

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 22, 2015

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

**SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.**

---

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

---

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  
N/A
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  
N/A
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

N/A

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

N/A

(5) Total fee paid:

N/A

o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

N/A

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

N/A

(3) Filing Party:

N/A

(4) Date Filed:

N/A

---

Table of Contents

April 22, 2015

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of shareholders of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. The annual meeting on June 4, 2015 will be held at Sinclair's corporate office, 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030 at 10:00 a.m. local time.

Enclosed with this letter is a notice of the annual meeting of shareholders, a proxy statement, a proxy card and a return envelope. Also enclosed with this letter is Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.'s Annual Report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Your vote on these matters is very important. We urge you to review carefully the enclosed materials and to return your proxy promptly. The proxy materials are also available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26141>.

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting and you may vote in person even though you have returned your proxy card. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please sign and promptly return your proxy card in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

Sincerely,

David D. Smith  
Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer

**IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:**

*Please note that space limitations make it necessary to limit attendance at the meeting to our shareholders of record as of March 16, 2015. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and seating will begin at 9:45 a.m. Each shareholder may be asked to present valid picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Shareholders holding stock in brokerage accounts ("street name" holders) will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement reflecting stock ownership as of March 16, 2015 (record date). Cameras (including the use of cellular/smart phones with photographic capabilities), recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the meeting.*

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT** Please execute and return the enclosed proxy card promptly, whether or not you plan to attend the Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. annual meeting.

---

Table of Contents

**SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.**

10706 Beaver Dam Road  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**Important notice regarding the availability of proxy materials  
for the shareholder meeting to be held on June 4, 2015.  
The proxy statement and 2014 annual report to shareholders are available at  
<http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26141>.**

Dear Shareholders:

The annual meeting of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. will be held on June 4, 2015 at our corporate office, 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030 at 10:00 a.m. local time for the following purposes:

1. The election of eight directors, each for a one-year term;
2. The ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2015;
3. The consideration of any other matters as may properly come before the annual meeting.

You will be able to vote your shares at the annual meeting if you were a shareholder of record at the close of business on March 16, 2015. Your vote at the annual meeting is very important to us.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

J. Duncan Smith, *Secretary*

Baltimore, Maryland  
April 22, 2015

---

Table of Contents

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR 2014</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE, AUDIT FEES AND AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	<u>40</u>

---

Table of Contents

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING**

**The Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held on June 4, 2015 at our corporate office, 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030 at 10:00 a.m. local time.

**This Proxy Solicitation**

On or about April 22, 2015, we began mailing this proxy statement to people who, according to our records, owned common shares of beneficial interests in us as of the close of business on March 16, 2015. We are sending you this proxy statement because our Board of Directors is seeking a proxy to vote your shares at the annual meeting. This proxy statement is intended to assist you in deciding how to vote your shares. Proxy materials are also available at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26141>.

We are paying the cost of soliciting these proxies. Our directors, officers and employees may request proxies in person or by telephone, mail, or letter. We will reimburse brokers and other nominees for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners of our common shares.

**Voting Your Shares**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has adopted a "Notice and Access" rule that allows companies to deliver a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to shareowners in lieu of a paper copy of this proxy statement and the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders.

**Shareholders of Record.** You may vote your shares at the annual meeting either in person or by proxy. To vote in person, you must attend the annual meeting and obtain and submit a ballot. Ballots for registered shareholders to vote in person will be available at the annual meeting. If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, you are considered the *registered* holder of those shares. As the *registered* stockholder, you can ensure your shares are voted at the meeting by submitting your instructions by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided.

If you complete the proxy card, except for the voting instructions, then your shares will be voted FOR each of the director nominees identified on the proxy card and FOR ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015.

We have described in this proxy statement all the proposals that we expect will be made at the annual meeting. If a shareholder or we properly present any other proposal at the meeting, we will use your proxy to vote your shares on the proposal in our best judgment.

Your proxy card will be valid only if you sign, date and return it in time for it to be received by us before the annual meeting scheduled to be held on June 4, 2015.

**Beneficial Owners.** Most of our stockholders hold their shares through a broker, bank, trustee or another nominee, rather than registered directly in their name (which is often referred to as "street name"). In that case, you are considered the *beneficial owner* of shares held in street name, and the proxy materials, including a notice enabling you to receive proxy material through the mail, are being forwarded to you by your broker, bank, trustee or nominee. As the *beneficial owner*, you are entitled to direct the voting of your shares by your intermediary. Brokers, banks and nominees typically offer telephonic or electronic means by which the *beneficial owners* of shares held by them can submit voting instructions, in addition to the traditional mailed voting instruction cards. If you are a *beneficial owner* of shares, you cannot vote in person at the annual meeting unless you have a proper power of attorney from your broker. Votes directed through a broker must be received by us before the annual meeting.

Table of Contents

If you hold your shares in street name with a broker and you do not tell your broker how to vote or provide the broker with a voting instruction form, your broker cannot vote on your behalf for the election of director nominees (Proposal 1).

**Revoking Your Proxy**

If you decide to change your vote, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the annual meeting. You may revoke your proxy by any one of three ways:

you may notify our Secretary in writing that you wish to revoke your proxy, at the following address: Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland, 21030, Attention: J. Duncan Smith, Vice President and Secretary. We must receive your notice before the time of the annual meeting;

you may submit a proxy dated later than your original proxy; or

you may attend the annual meeting and vote. Merely attending the annual meeting will not by itself revoke a proxy; you must obtain a ballot and vote your shares to revoke the proxy and in the case of shares held in street name you must obtain a proper power of attorney from your broker to vote your shares.

**Vote Required for Approval**

**Shares Entitled to Vote.** On March 16, 2015 (the record date), the following shares were issued and outstanding and had the votes indicated:

69,491,917 shares of Class A Common Stock, each of which is entitled to one vote on each of the proposals, and

25,928,357 shares of Class B Common Stock, each of which is entitled to ten votes on each of the proposals

**Quorum.** A majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote, or a "quorum," must be present at the annual meeting in order to transact business. A quorum will be present if 164,387,744 votes are represented at the annual meeting, either in person (by the shareholders) or by proxy. If a quorum is not present, a vote cannot occur. In deciding whether a quorum is present, abstentions and broker non-votes (where a broker or nominee is not permitted to vote on a matter and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner) will be counted as shares that are represented at the annual meeting.

Table of Contents

**Votes Required.** The votes required on each of the proposals are as follows:

Proposal 1: Election of Eight Directors

The eight nominees for director who receive the most votes will be elected. This is called a "plurality." If you indicate "withhold authority to vote" for a particular nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not count either for or against the nominee. Broker non-votes are not counted as votes cast for nominees for director and will not affect the outcome of the proposal.

Proposal 2: Ratification of Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the annual meeting is required to ratify the Audit Committee's selection of the independent registered public accounting firm. If you abstain from voting, your abstention will not count as a vote cast for or against the proposal.

**Additional Information**

**We are mailing our annual report to registered shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, including consolidated financial statements, to all shareholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting together with this proxy statement. The annual report includes details on how to get additional information about us. The annual report does not constitute a part of the proxy solicitation material. Proxy materials are also available to registered shareholders and to beneficial owners at <http://www.astproxyportal.com/ast/26141>.**

**PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Nominees for election to the Board of Directors are:

David D. Smith  
Frederick G. Smith  
J. Duncan Smith  
Robert E. Smith  
Howard E. Friedman  
Daniel C. Keith  
Martin R. Leader  
Lawrence E. McCanna

Each director will be elected to serve for a one-year term, unless he resigns or is removed before his term expires, or until his replacement is elected and qualified. Each of the nominees listed above is currently a member of the Board of Directors and each of them has consented to serve as a director if elected. More detailed information about each of the nominees is available in the section of this proxy statement titled *Directors, Executive Officers and Key Employees*.

If any of the nominees cannot serve for any reason (which is not anticipated), the Board of Directors may designate a substitute nominee or nominees. If a substitute is nominated, we will vote all valid proxies for the election of the substitute nominee or nominees. Alternatively, the Board of Directors may also decide to leave the board seat or seats open until a suitable candidate or candidates are located, or it may decide to reduce the size of the Board.

The Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that our business shall be managed by a Board of Directors of not less than three and not more than thirteen directors with the number of



Table of Contents

directors to be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time. The Board of Directors has presently established the size of the Board at eight members. Proxies for the annual meeting may not be voted for more than eight nominees.

Messrs. David, Duncan and Robert Smith and Dr. Frederick Smith (collectively, the controlling shareholders) are brothers and have entered into a shareholders agreement pursuant to which they have agreed to vote for each other as candidates for election to the Board of Directors until December 31, 2025. The controlling shareholders own collectively 76.4% of the total voting power.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees to the Board of Directors.**

**PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has sole responsibility for the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm and has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP (PricewaterhouseCoopers) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. The Board of Directors recommends ratification of this appointment by the shareholders. If the shareholders do not ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Audit Committee will reevaluate the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may nevertheless appoint another independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the shareholders. PricewaterhouseCoopers audited the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

A representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers is expected to attend the annual meeting. The PricewaterhouseCoopers representative will have the opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so and will be able to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.**

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

There were 95,420,274 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding on March 16, 2015, consisting of 69,491,917 shares of Class A Common Stock and 25,928,357 shares of Class B Common Stock. The following table shows how many shares were owned by the following categories of persons as of that date:

persons known to us who beneficially own more than 5% of the shares;

each director and each executive officer described on the "Summary Compensation Table"; and

directors and all executive officers as a group.

Name	Shares of Class B Common Stock Beneficially Owned(a)		Shares of Class A Common Stock Beneficially Owned		Percent of Total Voting Power(c)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent(b)	
David D. Smith	7,411,072	28.6%	9,837,919(d)	12.4%	23.1%
J. Duncan Smith	7,073,466	27.3%	7,172,671(e)	9.4%	21.4%
Robert E. Smith	6,474,806	25.0%	6,475,426(f)	8.5%	19.6%
Frederick G. Smith	4,057,673	15.6%	4,109,592(g)	5.6%	12.3%
David B. Amy			215,899	*	*
Christopher S. Ripley			125,000	*	*
Steven M. Marks			89,839	*	*
Martin R. Leader			60,594	*	*
Daniel C. Keith			43,250	*	*
Barry M. Faber			34,148	*	*
Lawrence E. McCanna			28,525	*	*
Steven J. Pruett			189	*	*
Howard E. Friedman					
FMR, LLC			9,916,072(h)	14.3%	3.0%
245 Summer Street					
Boston, Massachusetts 02210					
Manning & Napier Advisors			8,314,942(i)	12.0%	2.5%
290 Woodcliff Drive					
Fairport, NY 14450					
Blackrock, Inc.			6,655,320(j)	9.6%	2.0%
40 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street					
New York, NY 10022					
Hoplite Capital Management, LLC			6,422,998(k)	9.2%	1.9%
810 Seventh Avenue, 34 <sup>th</sup> Floor					
New York, NY 10019					
Roystone Capital Management, LP			4,150,300(l)	6.0%	1.3%
767 Third Avenue, 34 <sup>th</sup> Floor					
New York, NY 10017					
The Vanguard Group, Inc.			4,130,766(m)	5.9%	1.2%
100 Vanguard Boulevard					
Malvern, PA 19355					
Soroban Capital Partners, LLC			3,805,830(n)	5.5%	1.2%
444 Madison Avenue, 21 <sup>st</sup> Floor					
New York, NY 10022					
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	25,017,017	96.5%	28,265,379(o)	29.1%	76.6%

\*

Less than 1%

The address for such beneficial owner is 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030.

## Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

- (a) By virtue of a stockholders' agreement by and among David D. Smith, Frederick G. Smith, J. Duncan Smith and Robert E. Smith, each of the Smith brothers is required to vote all of his Class A and Class B Common Stock in favor of the other Smith brothers to cause their election as directors. Consequently, each of the Smith brothers may be deemed to beneficially own the shares of common stock individually owned by the other Smith brothers. Nevertheless, each of the Smith brothers disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares owned by the other Smith brothers.
- (b) Percent of Class A Common Stock beneficially owned is the number of shares of Class A Common Stock beneficially owned divided by the sum of (i) number of shares of Class A Common Stock outstanding plus (ii) any Class B Common Stock individually held plus (iii) any options, stock-settled stock appreciation rights (SARs).
- (c) Holders of Class A Common Stock are entitled to one vote per share and holders of Class B Common Stock are entitled to ten votes per share except for votes relating to "going private" and certain other transactions. The Class A Common Stock and the Class B Common Stock vote together as a single class except as otherwise may be required by Maryland law on all matters presented for a vote. Holders of Class B Common Stock may at any time convert their shares into the same number of shares of Class A Common Stock.
- (d) Includes 7,411,072 shares of Class B Common Stock beneficially owned, each of which is convertible into one share of Class A Common Stock, 9,834 shares of Class A Common Stock held in the 401(k) Plan, and 507,013 shares of Class A Common Stock held in irrevocable trusts established by David D. Smith for the benefit of family members, of which he is a co-trustee. Also includes 749,390 shares of Class A Common Stock related to 1,910,000 outstanding Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs) with exercise prices ranging from \$11.68 to \$27.86. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock issuable is determined by dividing (i) the amount of the difference between the aggregate market value of the shares underlying the SARs and the aggregate exercise price of the SARs by (ii) the closing market price per share on the date of exercise. There would have been 749,390 shares of Class A Common Stock issued, assuming that all of the outstanding SARs were exercised on March 16, 2015 based on the closing value of Class A Common Stock on this date and the underlying exercise prices of the SARs.
- (e) Includes 7,073,466 shares of Class B Common Stock beneficially owned, each of which is convertible into one share of Class A Common Stock, 90,185 shares of Class A Common Stock, and 9,020 shares of Class A Common Stock held in the 401(k) Plan. The shares of Class B Common Stock include 137,154 shares held in an irrevocable trust established by J. Duncan Smith for the benefit of family members, of which he is the trustee.
- (f) Includes 6,474,806 shares of Class B Common Stock beneficially owned, each of which is convertible into one share of Class A Common Stock and 620 shares of Class A Common Stock held in the 401(k) Plan. The shares of Class B Common Stock include 145,000 shares held in an irrevocable trust established by Robert E. Smith for the benefit of family members, of which he is the trustee.
- (g) Includes 4,057,673 shares of Class B Common Stock beneficially owned, each of which is convertible into one share of Class A Common Stock, 42,775 shares of Class A Common Stock, and 9,144 shares of Class A Common Stock in the 401(k) Plan.
- (h) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed by FMR, LLC with the SEC on February 13, 2015, FMR, LLC is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 9,916,072 shares and has sole voting power with respect to 233,228 of those shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all 9,916,072 shares.
- (i) As set forth in the Schedule 13G filed by Manning & Napier Advisors with the SEC on January 16, 2015, Manning & Napier Advisors is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 8,314,942 shares and has sole voting power with respect to 7,011,182 of those shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all 8,314,942 shares.

Table of Contents

- (j) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed by Blackrock, Inc. with the SEC on January 15, 2015, Blackrock, Inc. is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 6,655,320 shares and has sole voting power with respect to 6,503,139 of those shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all 6,655,320 shares.
- (k) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed by Hoplite Capital Management, LLC with the SEC on February 13, 2015, Hoplite Capital Management, L.P. is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 6,422,998 shares and has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to all 6,422,998 of those shares.
- (l) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed by Roystone Capital Management, LP with the SEC on February 17, 2015, Roystone Capital Management, LP is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 4,150,300 shares and has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to all 4,150,300 of those shares.
- (m) As set forth in the Schedule 13G/A filed by The Vanguard Group, Inc. with the SEC on February 11, 2015, The Vanguard Group, Inc. is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 4,130,766 shares and has sole voting power with respect to 93,865 of those shares, shared dispositive power with respect to 88,165 of those shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 4,042,601 of those shares.
- (n) As set forth in the Schedule 13G filed by Soroban Capital Partners, LLC with the SEC on April 11, 2014, Soroban Capital Partners, LLC is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 3,805,830 shares and has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to all 3,805,830 of those shares.
- (o) Includes shares of Class A Common Stock that may be acquired upon the exercise of options and SARs.

Table of Contents**DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND KEY EMPLOYEES**

Set forth below is certain information relating to our named directors and nominees, executive officers and certain key employees.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Directors</b>		
David D. Smith	64	President, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and Director
Frederick G. Smith	65	Vice President and Director
J. Duncan Smith	61	Vice President, Secretary and Director
Robert E. Smith	51	Director
Howard E. Friedman	49	Director
Daniel C. Keith	60	Director
Martin R. Leader	74	Director
Lawrence E. McCanna	71	Director
<b>Executive Officers</b>		
David B. Amy	62	Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair
Barry M. Faber	53	Executive Vice President / General Counsel
Steven M. Marks	58	Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Television Group, Inc.
Steven J. Pruett	60	Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Television Group, Inc.
Christopher S. Ripley	38	Chief Financial Officer
David R. Bochenek	52	Senior Vice President / Chief Accounting Officer
Rebecca J. Hanson	50	Senior Vice President / Strategy and Policy
Delbert R. Parks, III	62	Senior Vice President / Chief Technology Officer
Lucy A. Rutishauser	50	Senior Vice President / Corporate Finance / Treasurer
Donald H. Thompson	48	Senior Vice President / Human Resources
Robert D. Weisbord	52	Chief Operating Officer / Sinclair Digital

Members of the Board of Directors are elected for one-year terms and serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Executive officers are appointed by the Board of Directors annually to serve for one-year terms and serve until their successors are duly appointed and qualified.

Messrs. David, Duncan and Robert Smith and Dr. Frederick Smith are brothers and have entered into a stockholders' agreement pursuant to which they have agreed to vote for each other as candidates for election to the Board of Directors until December 31, 2025.

**Profiles**

*David D. Smith* has served as President and Chief Executive Officer since 1988 and as Chairman of the Board of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. since September 1990. Mr. Smith founded Comark Communications, Inc., a company engaged in the manufacture of high power transmitters for UHF television stations, and was an officer and director of Comark until 1986. He also was a principal in other television stations prior to serving as a General Manager of WPMY (formerly WCWB-TV) from 1984 until 1986. In 1986, Mr. Smith was instrumental in the formation of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. Mr. Smith serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Atlantic Automotive Corporation, The Triscari Group, Inc., The Sinclair Relief Fund, The American Flag Foundation, Inc., Cunningham Communications Inc., Gerstell Development, LP, Keyser Investment Group, Inc. and is a member of the Board of Managers of Alarm Funding Associates, LLC.

Table of Contents

Based on Mr. Smith's (i) more than twenty years of experience and expertise in the television broadcast industry, (ii) extensive industry knowledge and innovative thinking, (iii) understanding of the challenges, opportunities and risks faced by us and the industry, and (iv) valuable, significant shareholder perspective, the Board believes Mr. Smith has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Smith should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Frederick G. Smith* has served as Vice President of Sinclair since 1990 and Director since 1986. Prior to joining Sinclair in 1990, Dr. Smith was an oral and maxillofacial surgeon engaged in private practice and was employed by Frederick G. Smith, M.S., D.D.S., P.A., a professional corporation of which Dr. Smith was the sole officer, director and stockholder. Dr. Smith serves as a member of the Board of Directors or Trustees of the Freven Foundation, Gerstell Academy, University of Maryland at Baltimore Foundation, St. Joseph's Hospital, The Sinclair Relief Fund, Cunningham Communications Inc., Gerstell Development, LP, Keyser Investment Group, Inc. and Beaver Dam, LLC.

Based on Dr. Smith's (i) more than twenty years of experience in the television broadcast industry, and (ii) valuable, significant shareholder perspective, the Board believes Dr. Smith has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Dr. Smith should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*J. Duncan Smith* has served as Vice President, Secretary and as a Director of Sinclair since 1986. Prior to that, he built and operated the following television stations: WPMY (formerly WCWB-TV) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; WTTE-TV in Columbus, Ohio; WIIB-TV in Bloomington, Indiana and WTTA-TV in Tampa / St. Petersburg, Florida. In addition, Mr. Smith worked for Comark Communications, Inc., a company engaged in the manufacture of high power transmitters for UHF television stations. Mr. Smith serves as a member of the Board of Directors of The High Rock Foundation, Cunningham Communications Inc., Gerstell Development, LP, Keyser Investment Group, Inc., Beaver Dam, LLC, The Sinclair Relief Fund and The Boys' Latin School of Maryland.

Based on Mr. Smith's (i) more than twenty years of experience in the television broadcast industry, and (ii) valuable, significant shareholder perspective, the Board believes Mr. Smith has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Smith should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Robert E. Smith* has served as a Director since 1986. He served as Vice President and Treasurer of Sinclair from 1988 to June 1998, at which time he resigned from his position as Vice President and Treasurer. In March 1997, Mr. Smith started RSMK LLC, a commercial real estate investment company. Prior to 1986, he assisted in the construction of several television stations including WTTE-TV in Columbus, Ohio and also worked for Comark Communications, Inc., a company engaged in the manufacture of high power transmitters for UHF television stations. Mr. Smith serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Nextgen Foundation Charitable Trust, Gerstell Academy, Keyser Investment Group, Inc., Cunningham Communications, Inc., Gerstell Development LP, Beaver Dam LLC and Laker Partners, LLC.

Based on Mr. Smith's (i) more than twenty years of experience in the television broadcast industry, and (ii) valuable, significant shareholder perspective, the Board believes Mr. Smith has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Smith should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Howard E. Friedman* has served as Director since January 6, 2015. He is the founding Partner of Lanx Management LLC, a hedge "fund of funds" as well as the Co-Founder, Publisher & CEO of Watermark

Table of Contents

Press, Inc. From 2006-2010, Mr. Friedman served as President and then Chairman of the Board of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). In 2007 and in 2009, Washington Life Magazine listed Mr. Friedman as one of the 100 most powerful people in Washington D.C. From 2010-2012, he served as the President of the American Israel Educational Foundation, the charitable arm of AIPAC. He is the immediate past Chair of the Board of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. Mr. Friedman has served as President of the Baltimore Jewish Council, and as President of JTA-The Global News Service of the Jewish People. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. In addition, Mr. Friedman serves on the boards of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Touro College and University System, Talmudical Academy and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Based on Mr. Friedman's extensive skills in finance, management and investment matters, the Board believes Mr. Friedman has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Friedman should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Daniel C. Keith* has served as a Director since May 2001. Mr. Keith is the President and Founder of the Cavanaugh Group, Inc., a Baltimore-based investment advisory firm founded in October 1995. Prior to establishing the Cavanaugh Group, Inc., Mr. Keith was Vice President, Senior Portfolio Manager, and Director of the Investment Management division of a local financial services company since 1985. During this time, he served as Chairman of the Investment Advisory Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Keith has been advising clients since 1979. He serves as a member of the Boards of Trustees of The High Rock Foundation.

Based on Mr. Keith's extensive skills in finance, management and investment matters, the Board believes Mr. Keith has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Keith should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Martin R. Leader* has served as a Director since May 2002. Mr. Leader is a retired partner of the law firm ShawPittman (now known as Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP) in Washington, D.C. where he specialized in communications law matters. Prior to his service at ShawPittman, Mr. Leader was a senior partner with the law firm of Fisher Wayland Cooper Leader & Zaragoza in Washington, D.C. from 1973 to 1999. Mr. Leader was a member of the Board of Directors of Atlantic Automotive Corporation until February 2006. Mr. Leader has served on the staff of the Office of Opinions and Review of the Federal Communications Commission. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. Mr. Leader graduated from Tufts University and Vanderbilt University Law School.

Based on Mr. Leader's (i) prior experience in communications law and (ii) insight on government relations particularly with the Federal Communications Commission, the Board believes Mr. Leader has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. Leader should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*Lawrence E. McCanna* has served as a Director since July 1995. Mr. McCanna was a shareholder of the accounting firm of Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A. from 1972 and served as its managing director through June 30, 2009. On July 1, 2009, Mr. McCanna retired from full-time employment with the firm, liquidating his entire interest in Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates on that date. Mr. McCanna provides substantial value to the Board of Directors through his extensive accounting, finance and management experience. He is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC. Mr. McCanna has served on various committees of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and was Chairman of the Management of the Accounting Practice Committee. He is also a former member of the Management of an Accounting Practice Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a former member of the Board of Directors of Maryland Special Olympics and Mount St. Joseph High School.



Table of Contents

Based on Mr. McCanna's (i) extensive accounting, finance and management experience and (ii) ability to serve as an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC, the Board believes Mr. McCanna has acquired the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills necessary to act in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, and thus, the Board has concluded that Mr. McCanna should continue to serve as a director for the Company.

*David B. Amy* has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. since April 1, 2014. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President / Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Sinclair since March 2001. From September 1999 to March 2001 he served as Executive Vice President and as Vice President and CFO from September 1998 to September 1999. Beginning in 1994, he served as CFO until September 1998. In addition, he serves as Secretary of Sinclair Television Group, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary that owns and operates our broadcasting operations. Mr. Amy has over 30 years of broadcast experience, having joined Sinclair as a Business Manager for WPMY (formerly WPTT-TV) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Amy received his MBA degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981. Mr. Amy serves as a member of the Board of Directors of KDSM, LLC and The Maryland Science Center. He is also a member of the Board of Managers of Triangle Sign & Service, LLC and Chairman of the Board of Managers of Alarm Funding Associates, LLC. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Acrodyne Communications, Inc., and G1440 Holdings, Inc. until 2009; Visionair, Inc. until 2008 and Jadoo Power Systems, Inc. until 2007. Mr. Amy also served as the Audit Committee Chairman of Acrodyne Communications, Inc. until 2009.

*Barry M. Faber* has served as Executive Vice President / General Counsel since May 2008, as Vice President / General Counsel from August 1999 to May 2008 and prior to that as Associate General Counsel from 1996 to 1999. Prior to that time, he was associated with the law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, & Jacobson in Washington, D.C. Barry M. Faber is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Virginia School of Law. Mr. Faber is also a member of the Board of Directors of The Sinclair Relief Fund.

*Steven M. Marks* has served as Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer within our broadcast segment since May 2007. Prior to that, he served as Chief Operating Officer / Television Group from February 2003 to May 2007. Mr. Marks is responsible for the operations of a certain number of our television stations. Prior to that, he served as Vice President / Regional Director from March 2002 to February 2003. As a Vice President / Regional Director, Mr. Marks was responsible for the Baltimore, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Flint, Tallahassee, Charleston, West Virginia, Portland, Springfield, Minneapolis, Tampa, Syracuse, Norfolk, Richmond, Buffalo and Rochester markets. Prior to his appointment as Vice President / Regional Director, Mr. Marks served as Regional Director since October 1994. Mr. Marks served as General Manager for Sinclair's flagship station, WBFF-TV in Baltimore, Maryland from July 1991 until October 1994. From 1986 until joining WBFF-TV in 1991, Mr. Marks served as General Sales Manager at WTTE-TV in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to that time, he was National Sales Manager for WFLX-TV in West Palm Beach, Florida.

*Steven J. Pruett* joined Sinclair as Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer within our broadcast segment in April 2013, overseeing the operations of a certain number of our television stations. Prior to that, he was with Communications Corporation of America, first as Chief Financial Officer, then becoming its President in 2006 and President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as a member of the Board, in 2007. Mr. Pruett served as special strategic advisor to DirecTV and Thomson Consumer Electronics from 1998 to 2002. From 1995 to 1999, he was a Managing Director at Communications Equity Associates. During his career, he has helped found several broadcast groups as an initial investor, financier, managing partner or board member including Spanish Radio Group Excel Communications, ACME Television, USBG, and UPI Media, where he served as President. Mr. Pruett attended Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville where he majored in Radio and Television. He later earned a Masters in Management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Business at Northwestern University. Beginning 2008, Mr. Pruett was a key member of

## Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

### Table of Contents

the Fox Affiliate Board of Governors where he served as Treasurer until 2011 when he was elected Chairman, a position he held until 2014.

*Christopher S. Ripley* has served as Chief Financial Officer since April 1, 2014. Prior to that, Mr. Ripley served as Managing Partner of Canor LLC, a boutique media/entertainment advisory firm since 2013. From 2001 to 2013, he was a Managing Director at UBS Investment Bank's Global Media Group and served as head of the Los Angeles office where he managed, advised and/or structured various financings and merger and acquisition transactions, managed bankers and support staff, and oversaw regulatory and compliance matters for the office. From 2000 to 2001, he was a Principal at Prime Ventures LLC, a venture capital firm where he was involved in capital investment decisions, business development, M&A, and organizational structuring. Prior to that and from 1998, Mr. Ripley worked in the investment banking division of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation. Mr. Ripley graduated from the University of Western Ontario, Richard Ivey School of Business, with a Bachelor of Arts in Honors Business Administration.

*David R. Bochenek* has served as Senior Vice President / Chief Accounting Officer since December 2013. Prior to that, he served as Vice President / Chief Accounting Officer since May 2005. Prior to that, he served as Chief Accounting Officer from November 2002 to April 2005. Mr. Bochenek joined Sinclair in March 2000 as the Corporate Controller. Prior to joining Sinclair, Mr. Bochenek was Vice President, Corporate Controller for Prime Retail, Inc. from 1993 until 2000. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Bochenek served as Assistant Vice President for MNC Financial, Inc. and prior to that held various positions in the audit department of Ernst & Young, LLP. Mr. Bochenek received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Master of Science in Finance from Loyola University, Maryland.

*Rebecca J. Hanson* has served as Senior Vice President / Strategy and Policy since January 2013. Prior to that, she was a Senior Advisor, Broadcast Spectrum with the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, and served on the Incentive Auction Task Force as the point person for broadcaster participation and issues affecting nonparticipating broadcasters. Prior to joining the FCC from 2007 to 2009, she was the Vice President, Strategic Initiatives at Sprint Nextel, where she was responsible for the launch and long-term growth strategy for the WiMAX network and a member of the deal team leading the financing and merger with Clearwire for a national spectrum footprint. From 2006 to 2007 she was a consultant focusing on business planning and deal execution for various digital media companies. Prior to that and from 2000, she held the positions of Senior Vice President, Business Development, and Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at XM Satellite Radio, Inc., where she was the lead negotiator for key strategic alliances and partnerships in the areas of programming, marketing, distribution, acquisitions/joint ventures and product development. She began her career as an attorney with Brownstein and Zeidman from 1993 to 1996 and then ShawPittman (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman) from 1996 to 2000, where she specialized in the areas of technology, commercial finance, and venture capital.

*Delbert R. Parks, III* has served as Senior Vice President / Chief Technology Officer since November 2014. Prior to that, he served as Senior Vice President / Operations and Engineering, since December 2013. Prior to that, he served as Vice President / Engineering and Operations of Sinclair Television Group, Inc. since 1996. From 1985 to 1996, he was Director of Operations and Engineering for WBFF-TV in Baltimore, Maryland and Sinclair. He has held various operations and engineering positions with us for the last 40 years. He is responsible for planning, organizing and implementing operational and engineering policies and strategies as they relate to television operations, Internet activity, information management systems, and infrastructure. Mr. Parks is a member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers and the Society of Broadcast Engineers. He is on the Board of Directors of the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and has been active in the scouting program with his son. Mr. Parks is also a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who has held various commands during his 26-year reserve career.

Table of Contents

*Lucy A. Rutishauser* has served as Senior Vice President / Corporate Finance / Treasurer since December 2013. Prior to that, she was Vice President / Corporate Finance / Treasurer since November 2002. From March 2001 until November 2002, she served as Treasurer and, from 1998 until March 2001, she served as Assistant Treasurer. From 1996 to 1997, Ms. Rutishauser was the Assistant Treasurer for Treasure Chest Advertising Company. From 1992 to 1996, Ms. Rutishauser served as Assistant Treasurer and Director of Treasury for Integrated Health Services, Inc. From 1988 to 1992, Ms. Rutishauser held various treasury positions with Laura Ashley, Inc. and the Black and Decker Corporation. Ms. Rutishauser graduated magna cum laude from Towson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance and received her M.B.A., with honors from the University of Baltimore. Ms. Rutishauser is a member of the National Institute of Investor Relations and the Association of Finance Professionals.

*Donald H. Thompson* has served as Senior Vice President / Human Resources since December 2013. Prior to that, he served as Vice President / Human Resources since November 1999 and prior to that as Director of Human Resources from September 1996. Prior to joining us, Mr. Thompson was a Human Resources Manager for NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center near Washington, D.C. Mr. Thompson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Certificate in Personnel and Industrial Relations from University of Maryland, and an MS in Business / Human Resource & Behavioral Management and an MBA from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

*Robert D. Weisbord* has served as Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Digital Group, a newly created Digital Interactive Business Unit for Sinclair Broadcasting Group since January 2014. Mr. Weisbord is responsible for all web/mobile app/social media creation, interaction of the unit with news and television station platforms, revenue generation, and exploring strategic partnerships and potential related acquisitions. He served as Vice President / New Media from June 2010 to January 2014. From 2008 to June 2010, he served as Director of Digital Interactive Marketing for Sinclair. From 1997, he served in various management positions for the Company including Regional Group Manager, General Manager for the Company's Las Vegas duopoly of KVMY-TV and KVCW-TV, and Director of Sales. Prior to that and from 1993, he was National Sales Manager for WTVT-TV in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Weisbord began his broadcasting career in the radio industry with Family Group Broadcasting in 1985. Mr. Weisbord holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Tampa.

Table of Contents

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**Board of Directors and Committees.** In 2014, the Board of Directors held a total of six meetings. All directors attended all of the meetings of the Board of Directors and all committees of the Board of Directors on which he served. All directors attended the Annual Meeting held on June 5, 2014. It is the Board's policy that the directors should attend our annual meeting of shareholders, absent exceptional cause.

The committees of the Board of Directors include an Audit Committee and a Compensation Committee and from time to time special committees formed by the Board of Directors as may be necessary.

**Board Leadership Structure and Risk Oversight.** David D. Smith serves as both the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the President and Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer's performance is reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee, which reports results to the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee consists of three directors, all of whom are independent pursuant to the Nasdaq Stock Market rules (the Nasdaq listing requirements). The Board of Directors appoints an independent director to preside over special committee meetings; however, no lead independent director of the Board of Directors exists. The Company deems this leadership structure appropriate for our Controlled Company (see Controlled Company Determination below) as it promotes efficient communication between the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors as well as between the various board committees and the Board of Directors while monitoring effective independent board oversight over the Chief Executive Officer and the Company's risks. While the Company's management is charged with managing the Company's day-to-day risks, the Company's financial risk oversight is primarily conducted by the Audit Committee, which consists entirely of independent directors for purposes of Nasdaq listing requirements and Rule 10A-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). The Audit Committee reports financial risk oversight matters to the Board of Directors based on committee assessments and periodic reports from management. The Compensation Committee provides risk oversight concerning our compensation policies and practices. The Board of Directors with the assistance of management is responsible for all other risk oversight measures.

**Risk Assessment of Compensation Policies and Practices.** The Company's primary source of revenue is advertising which it sells to a large variety of customers. The Company does not pay a significant amount of incentive compensation to employees with the ability to take significant risks which could have a material adverse effect on the Company. Incentive compensation is primarily paid to sales personnel who are not executive officers of the Company and do not have the ability or authority to engage in significant risk taking activity. While we pay incentive compensation to certain of our executive officers, it is not significant to the Company as a whole and we believe it is designed to minimize unnecessary risk taking by aligning each executive's interests with those of our shareholders and by emphasizing long-term performance rather than promoting short-term risk taking at the expense of long-term returns. Our sales personnel and executive officers are incentivized to generate revenues and cannot participate in material speculative transactions or put material amounts of capital at risk without Board approval. As a result, the Company's management, in consultation with the Company's Compensation Committee, determined that the Company's compensation policies and practices are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect.

**Controlled Company Determination.** Our Board has determined that we are a "Controlled Company" for purposes of the Nasdaq listing requirements. A "Controlled Company" is a company of which more than 50% of the voting power is held by an individual, a group or another company. Certain Nasdaq listing requirements do not apply to a "Controlled Company," including requirements that: (1) a majority of its board of directors must be comprised of "independent" directors as defined in the Nasdaq listing requirements; and (2) the compensation of officers and the nomination of directors be determined in accordance with specific rules, generally requiring determinations by committees comprised solely of independent directors or in meetings at which only the independent directors are present. Our Board of

Table of Contents

Directors has determined that we are a "Controlled Company" based on the fact that the Smith brothers hold more than 50% of our voting power and are parties to a stockholders' agreement that obligates them to vote for each other as candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The Smith brothers have been our executive officers and/or directors at all times since we became a publicly traded company in 1995. Currently, David D. Smith, Frederick G. Smith and J. Duncan Smith are executive officers and directors and Robert E. Smith is a director.

**Director Independence.** The Board has determined that Messrs. McCanna, Keith and Leader have no relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that they otherwise meet the independence criteria under the Nasdaq listing requirements. The Board has also determined that Messrs. McCanna, Keith and Leader satisfy the additional independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act, enabling them to serve on the Audit Committee. In making its independence determination, the Board of Directors considered any transactions, relationships and arrangements as required by our independence guidelines. In particular, with respect to each of the most recent completed three fiscal years, the Board evaluated (1) for Mr. Keith, the type and amount of investment advisory services provided by the firm where he serves as an executive officer to our controlling shareholders and family members of our controlling shareholders and (2) for Mr. McCanna, the type and amount of accounting, tax and related services provided by the firm where he served as its managing director, until he retired in July 2009, to our controlling shareholders, family members of our controlling shareholders and entities (other than Sinclair) owned or controlled by our controlling shareholders or family members of our controlling shareholders.

During January 2015, the Board appointed Howard E. Friedman to the Board. The Board has determined that Mr. Friedman has no relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that he otherwise meets the independence criteria under the Nasdaq listing requirements.

**Audit Committee.** The members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. McCanna, Keith and Leader. The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter approved by the Board of Directors and available on our website at [www.sbgi.net](http://www.sbgi.net). The Audit Committee formally met seven times during the year ended December 31, 2014.

The Board of Directors has determined that all audit committee members are financially literate under the Nasdaq listing requirements and that Lawrence E. McCanna qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by the SEC rules adopted pursuant to the Exchange Act.

The Nasdaq listing requirements require that audit committees have at least three directors and that all directors be independent, as defined in the Nasdaq listing requirements and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. The Board has determined that Messrs. McCanna, Keith and Leader meet the independence criteria established in the Nasdaq listing requirements and the Exchange Act.

The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in its oversight of financial reporting practices and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of Sinclair including compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent auditors' qualifications and independence and the performance of Sinclair's internal control function. The Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment of Sinclair's independent auditors, whose appointment may be ratified by the shareholders. The Audit Committee oversees all of our internal controls and risk management policies and meets with our independent auditor and management regarding our internal controls and other matters. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing compliance with Sinclair's ethics policy and has established procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by Sinclair regarding accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by Sinclair's employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters. The Audit Committee is also responsible for approving or ratifying related person transactions pursuant to Sinclair's related person

Table of Contents

transaction policy. This policy is described in this proxy statement under the caption *Related Person Transactions*.

**Compensation Committee.** Nasdaq listing requirements require that compensation of executive officers be determined, or recommended to the Board of Directors for determination, either by a majority of the independent directors or a compensation committee comprised solely of independent directors. As a "Controlled Company," we are not subject to this listing requirement. However, the Compensation Committee during 2014 and as of today consists entirely of, Messrs. McCanna, Keith, and Leader, all of whom meet the independence criteria established by the Nasdaq listing requirements. These independent directors also meet the criteria to be outside directors under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("Section 162(m)") and are responsible for compensation intended to qualify as "performance-based compensation" exempt from the \$1 million deduction limit under Section 162(m). Although the Compensation Committee does not have a written charter, the Compensation Committee is charged with the responsibility for setting executive compensation, reviewing certain compensation programs, administering our equity incentive plans, recommending for inclusion in this proxy statement the Compensation Discussion and Analysis which is included in this proxy statement, preparing the compensation committee report required by SEC rules which is included in this proxy statement, and making other recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee formally met eleven times during the year ended December 31, 2014.

Each year, the Compensation Committee reviews the prior performance of each named executive officer, reviews the effectiveness of past compensation objectives and approves the compensation policies and plans for the next fiscal year. The Compensation Committee assesses each named executive officer's operational abilities, leadership skills, and potential to contribute to long-term shareholder value. The Compensation Committee provides risk oversight concerning our compensation policies and practices for executive officers. Executive officers have access to the Compensation Committee to present and discuss their own performance and compensation plan. At times, the Compensation Committee may specifically request meetings with executive officers to gain a full understanding and exploration of assessed attributes. Our President and Chief Executive Officer, David D. Smith, and our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, David B. Amy, consult with the Compensation Committee on appropriate compensation for executive officers other than themselves. In addition, our Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Donald H. Thompson, presents information and recommendations to the Compensation Committee based on market evaluations. The Compensation Committee does not use outside consultants to set compensation.

**Director Nominations.** The Board does not have a standing nominating committee and there is no formal nominating committee charter, although the Board has adopted a resolution addressing the director nominations process. Instead, the directors who are determined to be "independent" under the Nasdaq listing requirements perform the functions of a nominating committee. The Board believes it is appropriate not to maintain a standing nominating committee primarily because the relatively small number of independent directors on the Board makes it unnecessary to separate the nominating function into a committee structure.

Our independent directors are primarily responsible for identifying and recommending nominees to the Board of Directors for approval of membership on the Board. The independent directors' primary responsibilities in recommending nominees are to: (1) establish criteria for the selection of new directors to become members of the Board, which criteria shall be approved by the Board; (2) lead the search for and identify individuals qualified to become members of the Board and conduct the necessary and appropriate inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible nominees; (3) consider questions of independence and possible conflicts of interest of members of the Board and executive officers, and whether a candidate has special interests or a specific agenda that would impair his or her ability to effectively represent the interest of all shareholders; (4) consider recommendations for director nominees from current directors and executive officers, shareholders and other parties they deem appropriate;

Table of Contents

(5) have the authority to retain and terminate a search firm to identify director candidates at our expense; (6) determine each proposed nominee's qualifications for service on the Board; (7) consult with the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board during the process of identifying director nominees; and (8) identify and recommend annually, or as vacancies or newly created positions occur, director nominees for approval by the Board of Directors. Further, while the Board has no formal diversity policy, the independent directors regularly review the composition and size of the Board in order to ensure that the Board is comprised of members reflecting the proper expertise, skills, attributes, diverse perspectives and personal and professional backgrounds for service as one of our directors.

The independent directors will consider nominees proposed by shareholders. Although there is no formal policy regarding shareholder nominees, the Board of Directors believes that shareholder nominees should be viewed in substantially the same manner as other nominees. The consideration of any candidate for director will be based on an assessment of the individual's background, skills and abilities, and if such characteristics qualify the individual to fulfill the needs of the Board at that time. To recommend a prospective nominee for consideration, shareholders should submit the candidate's name, contact information, biographical material and qualifications in writing to Corporate Secretary, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030. For more information regarding nominating a director, see *Shareholder Proposals*.

***Interested Party Communication with the Board.*** Shareholders and other parties interested in communicating directly with the Board, any Board committee or any Director, may do so by writing to Sinclair Board of Directors, c/o Corporate Secretary, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030. Under the process adopted by the Board, letters we receive that are addressed to members of the Board are reviewed by our Corporate Secretary who will regularly forward a summary and copies of all such correspondence to the Board.

Concerns relating to accounting, internal controls or auditing matters are immediately brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Audit Committee and handled in accordance with procedures established by the Audit Committee with respect to such matters. Shareholder communications that constitute advertising or promotion of a product or service or relate to improper or irrelevant topics will not be forwarded to the Board, any board committee or any director.

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

The members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Keith, Leader and McCanna. None of the members of our Compensation Committee at any time has been one of our officers or employees.

The following executive officers are directors of other entities that have a director or executive officer who is on our Board of Directors. David D. Smith, Frederick G. Smith and J. Duncan Smith, all of whom are executive officers and on our Board of Directors, are directors and/or executive officers of other various companies controlled by them, including Cunningham Communications, Inc., Keyser Investment Group, Inc., Gerstell Development, LP and Sinclair Relief Fund. Frederick G. Smith and J. Duncan Smith also control Beaver Dam, LLC along with Robert E. Smith. Barry M. Faber is an executive officer of Sinclair and a director of The Sinclair Relief Fund. David B. Amy is an executive officer of Sinclair and Chairman of the Board of Managers of Alarm Funding Associates, LLC and a member of the Board of Managers of Triangle. Additionally, David D. Smith is on the Board of Managers of Alarm Funding Associates, LLC. See *Related Person Transactions* for additional information regarding the previously mentioned executive officers and directors.

During 2014, none of the named executive officers participated in any final deliberations of our Compensation Committee relating to compensation of the named executive officers.

Table of Contents**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION FOR 2014**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding compensation for services rendered by our non-employee directors during the year ended December 31, 2014.

<b>Name(a)</b>	<b>Fees Earned or</b>		<b>All Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Paid in Cash</b>	<b>Stock Awards(b)</b>	<b>Compensation</b>	
Robert E. Smith(c)	\$ 47,000	\$ 91,875	\$ (c)	138,875
Daniel C. Keith	87,000	91,875		178,875
Martin R. Leader	81,000	91,875		172,875
Lawrence E. McCanna	88,500	91,875		180,375

- (a) Compensation for David D. Smith, our Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, is reported in the Summary Compensation Table included in this proxy statement. Frederick G. Smith and J. Duncan Smith are omitted from this table, as they serve as executive officers, but are not named executive officers and do not receive additional compensation for services provided as directors.
- (b) On the date of our annual meeting, each non-employee director received a grant of 3,000 shares of Class A Common Stock pursuant to the 1996 Long-Term Incentive Plan for services rendered during the preceding year. The amount presented represents the grant date fair value of the stock award computed in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 718.
- (c) Robert E. Smith is a participant in our company sponsored health care plan. Mr. Smith pays standard premiums pursuant to the plan, however, unlike a typical company participant, he is required to reimburse the Company for any health care costs in excess of \$100,000. During 2014, Mr. Smith's health care costs did not exceed \$100,000, nor did they exceed the premiums he paid; therefore, we did not have to pay for any costs during the year.

Non-employee directors receive \$35,000 for their services as a director. The Audit Committee Chairman receives an additional \$7,500 annually and the Compensation Committee Chairman receives an additional \$6,000 annually. Non-employee directors also receive \$2,000 for each Board of Directors meeting attended, \$2,500 for each audit committee meeting and special committee meeting, if any, attended and \$1,500 for each compensation committee meeting attended. We reimburse our directors for any business related travel expenses. Additionally, each non-employee director is granted unrestricted shares of Class A Common Stock upon election to the board on the date of our annual meeting of shareholders.



Table of Contents

(This page has been left blank intentionally.)

Table of Contents

**COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**Introduction.** In this section, we discuss certain aspects of our compensation program as it pertains to our President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), our Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer of the Sinclair (COO), our two Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officers of Sinclair Television Group, Inc., our Executive Vice President / General Counsel, and our Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in 2014. These individuals represent our principal executive officer, our principal financial officer (both David B Amy and Christopher S. Ripley served in this role during 2014) and our next three most highly compensated executive officers during 2014. We refer to these six persons throughout this proxy statement as the "named executive officers." Our discussion focuses on compensation and practices relating to our most recently completed fiscal year.

We believe that the performance of each of the named executive officers has the potential to impact both our short-term and long-term profitability. Our Board of Directors has established a Compensation Committee that is responsible for establishing and administering our named executive officers' and other key employees' compensation. The Compensation Committee consists of three non-employee directors, all of whom are independent under the Nasdaq listing requirements.

**General Philosophy, Objectives and Design.** We believe that our people are our most valuable resource and that the dedication and quality of our named executive officers are vital to the long-term interests of our shareholders. We have established a compensation program for our executive officers that is competitive and designed to support our strategic goals. The primary objectives of our compensation program are to attract and retain the best available people while efficiently utilizing available resources, to enhance the executive officers' overall performance, to align the long-term interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders, to improve our overall business performance and to reward individual performance. This is accomplished through a combination of base salary, long-term incentive compensation and cash bonus designed to be competitive with comparable employers in the television broadcast industry. The Compensation Committee considers both the Company's overall performance and the individual's performance when setting compensation levels. However, there are no set guidelines or policies outlining the weight of each, as the Compensation Committee assesses each factor at its discretion.

**Shareholder Say on Pay Considerations.** In 2014, we submitted an advisory vote on our executive compensation to our shareholders (also known as "Say on Pay") for the first time. Approximately 96% of our shareholders that voted approved our executive compensation. Our Board and our Compensation Committee considered the strong voting results as a shareholder endorsement of our executive compensation policies and practices, and we intend to continue to emphasize our pay-for-performance compensation philosophy that aligns long-term interests of our executives with those of our shareholders.

**Compensation Process.** Each year, the Compensation Committee reviews the prior performance of each executive officer, reviews the effectiveness of past compensation objectives and approves the compensation policies and plans for the next fiscal year. The Compensation Committee assesses each executive officer's operational abilities, leadership skills, and potential to contribute to long-term shareholder value. Executive officers have access to the Compensation Committee to present and discuss their own performance and compensation plan. At times, the Compensation Committee may specifically request meetings with executive officers to gain a full understanding and exploration of assessed attributes. Our President and Chief Executive Officer, David D. Smith, and our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, David B. Amy, consult with the Compensation Committee on appropriate compensation for executive officers other than themselves. In addition, our Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Donald H. Thompson, presents information and recommendations to the Compensation Committee based on market evaluations. In determining the amount of executive officer compensation each year, the Compensation Committee reviews competitive market data from the broadcast and media industry as well as other similarly sized companies comparable to us, including those companies we have determined to be in our peer group. The Compensation Committee does not benchmark executive officer

Table of Contents

compensation against competitive market data or our peer group. However, when determining the levels of base salary, cash bonuses and equity awards of our executive officers, our Compensation Committee uses market data in combination with an analysis of other factors including company and individual performance and executive officer responsibilities.

For 2014, the Compensation Committee determined that our peer group consisted of the following companies in our industry:

Gray Television, Inc.

Meredith Corporation

LIN Media LLC

Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc.

Belo Corporation

Media General, Inc.

Cumulus Media Inc.

Scripps Network Interactive

In addition, the Compensation Committee considers information from salary surveys to evaluate compensation for similar positions taking into account geographic location and the companies' revenue size. These surveys included CompAnalyst / Kenexa, Towers Watson and Mercer reports. While we review these surveys, we do not formally engage outside compensation consultants.

All final compensation decisions regarding executive officers are made by the Compensation Committee with the exception that decisions regarding "performance-based compensation under Section 162(m)" and all compensation decisions for Mr. David D. Smith, Mr. Frederick G. Smith and Mr. J. Duncan Smith are made by the independent directors serving on the Compensation Committee.

**Primary Elements of Compensation.** We provide a competitive mix of compensation elements that align executive officer compensation with shareholder value. Our compensation program includes both short and long-term compensation in the form of base salary, long-term incentive compensation and cash bonus as discussed below. We believe that these compensation components provide an appropriate mix of fixed and variable pay, balances short-term operation performance with long-term shareholder value and encourages executive recruitment and retention, which aligns with our compensation philosophy and objectives.

**Base Salary.** Base salaries are not objectively determined, but instead reflect levels that we concluded were appropriate based upon our general experience. Base salary is designed to provide competitive levels of compensation to our executive officers based upon their experience, professional status, accomplishments, duties and scope of responsibility. As noted above under *Compensation Process*, also taken into consideration when establishing base salaries are salaries paid by our competitors for similar positions within the television broadcast industry as well as salaries paid by companies outside of our industry for comparable positions. In addition to market comparisons, the Compensation Committee considers individual performance when determining base salary.

**Long-Term Incentive Compensation.** Our compensation program includes long-term incentive compensation, paid in the form of restricted stock awards, stock-settled appreciation rights (SARs), stock options, and other long-term incentive cash bonuses including Special Longevity Bonus and Special Incentive Bonus awards payable to certain executive officers at future dates pursuant to their respective employment agreements (See *Employment Agreements* below). We have elected to pay long-term incentive compensation in order to provide an incentive for our executive officers to provide strong returns to our shareholders, to better align the interests of our executive officers with those of our shareholders, to continue long-term leadership in the service of the Company and to ensure a competitive compensation program given the market prevalence of equity compensation.

Our restricted Class A Common Stock awards are granted pursuant to the Company's 1996 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the LTIP) and are time-based awards requiring the executive officer to remain employed by the Company in order for the restricted stock to vest, which is generally over two years.



Table of Contents

SARs granted pursuant to the LTIP, have a 10-year term and are fully vested upon grant. Upon exercise of SARs, the holder would receive a number of shares of Class A Common Stock, equal in value to the difference between the SARs' base value and the per share closing price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on the date of exercise for the number of SARs being exercised.

Stock options granted pursuant to the LTIP have a 10-year term have exercise prices equal to the fair value of the Class A Common Stock on the date of grant, and may or may not have certain vesting conditions.

When granting equity awards, consideration is given to company and employee performance, but awards are made at the discretion of the Compensation Committee under no objective guidelines. Grants of equity awards are valued only at the closing price of our stock on the date of grant. We try to make grants of equity awards at times when they will not be influenced by scheduled releases of information or while we otherwise do not possess material, non-public information, but we have no formal policy as to the timing of equity grants.

Effective November 2011, certain executive officers became entitled to a Special Longevity Bonus, as defined in their respective employment agreements, providing for a single lump sum cash payment due to the executive officer at a specified future date. These Special Longevity Bonuses are time-based awards requiring the executive officer to remain employed by the Company in order to receive the bonus payments over periods ranging from three to seven years.

**Cash Bonus.** Our compensation philosophy is to primarily award cash bonuses to those that have a direct influence on our ongoing revenue and television operating performance. Based on this criteria, in early 2014, the Compensation Committee determined that Steven M. Marks, Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Television Group, Inc., who oversees operations of certain television stations, and our CEO would be eligible to receive a performance-based cash bonus for 2014 performance. The purpose of Mr. Marks and the CEO's cash bonus is to promote the attainment of specific financial goals and reward achievement of those goals. We favor an objective approach when measuring the cash bonus. The Compensation Committee determines at its discretion the maximum bonus amounts paid.

The CEO is eligible for a quarterly cash bonus. For 2014, the CEO was eligible for maximum quarterly bonuses of \$250,000 for each of the first, second, third and fourth quarters and was dependent on the generation of certain television broadcast cash flow (BCF) targets. Mr. Marks' cash bonus is categorized into two components: a quarterly cash bonus and an annual cash bonus. For 2014, Mr. Marks was eligible for maximum quarterly bonus amounts of \$30,780 per quarter and for a maximum annual bonus of \$300,000, dependent on the generation of certain BCF targets. Additionally, Mr. Marks was eligible for maximum quarterly bonus amounts of \$3,420 per quarter, dependent upon the generation of certain digital interactive / internet revenue targets. BCF is a non-GAAP measure reflective of our television assets' operating performance. We believe this measure best captures our CEO's and Mr. Marks' influence over our revenue and television operating performance. In the event that certain events take place that were not contemplated at the time the targets were determined, the Compensation Committee can adjust the targets to exclude the effect of these events. Examples of such events include acquisitions, dispositions and changes in accounting rules. In addition, we target the amount of BCF used in individual bonus determinations at amounts commensurate with the executive's sphere of influence. BCF is calculated as GAAP operating income plus corporate general and administrative expenses, stock-based compensation, depreciation and amortization, impairments, other operating divisions expenses and other non-cash charges less other operating divisions' revenues, non-cash revenue and cash film payments.

The CEO's and Mr. Marks' quarterly bonus is paid on a sliding scale. If actual quarterly BCF is equal to or in excess of the targeted quarterly BCF for a particular quarter, then 100% of the maximum quarterly

Table of Contents

bonus attributable to BCF is paid. For any particular quarter, if actual quarterly BCF is between 95% and 99.9% of budgeted quarterly BCF, then 25% to 95% of the maximum quarterly bonus is paid as follows:

Percentage Achievement of Budgeted BCF	Payout % of Maximum Quarterly Bonus for BCF
95 - 95.9%	25%
96 - 96.9%	40%
97 - 97.9%	65%
98 - 98.9%	80%
99 - 99.4%	90%
99.5 - 99.9%	95%

If actual quarterly BCF is less than 95% of budgeted BCF, then no quarterly bonus is paid. However, included in the cash bonus is an annual bonus catch-up provision. If at the end of the year, the annual actual BCF is greater than the annual targeted BCF and the fourth quarter's actual quarterly BCF is greater than 95% of such quarter's targeted quarterly BCF, an annual bonus calculation is determined using the quarterly percentage achievement targets and a corresponding quarterly payout percentage. Any excess in the annual bonus calculated over the quarterly bonuses paid will also be paid. For 2014, the CEO's targeted BCF for the first, second, third and fourth quarters were \$126.6 million, \$154.5 million, \$151.6 million and \$212.1 million, respectively. During 2014, actual BCF relative to the CEO exceeded targeted BCF for one of the quarters, therefore received the maximum payout and was paid according to the sliding scale noted above for the other three quarters. The CEO was paid an aggregate of \$675,000 in accordance with the sliding scale noted above. For 2014, Mr. Marks' targeted BCF, which is adjusted for certain revenue and expense items for which Mr. Marks does not have direct responsibility or influence over, for the first, second, third and fourth quarters was \$50.8 million, \$64.6 million, \$62.1 million and \$107.3 million, respectively. Mr. Marks exceeded the minimum 95% of budgeted BCF for two of the four quarters and was paid \$44,631 in accordance with the sliding scale noted above. Additionally, for 2014, Mr. Marks exceeded the targeted digital interactive/internet revenues all four quarters and thus 100% of the maximum of the quarterly digital interactive/internet bonus was paid, totaling \$13,680.

**Retirement Plans.** Our compensation program includes retirement plans designed to provide income following a named executive officer's retirement. Our executive officers can participate in The Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan and Trust (the 401(k) Plan). Contributions made to the 401(k) Plan are matched by the Company, typically in the form of our Class A Common Stock. The match is discretionary and typically equal to 50% of elective deferrals, up to 4% of each executive officer's total cash compensation subject to Internal Revenue Service regulations. In addition, the Compensation Committee has the ability to make additional discretionary contributions to the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of all employees including executive officers. Calculations of targeted overall compensation for executive officers do not include the benefits expected to be received under the 401(k) Plan. Executive officers participate in the 401(k) Plan on the same terms as all other employees.

**Deferred Compensation Plan.** Effective January 1, 2014, we established a nonqualified benefit plan provided to a select group of highly compensated employees as determined by the Company. The plan is a voluntary program that allows participants to defer eligible compensation for a minimum of five years up to normal retirement age, and make investments elections for the deferred compensation. Employees may defer up to 80% of their compensation and/or 100% of certain bonuses. Participants may receive an employer discretionary match on their deferral, or other discretionary employer contributions. Elective deferrals are 100% vested upon contribution. Any employer discretionary contributions vest in increments of 25% each year of service, and is fully vested after 4 years of service, with all prior service credited towards vesting, or upon disability, death, or attainment of age 65.

Table of Contents

**Perquisites and Other Benefits.** Perquisites and other benefits represent a minimal amount of the executive officers' compensation. The Compensation Committee annually reviews the perquisites that executive officers receive. The primary perquisites for executive officers are tickets to sporting events and certain business entertainment events and related expenses.

Executive officers also participate in our other benefit plans on the same terms as all other employees. These other plans include medical, dental and vision insurance, disability and life insurance and the employee stock purchase plan.

**Employment Agreements.** We do not have an employment agreement with David D. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer. Below is a description of the employment agreements we have entered into with our other named executive officers:

In September 1998, we entered into an employment agreement with David B. Amy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, which was amended and restated in November 2011. The agreement does not have any specified termination date and we have the right to terminate the employment of Mr. Amy at any time, with or without cause. Payment due upon termination, in addition to any earned but unpaid normal compensation and benefits as of the termination date, in the event of death or disability is equal to the current base salary through the end of the month in which termination occurs. In the event of termination without cause or for good reason, Mr. Amy will also receive one additional month of base salary. Mr. Amy received a base salary for 2014 of \$850,000. Further, Mr. Amy's employment agreement entitled him to receive a \$3,000,000 Special Longevity Bonus which was paid during 2014. The agreement also contains non-competition and confidentiality restrictions on Mr. Amy.

In March 2014, we entered into an employment agreement with Christopher Ripley joining the Company effective April 1, 2014 as Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Ripley received a base salary for 2014 of \$750,000. Under the agreement, he has the right to earn an annual performance bonus at the discretion of the Company's Compensation Committee (the "Performance Bonus"). Provided his employment has not been earlier terminated, and subject to a limit on the total cumulative intrinsic value realized of \$20 million, on December 31 of each of his first eight years of employment, beginning with 2014, Mr. Ripley will receive immediately exercisable options to purchase 125,000 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock. Any such options will be governed by the Company's 1996 Long Term Incentive Plan, as amended, or any successor plan. On December 31, 2014, Mr. Ripley received options to purchase 125,000 shares of Class A Common Stock at an exercise price of \$27.36. Mr. Ripley's employment agreement provides that in the event his employment is terminated by the Company without cause or by Mr. Ripley for good reason (as such terms are defined therein), in either case prior to December 31, 2015, he would be entitled to a payment equal to two times the sum of (i) his annual base salary, (ii) the Performance Bonus payable to him for his 2014 services (or, if termination occurs prior to the determination of his eligibility for a Performance Bonus, 50% of his annual base salary), and (iii) the value of the stock options that were, or would have been, granted to him on December 31, 2014. In the event any such termination occurs after December 31, 2015, Mr. Ripley will be entitled to a payment equal to the sum of (i) his annual base salary, (ii) the average of any Performance Bonuses paid to him for the two calendar years immediately preceding the effective date of the termination, and (iii) the value of the stock options received by him on the immediately preceding December 31. The severance payment due upon death or disability, is equal to the current base salary through the end of month in which termination occurs and one month of base salary or each full year of continuous employment, in addition to any earned but unpaid normal compensation and benefits as of the termination date. The agreement also contains non-competition and confidentiality restrictions on Mr. Ripley.

In August 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Barry M. Faber, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, which was amended and restated in November 2011. The agreement

Table of Contents

does not have any specified termination date and we have the right to terminate the employment of Mr. Faber at any time, with or without cause. Mr. Faber received a base salary for 2014 of \$819,000. Effective November 2011, Mr. Faber is entitled to a Special Longevity Bonus, as defined in the agreement, providing for a single lump sum cash payment of \$2,500,000 due at the earlier of the September 3, 2016, upon change-in-control or termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the employee with good reason. Additionally, upon termination of employment as a result of death or disability, a percentage of the Special Longevity Bonus will be paid, determined by the total cumulative days of service divided by total days of service that would have been provided through September 3, 2016. Payment due upon termination, in addition to the Special Longevity Bonus discussed above and any earned but unpaid normal compensation and benefits as of the termination date, in the event of death or disability is equal to the current base salary through the end of the month in which termination occurs. In the event of termination without cause or for good reason, Mr. Faber will also receive one additional month of base salary. The agreement also contains non-competition and confidentiality restrictions on Mr. Faber.

In February 1997, we entered into an employment agreement with Steven M. Marks, Vice President and Co-Chief Operating Officer of Sinclair Television Group, Inc., which was amended and restated in November 2011. The agreement does not have any specified termination date and we have the right to terminate the employment of Mr. Marks at any time, with or without cause. Mr. Marks received a base salary for 2014 of \$850,000. Effective November 2011, Mr. Marks is entitled to a Special Longevity Bonus, as defined in the agreement, providing for a single lump sum cash payment of \$2,750,000 due at the earlier of the November 19, 2018, upon change-in-control or termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the employee with good reason. Additionally, upon termination of employment as a result of death or disability, a percentage of the Special Longevity Bonus will be paid, determined by the total cumulative days of service divided by total days of service that would have been provided through November 19, 2018. Payment due upon termination, in addition to the Special Longevity Bonus discussed above and any earned but unpaid normal compensation and benefits as of the termination date, in the event of death or disability is equal to the current base salary through the end of the month in which termination occurs. In the event of termination without cause or for good reason, Mr. Marks will also receive one additional month of base salary. The agreement also contains non-competition and confidentiality restrictions on Mr. Marks.

In April 2013, we entered into an employment agreement with Steven J. Pruett, joining the company effective April 1, 2013, as Vice President and Co-Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Pruett received a base salary for 2014 of \$650,000. The agreement does not have any specified termination date and we have the right to terminate the employment of Mr. Pruett at any time, with or without cause. Mr. Pruett is eligible for a Special Incentive Bonus which provides for a performance-based payment to the extent of an increase in the Enterprise Value, as defined in the agreement, of certain television stations, between April 1, 2013 and the earliest of December 31, 2018; the date of receipt of the consideration related to a change-in-control; the termination of Mr. Pruett's employment as a result of his death or disability, by the company without cause, or by Mr. Pruett for good reason; or change in control provided that Mr. Pruett remains continuously employed until such time. The amount of the Special Incentive Bonus will be a fixed percentage of the increase in the Enterprise Value of certain television stations, which will be 1.5% until March 31, 2015, 3% from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, 4.5% from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, and 6% thereafter. In all instances other than change in control, the amount of the Special Incentive Bonus will be 80% of such amount described above. The Special Incentive Bonus may not exceed \$15 million. Payment due upon termination, in addition to the Special Incentive Bonus discussed above and any earned but unpaid normal compensation and benefits as of the termination date, in the event of death or disability is equal to the current base salary through the end of the month in which termination occurs. In the event of termination without cause or for good reason, Mr. Pruett will also receive the sum of the



Table of Contents

current annual base salary and the average of any performance bonus paid to Mr. Pruett over the preceding two calendar years. The agreement also contains non-competition and confidentiality restrictions on Mr. Pruett.

**Accounting and Tax Consideration.** Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Section 162 (m)), does not allow publicly held companies to obtain tax deductions for compensation of more than \$1.0 million paid in any year to any employee who is treated as a "Covered Employee" unless such payments are "qualified performance-based" as defined by the applicable treasury regulations. "Covered Employee" definition, as amended by Notice 2007-49, includes the Company's CEO and any of the Company's three other most highly compensated executive officers (other than the CEO and the CFO) who are employed as of the end of the year. Exceptions are made for qualified performance-based compensation awarded by the Compensation Committee, among other things. Under the tax rules, the Compensation Committee must be comprised solely of two or more outside directors. In 2013, we received shareholder approval of certain performance criteria and other award terms for a qualified performance-based incentive program intended to preclude the deduction limitation requirements pursuant to Section 162(m) meeting of shareholders. While the Compensation Committee considers the Section 162(m) exceptions and desires to meet the requirements of Section 162(m) for deductibility when appropriate and consistent with the compensation goals, not all compensation paid to our executive officers may qualify for tax deductibility. Further, because of ambiguities and uncertainties under Section 162(m), we cannot give any assurance that compensation that we intend to satisfy the requirements for deductibility under Section 162(m) will in fact be deductible.

As a general matter, we determine and implement compensation elements based on their alignment with our compensation philosophy and objectives and not based on any unique or preferential accounting or tax treatment.

**Executive Compensation Actions After December 31, 2014.** For 2015, compensation was set by the Compensation Committee as follows:

Name	Base Salary	Maximum Total Quarterly Bonus	Maximum Annual Bonus
David D. Smith	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$
David B. Amy	869,000		
Steven M. Marks	869,000	148,000	300,000
Barry M. Faber	837,425		
Christopher S. Ripley	766,875		
Steven J. Pruett	750,000	100,000	

The Compensation Committee also granted restricted stock awards to named executive officers, except Mr. David D. Smith and Mr. Ripley, in accordance with the discussion under "Long-Term Incentive Compensation" above. Messrs. Amy, Marks, and Mr. Faber were granted restricted stock awards of 20,000, 7,500, and 20,000 shares, respectively. Additionally, the Compensation Committee granted Mr. David Smith 310,000 SARs.

Table of Contents

**Compensation Committee Report**

*The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any previous or future filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each as amended, except to the extent that the Company incorporated it by specific reference.*

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in or incorporated by reference into the Company's annual report on Form 10-K and the Company's proxy statement on Schedule 14A.

Compensation Committee

Daniel C. Keith, Chairman

Martin R. Leader

Lawrence E. McCanna

27

---

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation Table for 2014, 2013 and 2012**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding compensation for services rendered in all capacities during the year ended December 31, 2014 by our named executive officers.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Stock Awards (a)	Annual bonus (b)	Option Awards (c)	Non-equity Incentive Plan	All Other Compensation	Total
						Compensation (d)		
David D. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer	2014	\$ 1,000,000	\$	\$	\$ 2,620,000	\$ 675,000	\$	\$ 4,295,000
	2013	1,000,000			3,155,000	1,000,000		5,155,000
	2012	1,000,000			1,952,000	1,000,000		3,952,000
Christopher S. Ripley, Chief Financial Officer	2014	562,500(g)			1,073,817			1,636,317
David B. Amy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer(e)	2014	850,000	557,200				3,030,225(f)	4,437,425
	2013	753,000	710,500					1,463,500
	2012	716,056	292,000	25,000				1,008,056
Barry M. Faber, Executive Vice President / General Counsel	2014	819,000	584,200				26,265	1,429,465
	2013	725,400	710,500					1,435,900
	2012	689,585	292,000	25,000				981,585
Steven M. Marks, Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer	2014	850,000	111,440			58,311	9,720	1,029,471
	2013	825,000	284,200			192,800		1,302,000
	2012	784,088	140,160			422,255		1,346,503
Steven J. Pruett, Vice President / Co-Chief Operating Officer	2014	650,000		175,000				825,000

- (a) Represents the grant date fair value, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, of restricted stock awards granted in 2014, 2013 and 2012. For further information regarding assumptions made in the valuation of stock awards, see *Note 4. Stock-Based Compensation Plans* to our consolidated financial statements and related footnotes in our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as, the *Grants of Plan-Based Awards* table below. Dividends are paid on all stock awarded after the issuance of such award at the same rate and time as paid to other stockholders as declared by our Board from time to time.
- (b) Represents discretionary bonuses earned and approved by the Compensation Committee.
- (c) Represents the grant date fair value, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, of SARs and stock options granted in 2014, 2013 and 2012. For further information regarding assumptions made in the valuation of stock awards, see *Note 4. Stock-Based Compensation Plan* to our consolidated financial statements and related footnotes in our 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as, the *Grants of Plan-Based Awards* table below.
- (d) Mr. Smith's and Mr. Marks' cash bonus in proportion to salary is dependent on their performance pursuant to the cash bonus calculation as well as market evaluations. See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* above for further information.
- (e) Mr. Amy served as the Company's Chief Financial Officer until March 31, 2014 and the entire years of 2013 and 2012.
- (f) Includes the \$3,000,000 payment of the Special Longevity Bonus due in accordance with employment agreement. See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis, Employment Agreements*, for more information.
- (g)

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

Mr. Ripley had an annual base salary of \$750,000 for 2014. He has served as Chief Financial Officer since April 1, 2014.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2014**

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(a)			All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options	All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (b)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum				
David D. Smith	2/11/2014	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	200,000		\$ 27.86	\$ 2,620,000(c)
Christopher S. Ripley	12/31/2014				125,000		27.36	1,073,817(d)
David B. Amy	2/11/2014					20,000		557,200(e)
Barry M. Faber	2/11/2014					8,000		222,880(e)
	6/17/2014					12,000		361,320(e)
Steven M. Marks	2/11/2014	34,200	136,800	436,800		4,000		111,440(e)
Steven J. Pruett								

- (a) Threshold reflects the minimum payment that Mr. Smith and Mr. Marks are eligible to receive if one quarter's actual BCF exceeds targeted BCF. For Mr. Smith, target and maximum are reflective of quarterly BCF exceeding each respective quarterly targeted BCF in the first, second, third and fourth quarters. For Mr. Marks, target is reflective of each quarterly BCF exceeding each respective quarterly targeted BCF and maximum is reflective of target plus his annual bonus component. For further information regarding Mr. Smith and Mr. Marks' cash bonuses, see the *Primary Elements of Compensation - Cash Bonus* section of the *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* above. During 2014, no other named executive officers were eligible to receive non-equity incentive plan awards. For information related to actual non-equity incentive plan awards see *Summary Compensation Table for 2014, 2013 and 2012* above.
- (b) This column shows the full grant date fair value of restricted stock awards, stock options and SARs. The grant date fair values of the restricted stock, stock options and SARs awards were computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 and do not include estimates for forfeitures. There can be no assurance that the FASB ASC Topic 718 amounts shown in this table will ever be realized by the named executive officer. Dividends are paid on all stock awarded after the issuance of such award at the same rate and time as paid to other stockholders as declared by our Board from time to time. For further information regarding restricted stock, stock options and SARs awards, see the *Primary Elements of Compensation - Long-Term Incentive Compensation* section of the *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* above.
- (c) Our common stock's closing price per share on February 11, 2014 (the grant date for all SARs) was \$27.86. The SARs awards vested immediately.
- (d) Our common stock's closing price per share on December 31, 2014 (the grant date for all options) was \$27.36. The option awards vested immediately.
- (e) Our common stock's closing price per share on February 11, 2014 and June 17, 2014 (the grant dates for all RSAs) was \$27.86 and \$30.11, respectively. Restrictions on restricted stock granted in 2014 lapse over two years at 50% and 50%, respectively. Restricted stock award vesting is not dependent on future performance levels; rather it is dependent solely on future employment with the Company.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End for 2014**

The following table provides certain information about all equity compensation awards held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2014. All options and SARs held by named executive officers are exercisable.

Name	Option Awards			Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable	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(a)
David D. Smith					\$
	200,000(b)	\$ 27.86	02/11/2024		
	500,000(b)	14.21	02/05/2023		
	400,000(b)	11.68	03/09/2022		
	300,000(b)	12.07	03/22/2021		
	200,000(b)	15.78	04/02/2017		
Christopher S. Ripley					\$
	125,000(b)	\$ 27.36	12/31/2024		
David B. Amy		\$		45,000(c)	\$ 1,231,200
Barry M. Faber		\$		45,000(d)	\$ 1,231,200
Steven M. Marks		\$		14,000(e)	\$ 383,040
Steven J. Pruett		\$			\$

(a) Based on closing market price of \$27.36 per share on December 31, 2014.

(b) SARs and Options are fully vested on the grant date

(c) 25,000 shares will vest on February 5, 2015. 10,000 shares will vest on each of February 11, 2015 and 2016.

(d) 25,000 shares will vest on February 5, 2015. 4,000 shares will vest on each of February 11, 2015 and 2016. 6,000 shares will vest on each of June 17, 2015 and 2016.

(e) 10,000 shares will vest on February 5, 2015. 2,000 shares will vest on each February 11, 2015 and 2016.

Table of Contents**Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

The following table provides information regarding the exercise of options, includes SARs, and vesting of shares of restricted stock held by the named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2014.

Name	Option/SARs Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Options/SARs Exercised	Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting(a)
David D. Smith		\$		\$
Christopher S. Ripley				
David B. Amy			37,500	1,054,500
Barry M. Faber			37,500	1,054,500
Steven M. Marks			16,000	449,600
Steven J. Pruett				

(a) Represents the total value realized upon the vesting of restricted shares using the average of the high and low prices of our common stock on the vesting dates.

Table of Contents**Potential Post-Employment Payments and Benefits**

The following table sets forth the potential payments if termination of employment or a change in control for each named executive officer had occurred on December 31, 2014.

<b>Benefits and Payments upon Termination</b>	<b>Termination without cause or by employee for good reason</b>	<b>Termination with cause or by employee without good reason</b>	<b>Change in Control</b>	<b>Death or Disability</b>
David D. Smith	\$	\$	\$	\$
Christopher S. Ripley				
Severance Payment(c)	\$ 3,647,634	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$ 3,647,634	\$	\$	\$
David B. Amy				
Severance Payment(a)	\$ 70,833	\$	\$	\$
Restricted Stock(b)	1,231,200		1,231,200	1,231,200
Total	\$ 1,302,033	\$	\$ 1,231,200	\$ 1,231,200
Barry M. Faber				
Severance Payment(a)	\$ 2,568,250	\$	\$ 2,568,250	\$ 2,279,539
Restricted Stock(b)	1,231,200		1,231,200	1,231,200
Total	\$ 3,799,450	\$	\$ 3,799,450	\$ 3,510,739
Steven M. Marks				
Severance Payment(a)	\$ 2,820,833	\$	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,408,864
Restricted Stock(b)	383,040		383,040	383,040
Total	\$ 3,203,873	\$	\$ 3,133,040	\$ 2,791,904
Steven J. Pruett				
Severance Payment(a)	\$ 704,166	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$ 704,166	\$	\$	\$

---

(a)



## Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form DEF 14A

Represents the severance payment due based on the terms of their employment agreements. See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis, Employment Agreements*, for more information.

(b)

Based on closing market price of \$27.36 per share on December 31, 2014. Restricted stock immediately vests upon a change in control, death or disability, as defined in the LTIP. In April 2013, the Compensation Committee approved a change to the LTIP such that restricted stock immediately vests upon termination by the Company without cause or by the employee for good reason.

(c)

Represents the severance payment due based on the terms of his employment agreement. If terminated without cause or by the employee for good reason prior to December 31, 2015, then Mr. Ripley would receive a cash payment equal to two times the sum of (1) his annual base salary (\$750,000), (2) any performance bonuses received for 2014, and (3) the fair value of stock options granted at December 31, 2014 (\$1,073,817). See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis, Employment Agreements*, for more information.

Table of Contents**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The equity compensation plan information as of December 31, 2014 was as follows:

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights(a)</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights(b)</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights)(c)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	1,006,798	\$ 15.97	8,534,870
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,006,798</b>	<b>\$ 15.97</b>	<b>8,534,870</b>

- 
- (a) Includes 125,000 shares of Class A Common Stock related to stock options outstanding. Also includes 881,798 shares of Class A Common Stock which would have been issued if Mr. Smith exercised his 1,600,000 SARs with exercise prices ranging from \$11.68 to \$27.86 on December 31, 2014. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock issued is determined by dividing the amount from the difference between the aggregate market value of the shares underlying the SARs and the aggregate exercise price of the SARs by the market share price on the date of exercise. The amounts do not reflect 130,500 shares of unvested restricted stock as of December 31, 2014.
- (b) The weighted average exercise price is based on 125,000 outstanding stock options with an exercise price of \$27.36 and 1,600,000 SARs with exercise prices ranging from \$11.68 to \$27.86.
- (c) This amount reflects the total shares available for future issuance under the Company's LTIP, which includes the issuance of stock awards, and the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

**SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, requires our officers (as defined in the SEC regulations), directors and persons who beneficially own more than ten percent of a registered class of our equity securities, to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. Officers, directors and greater than ten percent shareholders are required by SEC regulation to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

Based solely on a review of copies of such reports of ownership furnished to us, or written representations that no forms were necessary, we believe that during the past fiscal year our officers, directors and greater than ten percent beneficial owners complied with all applicable filing requirements, except that, J. Duncan. Smith did not file one report on Form 4, reporting the gifting of Class A Common Stock to an unrelated third party, on a timely basis. The report on Form 4, originally due August 26, 2013 was filed with the SEC on April 6, 2015.

Table of Contents

(This page has been left blank intentionally.)

Table of Contents

**RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS**

Our related person transaction policy covers any transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships in which the Company was or is to be a participant, wherein the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and a related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest. The Board of Directors has determined that certain transactions falling within the characteristics above do not create a material direct or indirect interest on behalf of the related person, and are, therefore, not deemed to be related person transactions.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors reviews all material related person transactions and may approve or ratify the related person transaction only if the Audit Committee determines that, under all of the circumstances, the transaction is in, or is not inconsistent with, the best interests of the Company. The Audit Committee may, in its sole discretion, impose such conditions as it deems appropriate on the Company or the related person in connection with approval of the related person transaction.

Any related person transaction previously approved by the Audit Committee or otherwise already existing that is ongoing in nature shall be reviewed by the Committee annually to ensure that such related person transaction has been conducted in accordance with the previous approval granted by the Committee, if any, and that all required disclosures regarding the related person transaction are made.

Prior to the adoption of our related person transaction policy, consistent with the Nasdaq listing requirements and the Audit Committee charter, the Audit Committee reviewed or approved all related person transactions requiring disclosure under SEC regulations to the extent such transactions were entered into or amended since February 2004. Certain of the following transactions were not approved pursuant to the current related person transaction policy because they were entered into before the policy's existence.

***Transactions with our controlling shareholders***

David, Frederick, J. Duncan and Robert Smith (collectively, the controlling shareholders) are brothers and hold substantially all of the Class B Common Stock and some of our Class A Common Stock. We engaged in the following transactions with them and/or entities in which they have substantial interests.

*Leases.* Certain assets used by us and our operating subsidiaries are leased from Cunningham Communications Inc., Keyser Investment Group, Gerstell Development Limited Partnership and Beaver Dam, LLC (entities owned by the controlling shareholders). Lease payments made to these entities were \$5.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014.

*Charter Aircraft.* From time to time, we charter aircraft owned by certain controlling shareholders. We incurred expenses of \$1.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2014. These transactions have been approved pursuant to the current related person transaction policy.

***Cunningham Broadcasting Corporation***

As of December 31, 2014, Cunningham was the owner-operator and FCC licensee of: WNUV-TV Baltimore, Maryland; WRGT-TV Dayton, Ohio; WVAH-TV Charleston, West Virginia; WMYA-TV Anderson, South Carolina; WTTE-TV Columbus, Ohio; WDBB-TV Birmingham, Alabama; WBSF-TV Flint, Michigan; and WGTU-TV/WGTQ-TV Traverse City/Cadillac, Michigan (collectively, the Cunningham Stations), as well as WTAT-TV Charleston, South Carolina, and WYZZ Peoria/Bloomington, IL.

During the first quarter of 2013, the estate of Carolyn C. Smith, a parent of our controlling shareholders, distributed all of the non-voting stock owned by the estate to our controlling shareholders, and a portion was repurchased by Cunningham for \$1.7 million in the aggregate. During the second quarter of 2014, Cunningham purchased the remaining amount of non-voting stock from the controlling shareholders for an aggregate purchase price of \$2.0 million. The estate of Mrs. Smith currently owns all of

Table of Contents

the voting stock. The sale of the voting stock by the estate to an unrelated party is pending approval of the FCC. We also had options from the trusts, which granted us the right to acquire, subject to applicable FCC rules and regulations, 100% of the voting and nonvoting stock of Cunningham, up until September 30, 2014, when these options were terminated.

As of December 31, 2014, certain of our stations provide programming, sales and managerial services pursuant to LMAs to six of the Cunningham stations: WNUV-TV, WRGT-TV, WVAH-TV, WMYA-TV, WTTE-TV, and WDBB-TV (collectively, the Cunningham LMA Stations). Each of these LMAs has a current term that expires on July 1, 2016 and there are three additional five year renewal terms remaining with final expiration on July 1, 2031. We also executed purchase agreements to acquire the license related assets of these stations from Cunningham, which grant us the right to acquire, and grant Cunningham the right to require us to acquire, subject to applicable FCC rules and regulations, 100% of the capital stock or the assets of these individual subsidiaries of Cunningham. Our applications to acquire these license related assets are pending FCC approval. The LMA and purchase agreement with WTAT-TV was terminated concurrent with Cunningham's purchase of the non-license assets of this station from us for \$14.0 million, effective August 1, 2014. We no longer have any continuing involvement in the operations of this station.

Pursuant to the terms of the LMAs, options and other agreements, beginning on January 1, 2013, we were obligated to pay Cunningham an annual LMA fee for the television stations equal to the greater of (i) 3% of each station's annual net broadcast revenue and (ii) \$5.0 million, of which a portion of this fee will be credited toward the purchase price to the extent of the annual 6% increase. Additionally, we reimburse these Cunningham LMA Stations for 100% of their operating costs. In July 2014, concurrent with the termination of the LMA with WTAT-TV the total LMA fee for the remaining Cunningham LMA Stations was reduced by \$4.7 million to remove the fee associated with WTAT-TV. The remaining aggregate purchase price of these stations, excluding WTAT-TV, as of December 31, 2014 was approximately \$53.6 million. We made payments to Cunningham under our LMAs with these stations of \$10.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. For the year ended December 31, 2014, Cunningham LMA Stations provided us with approximately \$103.5 million of total revenue.

Additionally, Cunningham owns the license related assets of WBSF-TV and WGTU-TV/WGTQ-TV. Cunningham funded the acquisitions of these assets in 2013 with bank debt, for which we have provided a guarantee. We provide certain non-programming related sales, operational and administrative services to these stations pursuant to certain outsourcing agreements. The agreements with WBSF-TV and WGTU-TV/WGTQ-TV expire in November 2021 and August 2015, respectively, and each has renewal provisions for successive eight year periods. Under these arrangements, we earned \$6.0 million from the services we perform for these stations for the year ended December 31, 2014. As we consolidate the licensees as VIEs, the amounts we earn under the arrangements are eliminated in consolidation and the gross revenues of the stations are reported within our consolidated statement of operations. For the year ended December 31, 2014, our consolidated revenues include \$7.8 million related to these stations.

***Atlantic Automotive Corporation***

We sold advertising time to and purchased vehicles and related vehicle services from Atlantic Automotive Corporation (Atlantic Automotive), a holding company that owns automobile dealerships and an automobile leasing company. David D. Smith, our President and Chief Executive Officer, has a controlling interest in, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Atlantic Automotive. We received payments for advertising totaling \$0.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2014. No payments for vehicles or vehicles related services from Atlantic Automotive during the year ended December 31, 2014. Additionally, Atlantic Automotive leases office space from Towson City Center, LLC (Towson City Center), a subsidiary of one of our real estate ventures. Atlantic Automotive paid \$1.0 million in rent during the year ended December 31, 2014. Arrangements with Atlantic Automotive have been approved pursuant to the current related person transaction policy.

Table of Contents

*Leased property by real estate ventures*

Certain of our real estate ventures have entered into leases with entities owned by David Smith to lease restaurant space. There are leases for three restaurants in a building owned by one of our consolidated real estate ventures in Baltimore, MD. Total rent received under these leases was \$0.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. There is also one lease for a restaurant in a building owned by one of our real estate ventures, accounted for under the equity method, in Towson, MD. This investment received \$0.3 million in rent pursuant to the lease for the years ended December 31, 2014. All of these arrangements have been approved pursuant to the current related person transaction policy.

**Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

We have adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to all of our directors, officers and employees (including our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief accounting officer and corporate controller and any person performing similar functions). We have made the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics available on our website at [www.sbgi.net](http://www.sbgi.net). We will disclose promptly any waiver from or amendment to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for our executive officers or directors as required by law, SEC regulations or Nasdaq listing requirements, by posting such disclosure on our website.

Table of Contents

**AUDIT COMMITTEE, AUDIT FEES AND AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE**

**Report of the Audit Committee**

*The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any previous or future filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, each as amended, except to the extent that the Company incorporated it by specific reference.*

The Audit Committee has received from Sinclair's independent registered public accounting firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), written disclosures and the letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, regarding PwC's independence, including communications between PwC and us regarding PwC's independence, and has discussed with PwC its independence. The Audit Committee has discussed whether the provision of non-audit services by PwC is compatible with maintaining PwC's independence. PwC has stated that it believes that it is in full compliance with all of the independence standards established under generally accepted auditing standards and the rules of the SEC. The Audit Committee concurs, and has approved all non-audit services provided by PwC in 2014. The Audit Committee also has discussed with PwC the matters required to be discussed by the applicable standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, including the selection of and changes in Sinclair's significant accounting policies, the basis for management's accounting estimates, PwC's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates and the disclosures included in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee met with management and representatives of PwC in connection with PwC's audit of Sinclair's consolidated financial statements and related schedule for the year ended December 31, 2014, and reviewed and discussed such financial statements with management. The Audit Committee also reviewed management's report on its assessment of the effectiveness of Sinclair's internal control over financial reporting and the independent registered public accounting firm's report on the effectiveness of Sinclair's internal control over financial reporting. Based on such review and discussion with management, and based on the Audit Committee's reviews and discussions with PwC regarding its independence and the matters required to be discussed under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 and No. 90, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of Sinclair's internal control over financial reporting be included in Sinclair's Annual Report on Form 10-K and the Board has approved that recommendation.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the fees paid to PwC during the last year for audit and non-audit services, which are set forth in this proxy statement under "Disclosure of Fees Charged by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm," and has determined that the provision of the non-audit services are compatible with PwC's independence.

Audit Committee  
Lawrence E. McCanna, Chairman  
Daniel C. Keith  
Martin R. Leader  
38

---

Table of Contents

**Disclosure of Fees Charged by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The following summarizes the fees charged by PwC for certain services rendered to us during 2014 and 2013, respectively:

**Audit Fees.** Fees paid for annual audits of our consolidated financial statements and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, reviews of interim consolidated financial statements and fees related to debt offerings were \$3,035,000 and \$2,875,091 in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**Audit-Related Fees.** There were no audit related fees incurred for the year ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

**Tax Fees.** Tax fees incurred for tax planning and compliance services through December 31, 2014 and 2013 were \$402,590 and \$1,116,808, respectively.

**All Other Fees.** Fees incurred related to permitted services not included in the category descriptions provided were \$58,100 and \$3,600 for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

All of the services described above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee. None were approved pursuant to the waiver of pre-approval provisions set forth in Regulation S-X of the Exchange Act.

**Pre-Approval Policy for Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Audit Committee maintains a pre-approval policy that provides guidelines for the audit, audit-related, tax and other permissible non-audit services that may be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm (the independent auditors) in order to ensure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditor's independence. Under this policy, which remains in effect, the Audit Committee annually pre-approves the audit fee and terms of the engagement, as set forth in the engagement letter, along with a specified list of audit-related and tax services. If any service to be provided by the independent auditors has not received pre-approval during this annual process, it will require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee and the independent auditor may not begin work on any engagement without confirmation of the Audit Committee pre-approval from the Chief Accounting Officer or his or her delegate. In accordance with this policy, the Chairman of the Audit Committee has been authorized by the Committee to pre-approve any audit-related, tax or other permissible non-audit service engagements of the independent auditors.



Table of Contents

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

If you intend to propose any matter for action at our 2016 annual meeting of shareholders, you must submit your proposal to the Secretary of Sinclair at 10706 Beaver Dam Road, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030 not later than December 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Only then can we consider your proposal for inclusion in our proxy statement and proxy relating to the 2016 annual meeting. The proxy for the 2016 annual meeting will grant discretionary authority to vote with regard to shareholder proposals not included in our proxy materials unless (a) notice is received by March 8, 2016 and (b) the conditions set forth in Rule 14 a-4 (c)(2)(i)-(iii) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are met.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Duncan Smith, *Secretary*

Baltimore, Maryland  
April 22, 2015

Table of Contents

---

























