued benefit under the Employees' Pension Plan of German American Bancorp (which is 100% vested) will become payable as a life annuity in the event that he terminates employment (although actual payments will be delayed until he turns age 65 if he terminates employment prior to age 65) (the present value of the accumulated benefit as of December 31, 2012 is disclosed in column (d) of the Pension Benefit table, above); and

as noted under the Pension Benefit disclosure above, the Chief Financial Officer's accrued benefit under the Executive Supplement Retirement Income Agreement will become payable at age 65, unless he terminates after attaining age 60 and elects to commence a reduced early retirement benefit. Payment of the benefits under this Agreement is conditioned on the Chief Financial Officer not violating a non-competition covenant under the Agreement (the present value of the accumulated benefit as of December 31, 2012 is disclosed in column (d) of the Pension Benefit table, above).

### Director Compensation

The Company compensates its directors for their service to the Company and the Company's subsidiaries and banking divisions based on a twelve-month period commencing with each year's annual reorganization meeting of the Board. The Governance/Nominating Committee made a recommendation with respect to director compensation to the Board and the Board approved such recommendation at its annual reorganization meeting on June 25, 2012.

For services of directors during the current annual period that commenced at the 2012 annual Board reorganization meeting, the Company has compensated its directors, including the CEO, through an annual retainer of \$20,000 paid in cash during 2012 in a lump sum (which was earned regardless of the number of meetings held or attended, and regardless of committee membership or attendance) and is paying additional attendance fees of \$600 for each meeting of the Board that they attend during this period and \$450 for each committee meeting that they attend during this period (with the exclusion of the CEO who does not receive attendance fees for meetings of committees for which he is an ex officio member). For services of directors during 2012, the Company also paid a lead director fee of \$7,500 and annual committee chairman fees of (i) \$3,500 for the Compensation/Human Resources and Credit Risk Management Committees and (ii) \$5,000 for the Audit Committee. For services of directors during the period commencing at the 2011 annual Board reorganization meetings and ending at the 2012 annual Board reorganization meeting, the Company compensated its directors, including the CEO, through annual retainers paid in cash in a lump sum during 2011 in the amount of \$20,000. The Company also paid an additional \$500 attendance fee for each meeting of the Board that they attended during the entirety of that period.

Members of the Board who serve as Board representatives of a regional advisory board of directors receive attendance fees of \$450 for each meeting actually attended, with the exclusion of the CEO who is not eligible for such attendance fees. Directors attending concurrent meetings of the Board and the board of directors of German American Bancorp (our bank subsidiary) are eligible to receive a single attendance fee of \$600 for each combined meeting actually attended. Members of the Board who are not employees of the Company attending the sequential meetings of German American Insurance, Inc. and German American Financial Advisors & Trust Company are eligible to receive a single attendance fee of \$450 for each combined meeting actually attended.

On December 17, 2012, the Board granted 453 shares of restricted common stock of the Company as additional retainer to the current members of the Board of Directors, including Mark A. Schroeder, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, under the 2009 Equity Incentive Plan. Accordingly, 453 shares of common stock of the Company (restricted as to transferability and vesting under the terms of the Board resolutions granting the awards) were issued to each of the Company's 11 directors (including Mr. Schroeder) effective as of the close of business on December 17, 2012, or an aggregate of 4,983 shares. Under the terms of the award resolutions, none of the grants of restricted stock will be transferable prior to December 5, 2013, and each award will be forfeited and all shares issued under the award will be cancelled should the holder of the award not continue in service as a director of the Company through December 5, 2013, for any reason other than death or disability, or (for any reason other than disability) were to fail to attend in person 75 percent of the meetings of the boards and committees on which he or she was a member during the period commencing on January 1, 2013, through December 5, 2013, or were to fail to attend (other than by reason of

disability or illness or bona fide emergency) the Company's annual meeting of shareholders held in 2013. Notwithstanding the above vesting standards, the Board retains the discretion to waive the forfeiture provisions or accelerate vesting.

The table below shows all compensation paid during 2012 to our directors who served during 2012 and who were not also named executive officers in 2012. Please note that Mr. Schroeder is the only named executive officer who is also a director. Mr. Schroeder's director fees of \$25,400 in 2012 are reported in the "All Other Compensation " column of the Summary Compensation Table, above, while his restricted stock grant of 453 shares on December 17, 2012 is reflected in the Stock Awards column of the Summary Compensation Table, above.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(1)	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(2)	All Other Compensation	Total (\$)
Douglas A. Bawel	32,550	9,998					42,548
Christina M. Ernst	28,450	9,998					38,448
Marc D. Fine	31,350	9,998					41,348
Richard E. Forbes	31,850	9,998					41,848
U. Butch Klem	39,900	9,998					49,898
J. David Lett	28,100	9,998					38,098
Gene C. Mehne	30,550	9,998			4,382		44,930
Chris Ramsey	28,950	9,998					38,948
Thomas W. Seger	34,650	9,998					44,648
Michael J. Voyles	28,800	9,998					38,798

(1) See description above regarding the grant on December 17, 2012 of 453 restricted shares to each of the directors (including Mr. Schroeder). Subject to the continued service obligations described above, such restricted shares will vest on December 5, 2013.

(2) In the case of Director Mehne, this column reflects the above-market portion of earnings credits under our Deferred Director Compensation Plan, which has been frozen since December 31, 1996.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

Since January 1, 2012, we have not participated in any transaction or series of related transactions (and there is no currently proposed transaction as of the date of this Proxy Statement) that involved (or is proposed to involve) an

amount greater than \$120,000 in which any of our directors, executive officers or members of their immediate families had (or would have) a direct or indirect material interest, except for (a) those transactions that are not required to be separately reported under the rules of the SEC for disclosure of related person transactions and (b) compensation paid to Mr. Braun and Mr. Leinenbach for 2012, all of which is reported above in this proxy statement under "EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION" and is incorporated here by reference. The 2012 compensation of Mr. Braun and Mr. Leinenbach was not pre-approved by the Compensation/Human Resources Committee (as required for executive officer compensation) because they were not determined to be executive officers by the Board until June 2012.

The Company's bank subsidiary has (and expects to continue to have in the future) loan transactions in the ordinary course of business with directors and officers of the Company and their associates and members of their immediate families. These loans have been made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates, collateral and repayment terms on extensions of credit, as those prevailing at the same time for comparable loans with persons not related to the lender and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features, and none of them are disclosable by us as nonaccrual, past due, restructured or potential problems (as those terms are defined by an SEC industry guide applicable to disclosures by bank holding companies).

As required by the listing standards of NASDAQ, the Audit Committee of our Board has the authority and responsibility for reviewing and approving all related party transactions of a type and size that would be required to be reported to shareholders and the SEC under the rules of the SEC for disclosure of related person transactions. Accordingly, transactions in which we participate (or are proposed to participate) that are covered by this review and approval requirement include but are not limited to most types of financial transactions, arrangements or relationships (including any indebtedness or guarantee of indebtedness) or any series of similar transactions, arrangements, or relationships, in which any of our directors, executive officers or members of their immediate families have a direct or indirect material interest (as determined in accordance with the SEC rules) and involve an amount in excess of \$120,000. Certain types of transactions are not reportable in our annual meeting proxy statements under the SEC related person transaction disclosure rules, however, and therefore do not require Audit Committee review, including:

loan transactions of our Company's bank subsidiary in which our directors, executive officers or members of their immediate families may have a direct or indirect material interest, if such loans satisfy the standards (described by the preceding paragraph) for non-disclosure under the SEC rules;

payments of dividends or interest made by us to our directors and our Named Executive Officers solely as a result of their ownership of our publicly-held securities (common shares and our now-redeemed debentures) and indebtedness owed by us to such persons that was evidenced by our now-redeemed debentures;

compensation paid by us to our directors and to our "Named Executive Officers" that is disclosable as compensation in our annual meeting proxy statements and is in fact disclosed as such; and

compensation paid to any executive officer (other than a Named Executive Officer) if he or she is not an immediate family member of another executive officer or director, such compensation would have been reportable as compensation in this proxy statement if he or she were a Named Executive Officer for the year in question, and the compensation has been approved by our Compensation/Human Resources Committee.

Neither our Board nor its Audit Committee has adopted any written statement of policies and procedures to be applied in reviewing any such related person transactions, other than the provision in the Audit Committee charter described above that defines the types of transactions requiring review and approval. The Audit Committee, however, in reviewing and approving any such related person transaction, would be bound to abide by the standards of loyalty and care established by the Indiana Business Corporation Law for directors of corporations (like the Company) that are incorporated under Indiana law. These standards require that the directors on the Audit Committee, based on the facts then known to them, discharge their duties as members of the Audit Committee in good faith; with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances; and in a manner that they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the Company.

## **PROPOSAL 2**

### **ADVISORY VOTE ON THE APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

In accordance with its charter, the Audit Committee of our Board has selected the firm of Crowe Horwath LLP ("Crowe Horwath"), an independent registered public accounting firm, to be the Company's auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and our Board is asking shareholders (on a non-binding advisory basis) to approve that appointment. We are not required to have the shareholders approve the selection of Crowe Horwath as our independent auditor. We nonetheless are doing so because we believe it is a matter of good corporate practice. If the shareholders do not approve the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider the retention of Crowe Horwath, but ultimately may decide to retain Crowe Horwath as the Company's independent auditor. Even if the selection is approved, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may change the appointment at any time if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Before selecting Crowe Horwath, the Audit Committee carefully considered that firm's qualifications as an independent registered public accounting firm for the Company. This included a review of its performance in prior years, including the firm's efficiency, integrity and competence in the fields of accounting and auditing. The Audit Committee has expressed its satisfaction with Crowe Horwath in all of these respects. The Company has been advised by Crowe Horwath that neither it nor any of its associates has any direct or material indirect financial interest in the Company.

Crowe Horwath served as independent registered public accounting firm for the Company with respect to the audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting for 2012 and has been engaged by the Company's Audit Committee to serve as independent registered public accounting firm for the Company with respect to the audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting for 2013. Representatives of Crowe Horwath will be present at the annual meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Our Board recommends that shareholders vote "FOR" approval of the appointment of Crowe Horwath as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2013.

Required Vote of Shareholders



The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by holders of common shares who are present in person or by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present is required (on a non-binding advisory basis) to approve the appointment of Crowe Horwath.

**Our Board recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to approve Crowe Horwath as the Company's registered independent public accounting firm (Proposal 2 on the proxy card).**

#### SECTION 16(a): BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's directors and executive officers and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of the Company's Common Shares to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission reports showing ownership of and changes in ownership of the Company's Common Shares and other equity securities. On the basis of information submitted by the Company's directors and executive officers, the Company believes that its directors and executive officers timely filed all required Section 16(a) filings for fiscal 2012 and (except as disclosed in prior years' proxy statements) for prior years, except for the inadvertent failures of (a) each of Directors Bawel, Ernst, Klem, Forbes, Seger, Ramsey and Voyles to report on a timely basis their stock purchase transactions effected automatically on their behalf on April 15 and on July 15, 2012, pursuant to our direct share purchase plan, (b) each of Directors Bawel, Ernst, Klem, Seger, Ramsey and Voyles to report on a timely basis their stock purchase transactions effected automatically on their behalf on October 15, 2012, pursuant to our direct share purchase plan and (c) Director Mehne to report on a timely basis the exercise of stock options on May 23, 2012.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

A shareholder desiring to submit a proposal for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in the year 2014 must deliver the proposal so that it is received by the Company no later than December 15, 2013. Proposals should be mailed to the Chairman of the Governance/Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, in care of the Corporate Secretary, at German American Bancorp, Inc., 711 Main Street, Box 810, Jasper, Indiana 47547-0810, by certified mail, return-receipt requested.





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