

HORIZON BANCORP /IN/
Form DEF 14A
March 24, 2004

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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 Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

HORIZON BANCORP

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

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1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

March 26, 2004

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Horizon Bancorp to be held at the Holiday Inn, 5820 South Franklin Street, Michigan City, Indiana on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. (local time; registration will begin at 5:30 p.m.). To ensure that a quorum will be represented at the meeting, we encourage you to complete, sign, date and return your proxy promptly in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope. This will not limit your right to attend the meeting and vote in person.

The Notice of Annual Meeting and the Proxy Statement on the following pages cover the business to come before the meeting, which will be the election of directors and the ratification of the independent auditors. We urge you to read these materials carefully.

The Annual Report to Shareholders and the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2003, are also enclosed.

We look forward to meeting our shareholders, and welcome the opportunity to discuss the business of your company with you.

/s/ ROBERT C. DABAGIA

Robert C. Dabagia

Chairman of the Board

/s/ CRAIG M. DWIGHT

Craig M. Dwight

President and Chief Executive Officer

DEFINITIVE PROXY SOLICITATION MATERIALS ARE INTENDED

TO BE RELEASED ON OR ABOUT MARCH 26, 2004

HORIZON BANCORP

515 Franklin Square

Michigan City, Indiana 46360

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held On May 6, 2004

To Our Shareholders:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Horizon Bancorp (Horizon) will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004, 6:00 p.m. (local time; registration will begin at 5:30 p.m.), at the Holiday Inn, 5820 South Franklin Street, Michigan City, Indiana, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. *Election of Directors*: The election of four Directors to serve three-year terms expiring in 2007.
2. *Ratification of Auditors*: The ratification of the appointment of BKD, LLP, as independent auditors for 2004.
3. *Other Business*: The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on March 5, 2004, the record date fixed by the Board of Directors, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Your attention is directed to the accompanying Proxy Statement and Proxy. We urge you to read the Proxy Statement carefully so that you may be informed about the business to come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. At your earliest convenience, please sign and return the accompanying proxy in the postage paid envelope furnished for that purpose.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ LAWRENCE J. MAZUR

Lawrence J. Mazur

Secretary

Michigan City, Indiana

March 26, 2004

EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE MAIL YOUR PROXY PROMPTLY SO THAT THERE MAY BE PROPER REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING. YOU ARE URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

HORIZON BANCORP

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

May 6, 2004

Horizon Bancorp (Horizon) is furnishing this Proxy Statement to shareholders in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Horizon to be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), and at any adjournment thereof. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 5820 South Franklin Street, Michigan City, Indiana. This Proxy Statement and accompanying form of proxy have been mailed to shareholders on or about March 26, 2004.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only holders of record of Horizon common shares (the Common Shares) as of March 5, 2004, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Each Common Share is entitled to one vote on each matter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote by proxy?

The enclosed proxy is designed to permit each shareholder of record of Common Shares at the close of business on March 5, 2004, to vote at the Annual Meeting. All properly executed proxies delivered pursuant to this solicitation will be voted at the meeting in accordance with the instructions of the shareholders given in the proxies. If you return an executed proxy card without indicating your voting instructions, the Common Shares represented by your proxy will be voted FOR the proposals described in this Proxy Statement and in the discretion of the named proxies for any other business to come before the meeting. A proxy may be revoked any time before the meeting by delivering to Horizon's Secretary a written notice of revocation or a later-dated proxy. A shareholder of record also may revoke a proxy by voting in person at the meeting.

What will the shareholders vote on at the Annual Meeting?

Shareholders will be voting on the following two proposals:

The election of four directors to serve three-year terms.

The ratification of the appointment of BKD, LLP, as independent auditors for 2004.

Will there be any other items of business to vote on?

Management is not aware of any other matters to be presented at the meeting other than those mentioned above and has not received notice from any shareholders requesting that other matters be considered.

What constitutes a quorum?

A majority of the outstanding Common Shares, present or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum for the Annual Meeting. As of the March 5, 2004, the record date, 2,995,014 Common Shares were issued and outstanding.

How many votes are required for the election of directors and the other proposals?

The following votes will be required to approve the proposals:

Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast (Proposal 1).

The ratification of the independent auditors requires that more votes be cast in favor of the proposal than against the proposal (Proposal 2).

Abstentions and broker non-votes (described below) are counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum but are not considered votes cast. Abstentions and instructions to withhold authority will result in a nominee for director in Proposal 1 (Election of Directors) receiving fewer votes but will not count as votes against the nominee. Neither abstentions nor broker non-votes will affect whether more votes have been cast for than against Proposal 2 (Ratification of Independent Auditors).

What is a broker non-vote ?

A broker non-vote occurs when a broker submits a proxy that does not indicate a vote for some of the proposals because the broker has not received instructions from the beneficial owners on how to vote on such proposals and the broker does not have discretionary authority to vote in the absence of instructions. Brokers generally have the authority to vote, even though they have not received instructions, on matters that are considered routine, such as the election of directors.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The first matter to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting is the election of directors. Horizon's Board of Directors currently consists of eleven members. As required by Horizon's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (Horizon's Articles), the Board is divided into three classes of near-equal size and the members of one class of directors are elected to serve three-year terms at each Annual Meeting of the Directors. Nine of the eleven members of the Board qualify as independent directors under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Listing Standards of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Director Nomination Procedures

Horizon's Bylaws provide that nominations for directors may be made by the Board of Directors, a nominating committee of the Board, any person appointed and authorized by the Board to make nominations, or any shareholder entitled to vote for the election of directors who has complied with the notice procedures specified in the Bylaws.

The Nominating Committee selects the individuals to be nominated for membership on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee then recommends those individuals to the Board of Directors and the entire Board of Directors determines who the nominees will be. The Nominating Committee and the Board select nominees who meet the qualifications set forth in Horizon's Amended and Restated Bylaws (Horizon's Bylaws) and the applicable independence requirements under the SEC and Nasdaq rules. In addition to the nomination procedures in Horizon's Bylaws, the Board has adopted by resolution other procedures to be followed in selecting director nominees. The Nominating Committee does not have a charter.

Horizon's Bylaws provide that nominations by shareholders must be made in writing and must be received at Horizon's principal executive office not fewer than 120 days in advance of the date the Proxy Statement was released to shareholders in connection with the previous year's Annual Meeting. Shareholder nominations must include the detailed information about the nominee required by the Bylaws and also must comply with the other requirements set forth in the Bylaws. The Nominating Committee does not have a separate policy for considering directors candidates recommended by shareholders because the director nomination procedures are set forth in Horizon's Bylaws.

The members of the Nominating Committee are appointed by the Board of Directors in May of each year. The members of the Nominating Committee for 2003/2004 are Robert E. Swinehart, who serves as Chairperson, James Dworkin, Robert E. McBride, M.D., and Peter L. Pairitz. All of the members of the Nominating Committee qualify as independent directors under the rules applicable to Nasdaq-listed companies. The Nominating Committee met eight times during 2003.

Horizon's Bylaws provide that the chair of the Annual Meeting may, in his or her discretion, disregard nominations that are not made in accordance with the Bylaws and may instruct the tellers to disregard all votes cast for any such nominee. A complete copy of the applicable

provisions of Horizon's Bylaws is available to shareholders without charge upon request to the Secretary.

Nominees

The terms of Susan D. Aaron, Charley E. Gillispie, Larry N. Middleton, Jr. and Robert E. Swinehart will end at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has nominated each of them to serve additional three-year terms as members of the Class of 2007. Information on the nominees and the other members of the Board of Directors is provided below.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that the shareholders

vote FOR the election of the four nominees (Item 1 on the Proxy Card).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following table presents biographical information on all of the directors, including the four nominees. All of the directors of Horizon also serve as directors of Horizon Bank, N.A. (the Bank). Two former directors, Dale W. Alspaugh and Gene L. Rice, retired in 2003 upon reaching age 70, which is the mandatory retirement age for a director under Horizon's Bylaws.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Business Experience and Service as a Director</u>
Class of 2007		
Susan D. Aaron	49	Ms. Aaron (formerly Sterger) is a retired executive. She has served on the Board of Directors of Horizon since 1995 and on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1993.
Charley E. Gillispie	56	Mr. Gillispie is Vice President of Administration and Finance at Valparaiso University. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Horizon in 2001 and to the Board of Directors of the Bank in 2000.
Larry N. Middleton, Jr.	51	Mr. Middleton is a real estate broker and the President of Century 21 Middleton Co., Inc. He has served on the Horizon Board of Directors since 1995 and on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1993.
Robert E. Swinehart	61	Mr. Swinehart is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Emerson Power Transmission Corp. He has served on the Horizon Board of Directors since 1998 and on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1996.
Class of 2006		
Robert C. Dabagia	65	Mr. Dabagia has served as the Chairman of Horizon since 1998. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Horizon and the Bank until July 1, 2001.
Peter L. Pairitz	48	Mr. Pairitz is a business developer. He was elected to the Board of Directors of Horizon in 2001 and to the Board of Directors of the Bank in 2000.

Bruce E. Rampage	57	Mr. Rampage is the President of St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers. He has served on the Horizon Board of Directors since 2000 and on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1998.
Spero W. Valavanis	51	Mr. Valavanis is an architect and the President of Design Organization, Inc. He has served on the Horizon Board of Directors since 2000 and on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1998.
Class of 2005		
Craig M. Dwight	47	Mr. Dwight has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Horizon and the Bank since July 1, 2001, and as the President and Chief Administrative Officer of Horizon and as the President of the Bank since December 1998. Previously he had served as Executive Vice President of the Bank (since October 1998) and Vice President and Senior Lender of the Bank (since 1997). Mr. Dwight was appointed to the Horizon Board of Directors on December 15, 1998, to fill the unexpired term of a director who had resigned. He was re-elected to the Board for a full three-year term in 1999. He has served as a Director of the Bank since 1998.
James B. Dworkin	55	Mr. Dworkin has been the Chancellor of Purdue University North Central since January 1, 2000. Prior to that time he was the Associate Dean and a Professor in the Krannert Graduate School of Management at Purdue University. He was appointed to the Board of Horizon on October 21, 2003, and has served as a director of the Bank since 2002.
Robert E. McBride, M.D.	64	Dr. McBride is a Pathologist with Pathology Consultants, Inc. He has served on the Boards of Directors of Horizon, the Bank and the Bank's predecessor since 1984.

Each of the nominees has agreed to serve for the term for which he or she has been nominated. It is intended that the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted for the nominees named above. If any nominee is unable to stand for election, the Board of Directors may designate a substitute nominee or adopt a resolution reducing the number of members on the Board. If a substitute nominee is designated, Common Shares represented by proxy will be voted for the substituted nominee.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following information is provided with respect to compensation paid for 2003 by the Bank to Horizon's Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board and to the other most highly compensated executive officers of Horizon, the Bank and one of the Bank's subsidiaries, Horizon Trust & Investment Management, N.A.

Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation		Long-Term Compensation Award Securities Underlying Options/SARs (#)	All Other Compensation
		Salary (\$) ¹	Bonus (\$) ²		
Robert C. Dabagia ³ Chairman of the Board	2003	\$ 60,000	\$ 6,000	0	\$ 0
	2002	\$ 80,000	\$ 28,300	0	0
	2001	\$ 120,000	\$ 12,000	13,500	0
Craig M. Dwight President and Chief Executive Officer	2003	\$ 250,200	\$ 108,000	0	\$ 34,850 ⁴
	2002	\$ 240,000	\$ 108,000	0	\$ 32,028
	2001	\$ 200,000	\$ 30,000	29,700	\$ 33,668
Lawrence J. Mazur President and Chief Executive Officer, Horizon Trust & Investment Management, N.A. ⁵	2003	\$ 146,097	\$ 29,219	0	\$ 25,855 ⁶
	2002	\$ 142,882	\$ 28,576	0	\$ 28,071
	2001	\$ 138,385	\$ 15,000	11,250	\$ 27,862
James H. Foglesong ⁷ Chief Financial Officer	2003	\$ 120,000	\$ 47,700	0	\$ 24,618 ⁸
	2002	\$ 106,000	\$ 47,700	0	\$ 15,833
	2001	\$ 86,769	\$ 17,000	13,500	0
Thomas H. Edwards Executive Vice President	2003	\$ 155,000	\$ 60,750	0	\$ 16,435 ⁹
	2002	\$ 135,000	\$ 60,750	0	\$ 13,266
	2001	\$ 125,676	\$ 20,000	11,250	\$ 12,511
James D. Neff Executive Vice President of the Bank	2003	\$ 122,829	\$ 188,468 ¹⁰	4,500	\$ 32,889 ¹¹
	2002	\$ 118,106	\$ 188,764	0	\$ 14,553
	2001	\$ 115,225	\$ 189,137	4,500	\$ 14,099

¹ Includes salary amounts paid and salary amounts deferred by the individual named pursuant to Horizon's Thrift Plan and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP).

² Includes bonus amounts paid and bonus amounts deferred by the individual.

³ Mr. Dabagia served as the Chief Executive Officer of Horizon and the Bank until July 1, 2001.

⁴ Represents Horizon's contribution of \$5,985 under Horizon's Stock Bonus Plan and its matching contributions of \$8,000 under the Thrift Plan and \$20,865 under the SERP.

⁵ Horizon Trust & Investment Management, N.A., is an investment management subsidiary of the Bank.

⁶ Represents Horizon's contribution of \$4,289 under Horizon's Stock Bonus Plan and its matching contributions of \$5,732 under the Thrift Plan and \$15,834 under the SERP.

⁷

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Mr. Foglesong's employment with Horizon began in January 2001. Prior to that time he was Chief Financial Officer of Security Federal Bank.

- ⁸ Represents Horizon's contribution of \$4,132 under Horizon's Stock Bonus Plan and its matching contributions of \$5,523 under the Thrift Plan and \$14,963 under the SERP.
- ⁹ Represents Horizon's contribution of \$5,985 under Horizon's Stock Bonus Plan, its matching contributions of \$8,000 under the Thrift Plan and \$294 under the SERP and payment of \$2,156 in health benefits.
- ¹⁰ Mr. Neff receives a bonus amount based on the net profit of the Mortgage Warehouse division.
- ¹¹ Represents Horizon's contribution of \$5,985 under Horizon's Stock Bonus Plan and its matching contributions of \$8,000 under the Thrift Plan and \$18,904 under the SERP.

Employment Agreements

Four of Horizon's executive officers, Messrs. Dwight, Edwards, Foglesong and Neff, are parties to change of control agreements with the Bank. These agreements provide that upon a change of control, a new two-year term of employment will commence for each of the officers at the same base salary that the officer was receiving at the time of the change of control and such salary may not be reduced during the two-year term. The agreements define a change of control as a merger, tender offer, asset sale or other transaction that result in (i) a majority of Horizon shareholders prior to the transaction holding less than 50 percent of the voting securities of Horizon after the transaction, (ii) persons who held less than 20 percent of the voting securities of Horizon prior to the transaction owning more than 50 percent of such securities after the transaction; or (iii) a majority of the members of the Horizon Board of Directors being persons who were not directors of Horizon at least 24 months prior to the transaction. The agreements of Messrs. Dwight, Edwards and Foglesong also provide that, in lieu of continuing his employment, each officer can elect to terminate his employment upon the occurrence of a change of control and receive a lump sum severance payment equal to two times his then current base salary, and that if the officer's employment is terminated at any time during the two-year period after the change of control by the Bank without cause or by the officer for cause, the officer is entitled to a lump sum severance payment equal to two times his then current base salary.

Options/SAR Grants in Last Fiscal Year

The following table provides information on all stock options granted in 2003 to the individuals for whom information is included in the Summary Compensation Table above. No stock appreciation rights were granted in 2003.

	Individual Grants ¹				Potential Realizable Value at Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Appreciation for Option Term ²	
	Number of	% of Total				
	Securities	Options/SARs	Exercise			
	Underlying	Granted to	or Base			
Name	Options/SARs	Employees in	Price	Expiration	5%	10%
	Granted (#)	Fiscal Year	(\$/sh)	Date		
James D. Neff	4,500	100%	\$ 17.93	1/2/13	\$ 50,760	\$ 128,610

¹ The options were granted pursuant to the Horizon 1997 Key Employees' Stock Option and Stock Appreciation Rights Plan. The options vest in 20 percent increments commencing on the first anniversary of the grant date.

² The Securities and Exchange Commission regulations require the calculation of the potential realizable values included in the table. The values given are not intended to forecast possible future appreciation, if any, of the Common Shares. Actual gains, if any, are dependent upon the future market price of the Common Shares and there can be no assurance that the amount reflected in this table will be achieved.

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Horizon paid each of its non-employee directors a cash retainer of \$13,027 and a bonus in Common Shares equal in value to \$4,973 for their services in 2003. Active employees of Horizon and/or the Bank receive no separate compensation for their services as directors. The Chairpersons of the Audit, Compensation and Loan Committee receive an additional cash amount of \$4,000. Directors do not receive additional compensation for attending meetings of committees of the Board or for special assignments or meetings.

Horizon sponsors a Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan, which allows non-employee directors of Horizon and the Bank to elect to defer the receipt of fees for their services. Earnings

on fees deferred under the plan are based on the performance of investments selected by the participating director. Payments of deferred fees are made to participants or their beneficiaries in a lump sum or monthly installments upon death or disability of the participants or as designated by participants. Participants have no rights to amounts deferred other than rights as general creditors of Horizon.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

During 2003, Horizon's Board of Directors held twelve meetings. Each director attended seventy-five percent or more of the total number of meetings of the Board and the committees upon which he or she served. Horizon and its subsidiaries have joint standing committees. These committees include the Audit Committee and the Compensation and Nominating Committee, which serve both Horizon and the Bank. Executive sessions of the independent directors are held at least four times a year.

Although Horizon does not have a policy regarding the attendance of directors at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, Horizon encourages directors to attend the Annual Meeting. Eleven of the twelve members of the Board of Directors attended the 2003 Annual Meeting.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit Committee members serve one-year terms and are appointed at the Annual Meeting of Directors in May of each year. The Audit Committee members for 2003/2004 are Charley E. Gillispie, who serves as Chairperson, Susan D. Aaron, Dr. Robert E. McBride, Larry N. Middleton, Jr. and Bruce E. Rampage. The Audit Committee met four times in 2003. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Boards of Directors of Horizon and the Bank in fulfilling their statutory and fiduciary responsibilities with respect to examinations of Horizon, the Bank and their affiliates and the monitoring of accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices. The Audit Committee reviews the internal audit procedure of Horizon and the Bank and recommends to the Boards of Directors the engagement of outside and internal auditing firms.

Horizon's Board of Directors has determined that Susan D. Aaron and Charley E. Gillispie qualify as audit committee financial experts as defined by the SEC rules. Ms. Aaron has a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an M.B.A. in Accounting from the Indiana University School of Business. For twenty years, she was the owner and Chief Executive Officer of the McKee Group, a financial services company with 110 employees and \$8 million in revenues. Mr. Gillispie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and an M.B.A. in accounting and he passed the certified public accountant examination. He has seventeen years of public accounting experience. All of the members of the Audit Committee, including Ms. Aaron and Mr. Gillispie, qualify as independent directors as defined by the SEC rules and Nasdaq listing standards.

The Board of Directors adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee in 2001. The charter was revised in 2003 to reflect legislative and regulatory changes. A copy of the revised Audit Committee Charter was attached as Appendix A to our 2003 Proxy Statement.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

This report is being provided to inform shareholders of the Audit Committee's oversight with respect to Horizon's financial reporting.

Review with Management and Independent Auditors

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003. In addition, the Audit Committee discussed with BKD, LLP all communications required by generally accepted auditing standards, including those described in Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, Communications with Audit Committees.

The Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from BKD, LLP required by the Independent Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, and has discussed with BKD, LLP their independence.

Conclusion

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Susan D. Aaron	Larry N. Middleton, Jr.
Charley E. Gillispie	Bruce E. Rampage
Dr. Robert E. McBride	

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The independent members of the Board of Directors serve on the Compensation Committee on a rotating basis and are appointed each May. The members of the Compensation Committee for 2003/2004 are Robert E. Swinehart, who serves as chairperson, James B. Dworkin, Robert E. McBride, M.D. and Peter L. Pairitz. All of the members of the Compensation Committee qualify as independent directors under the rules applicable to Nasdaq-listed companies. The Compensation Committee met eight times in 2003. The Committee reviews all salary and employee benefit issues relating to employees and directors of Horizon, the Bank and their subsidiaries.

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 31, 2003

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The compensation of all elected officers of Horizon and subsidiaries, including that of the Chief Executive Officer, is set annually by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. Compensation is composed of several segments, including base salary, short-term incentives and long-term incentives. The Compensation Committee compares all management compensation, including that of the Chief Executive Officer, to the compensation paid to managers holding the same position in similar financial institutions. Data for this comparison comes from a variety of

independent sources with the principal data contained in an annual study published by the Bank Administration Institute (BAI).

Horizon engaged compensation consultant Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. (Cook) during 2002 to perform a review of Horizon's compensation of top officers and outside directors. Cook's review included a comparison of the compensation paid by Horizon with the compensation paid by a peer group of nineteen Midwest regional banking organizations with \$500 million to \$1 billion in assets. Cook recommended, among other things, that Horizon establish an omnibus stock incentive plan in addition to existing employee benefit plans. Based on that recommendation, the Board of Directors adopted the Horizon Bancorp 2003 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (the Omnibus Plan) and the shareholders approved the Omnibus Plan at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Salaries

Salaries of all executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer, are governed by Horizon's formal salary administration program pursuant to which all salary decisions are subject to detailed annual performance reviews. Each year, the salary administration program is updated and the salary of each executive officer is compared to those salaries being paid to executive officers in positions in organizations of comparable size in the Midwest. Salary ranges are then computed from that data for each Horizon executive officer position. In general, the highest salary that would be allowable under the salary administration program is below the highest salary for that position as reported in the BAI data. In 2003, the highest salary allowable for the Chief Executive Officer was \$365,572. For his services in 2003 as Chief Executive Officer and President, Mr. Dwight was paid a salary of \$250,200.

Cash Bonuses

The Compensation Committee adopted guidelines for annual cash discretionary bonus awards in December of 2000. Horizon's Chairman and President use these guidelines in their recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding the annual discretionary bonus awards.

In making bonus recommendations to the Compensation Committee for the year 2003, the President evaluated Horizon's consolidated financial performance compared to the corporate goals, each business unit's financial performance and the recommendations of the Senior Vice Presidents for employees within their respective business units. In setting bonuses for December 31, 2003, the Compensation Committee considered the recommendations of the Chairman and President as presented. In considering Mr. Dwight's bonus, the Compensation Committee considered Horizon's 18.8 percent increase in net income from \$5.5 million for 2002 to \$6.5 million for 2003; return on average stockholders' equity of 14.7 percent, which is above peer average for publicly traded banks in the State of Indiana; and a 60.3 percent increase in Horizon's price per share from \$17.19 at December 31, 2002, to \$27.55 per share at December 31, 2003. In addition, Horizon's stock appreciation for the year 2003 outperformed the general stock market and industry specific indices. For 2003, the Compensation Committee authorized the payment of a \$108,000 bonus to Mr. Dwight.

Long-Term Incentive Programs/Stock Options

Horizon's long-term incentive program is based on the grant of stock options. Stock options are granted to encourage and facilitate personal stock ownership by executive officers and thus strengthen their personal commitment to Horizon and to provide them with a longer-term perspective in their managerial responsibilities. This component of an executive officer's compensation directly aligns the officer's interests with those of Horizon's shareholders. Horizon also recognizes that stock options are a necessary element of a competitive compensation program. The program utilizes vesting periods to encourage key employees to continue in the employ of Horizon and thereby acts as a retention device for key employees. Most options granted under this program have included stock appreciation rights.

Performance Reviews

The Compensation Committee conducts an annual review of the performance of Horizon's most senior officers, the Chairman, and the President, who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer. In conducting its review, the Compensation Committee considers a variety of performance factors in analyzing the compensation of each of these executive officers. These factors generally include traditional financial results and indicators such as revenues, expenses, assets, credit issues, reserves, earnings and ratios such as return on equity, loans to deposits and other significant factors and performance indicators. The financial services business is complex and is undergoing changes that generate uncertainties about future events. The Chairman and the President must provide guidance and leadership in nearly all aspects of this dynamic enterprise. In the process, however, they are not expected to work alone. The performance evaluation recognizes that programs initiated at the top level of an organization are not, and should not be expected to be, quick fixes. These programs are generally long-term in nature, bringing benefits to Horizon over many years. For those reasons, the Compensation Committee also focuses on the following issues in determining performance levels for the Chairman and the President: quality of the organization, service delivery characteristics, quality of service, leadership in the community and risk management. Compensation levels are also affected by changes in responsibilities and duties of executive officers over time and may be adjusted more or less frequently than annually when circumstances warrant.

There are several additional criteria against which the Compensation Committee measures the performance of the Chairman, the President and other executive officers in setting their annual compensation. Among these are the continued growth and development of Horizon's investment management business; efficient and cost effective use of technology; the management of change; development of existing and new services; recruitment of and development of skilled people in the organization; team building; operating cost controls; improvement of fee income; ability to meet increased competition; performance of Horizon's investment portfolio; ongoing development of Horizon's information systems; and a broad variety of financial services industry and management functions that are typical of a well-managed organization. All management compensation, including that of the Chairman, President and the other executive officers, is performance related.

Submitted by the Members of the Compensation Committee:

Robert E. Swinehart, Chairperson
James B. Dworkin

Robert E. McBride, M.D.
Peter L. Pairitz

COMMON SHARE OWNERSHIP BY DIRECTORS

AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the number of shares and percent of Common Shares beneficially owned by the directors, the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table, and all directors and executive officers as a group as of January 31, 2004. (The share and percentage information in the chart reflect the three-for-two stock split in November 2003.)

Name	Shares Beneficially	
	Owned ¹	Percentage
Directors:		
Susan D. Aaron	4,059	*
Robert C. Dabagia	86,606 ₂	2.9%
Craig M. Dwight	139,763 ₃	4.5%
James B. Dworkin	735	*
Charley E. Gillispie	1,013 ₄	*
Robert E. McBride, M.D.	18,088 ₅	*
Larry N. Middleton	5,386 ₆	*
Peter L. Pairitz	6,313 ₇	*
Bruce E. Rampage	3,145	*
Robert E. Swinehart	7,534 ₈	*
Spero W. Valavanis	5,297	*
Named Executive Officers:		
Lawrence J. Mazur	64,831 ₉	2.2%
James H. Foglesong	18,751 ₁₀	*
Thomas H. Edwards	32,291 ₁₁	1.0%
James D. Neff	29,723 ₁₂	1.0%
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (15 Persons):	423,535 ₁₃	13.3%

* Beneficial ownership is less than one percent.

- ¹ The information shown regarding shares beneficially owned is based upon information furnished to Horizon by the individuals listed. The nature of beneficial ownership, unless otherwise noted, represents sole or shared voting or investment power. Stock options that vest on or before March 31, 2004, are included in the number of shares beneficially owned.
- ² Includes 3,150 shares that are owned individually by Mr. Dabagia's spouse and 21,600 vested stock option and stock appreciation rights granted under the 1997 Plan.
- ³ Includes 114,570 vested stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the 1997 Plan and 19,793 shares held by the Horizon Employee Stock Bonus Plan.
- ⁴ All shares are owned jointly by Mr. Gillispie and his spouse.
- ⁵ The shares are held by a trust for which Dr. McBride serves as trustee.
- ⁶ Includes 5,286 shares owned jointly by Mr. Middleton and his spouse.
- ⁷ Includes 900 shares owned by Mr. Pairitz's son and 3,750 shares held by a Profit Sharing Plan for which Mr. Pairitz serves as the trustee.
- ⁸ Includes 2,117 shares owned jointly by Mr. Swinehart and his spouse and 5,317 shares held in a trust for which Mr. Swinehart serves as trustee and is a beneficiary.
- ⁹ Includes 17,640 vested stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the 1997 Plan and 3,241 shares held by the Horizon Employee Stock Bonus Plan.
- ¹⁰ Includes 8,100 vested stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the 1997 Plan and 558 shares held by the Horizon Employee Stock Bonus Plan.
- ¹¹ Includes 769 shares owned by Mr. Edwards' spouse, 14,040 vested stock options and stock appreciation rights granted under the 1997 Plan and 2,520 shares held by the Horizon Employee Stock Bonus Plan.
- ¹² Includes 12,150 vested stock options and/or stock appreciation rights and 2,423 shares held by the Horizon Employee Stock Bonus Plan.
- ¹³ Includes 188,100 shares covered by stock options and stock appreciation rights and 91,988 shares as to which voting and investment powers are shared by members of the group with their spouses or other family members or held by family trusts.

STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

To the best of Horizon's knowledge, as of January 31, 2004, no shareholder or group of shareholders beneficially owned more than five percent of the outstanding Common Shares. Darhap & Co., the nominee for Horizon Trust & Investment Management, N.A., a subsidiary of the Bank, held 949,929 Common Shares as of January 31, 2004, but Darhap & Co. exercises voting or investment authority with respect to only 39,761 of those shares.

CERTAIN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

Design Organization, Inc., an architectural firm owned by Director Spero Valavanis, provided planning and interior design services to Horizon during 2003. The fees for such services in 2003 totaled \$26,936.

Directors and executive officers of Horizon and their associates were customers of, and had transactions with, the Bank in the ordinary course of business during 2003. The Bank expects that comparable transactions will occur in the future. These transactions were made in the ordinary course of business on substantially the same terms, including interest rates, collateral and repayment terms, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with unrelated third parties. In the opinion of Horizon's management, these transactions did not involve more than normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features. Loans made to directors and executive officers are in compliance with federal banking regulations and are thereby exempt from insider loan prohibitions included in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The Securities and Exchange Commission requires Horizon to include in this Proxy Statement a line graph comparing Horizon's cumulative five-year total shareholder returns on the Common Shares with market and industry returns over the past five years. The following graph was prepared by SNL Financial LC. The returns represented in the graph assume the investment of \$100 on January 1, 1999, and further assume reinvestment of all dividends. The Common Shares began trading on the Nasdaq SmallCap Market (trading symbol: HBNC) on December 20, 2001. Prior to that date, the Common Shares were traded on the OTC Bulletin Board.

<i>Index</i>	<i>Period Ending</i>					
	<u>12/31/98</u>	<u>12/31/99</u>	<u>12/31/00</u>	<u>12/31/01</u>	<u>12/31/02</u>	<u>12/31/03</u>
Horizon Bancorp	100.00	87.37	63.18	160.70	190.32	302.69
Russell 2000	100.00	121.26	117.59	120.52	95.83	141.11
SNL \$500M-\$1B Bank Index	100.00	92.57	88.60	114.95	146.76	211.62
NASDAQ Bank Index*	100.00	96.15	109.84	118.92	121.74	156.62

* Source: CRSP, Center for Research in Security Prices, Graduate School of Business, The University of Chicago 2004.

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Source : SNL Financial LC, Charlottesville, VA

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PROPOSAL 2

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

BKD, LLP served as Horizon's independent auditors for 2003. Upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has selected BKD, LLP as Horizon's independent auditors for 2004. BKD, LLP has served as Horizon's independent auditors since 1998. Shareholder ratification of the appointment of the independent auditors is not required by law, but the Audit Committee has proposed and recommended the submission of the appointment of BKD, LLP to the shareholders to give the shareholders input into the designation of the auditors.

Ratification of the appointment of Horizon's independent auditor requires that more shares be voted in favor of the proposal than against the proposal. If the shareholders do not approve the selection of BKD, LLP, the Audit Committee may reconsider its selection of BKD, LLP as independent auditors. Even if this proposal to ratify the auditors is approved, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of different independent auditors at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of Horizon and its shareholders.

Representatives of BKD, LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to appropriate questions and to make such statements as they may desire.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors recommends that shareholders vote For
the ratification of the appointment of BKD, LLP as Horizon's
independent auditors for 2004 (Item 2 on the Proxy Card).

AUDITOR FEES AND SERVICES

BKD, LLP served as the Horizon's independent auditors for 2003 and 2002. The services performed by BKD, LLP in this capacity included conducting an examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of, and expressing an opinion on, Horizon's consolidated financial statements. The Board of Directors has selected BKD, LLP as the independent public accountants for 2004, subject to shareholder ratification at the Annual Meeting.

Audit Fees

BKD, LLP's fees for professional services rendered in connection with the audit and review of Forms 10-Q and all other SEC regulatory filings were \$89,700 for 2003 and \$69,720 for 2002. Horizon has paid and is current on all billed fees.

Audit-Related Fees

BKD, LLP's fees for audit-related services rendered in connection with consultation on financial accounting and reporting issues were \$1,240 for 2003 and \$14,065 for 2002. All of such fees have been paid.

Tax Fees

BKD, LLP's fees for tax services were \$5,400 for 2003 and \$5,735 for 2002. All such fees have been paid.

All Other Fees

There were no other fees for 2003. BKD, LLP's other fees for 2002 consisted of fees for providing assistance in establishing an investment subsidiary of the Bank and those fees have been paid.

Board of Directors Pre-Approval

Our Audit Committee formally adopted resolutions pre-approving our engagement of BKD to act as our independent auditor for the two fiscal years ended December 31, 2003. The Audit Committee has not adopted pre-approval policies and procedures in accordance with paragraph (c)(7)(i) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X, because it anticipates that in the future the engagement of BKD will be pre-approved by the Audit Committee. All audit-related fees and fees for tax services for 2003 and 2002 were pre-approved by the Audit Committee. Our independent auditors performed all work described above with their respective full-time, permanent employees.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Executive officers and directors of Horizon and owners of more than ten percent of the Common Shares are required to file reports of their ownership and changes in their ownership of Common Shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these reports also must be furnished to Horizon. Based solely upon a review of copies furnished to Horizon through the date of this Proxy Statement or written representations that no reports were required, Horizon believes that its executive officers, directors and ten percent shareholders complied with the 2003 filing requirements.

EXPENSES

In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone or facsimile or electronic mail, by certain directors, officers and employees of Horizon, the Bank and the Bank's subsidiaries, who will not be specially compensated for such solicitation.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

Any shareholder who wishes to have a proposal considered for inclusion in Horizon's Proxy Statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must submit the proposal in writing so that Horizon receives it by November 26, 2004. Proposals should be addressed to Horizon's Secretary, 515 Franklin Square, Michigan City, Indiana 46360. Horizon's Amended and Restated Bylaws also provide that a shareholder wishing

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to nominate a candidate for election as a director or to have any other matter considered by the shareholders at the Annual Meeting must give Horizon written notice of the nomination not fewer than 120 days in advance of the date the

Horizon Proxy Statement was released to shareholders in connection with the previous year's Annual Meeting, which release date for the 2004 Annual Meeting is expected to be on or about March 26, 2004. Shareholder nominations must include the detailed information about the nominee required by the Bylaws and also must comply with the other requirements set forth in the Bylaws. Proposals to bring other matters before the shareholders shall include a brief description of the proposal and the other information required by the Bylaws. Shareholders who wish to nominate candidates or to bring other proposals before the Annual Meeting must submit the proposals in writing to Horizon's Secretary no later than November 26, 2004. Copies of the Bylaws are available to shareholders from Horizon's Secretary free of charge upon request.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH DIRECTORS

Shareholders may communicate directly to the Board of Directors or individual members of the Board of Directors in writing by sending a letter to the Board at: Horizon Bancorp Board of Directors, 515 Franklin Square, Michigan City, Indiana 46360. All communications directed to the Board of Directors will be transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Directors or other director identified in the communication without any editing or screening.

OTHER MATTERS

Management knows of no matters, other than those reported above, that are to be brought before the Annual Meeting. The enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority on the proxies to vote on any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. It is the intention of the persons named in the proxy to vote in their discretion on any such matter.

Insofar as any of the information in this Proxy Statement may rest peculiarly within the knowledge of persons other than Horizon, Horizon has relied upon information furnished by others for the accuracy and completeness thereof.

WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY WITHDRAW YOUR PROXY AND VOTE IN PERSON.

/s/ LAWRENCE J. MAZUR

Lawrence J. Mazur

Secretary

Michigan City, Indiana

March 26, 2004

AVAILABILITY OF FORM 10-K

A copy of Horizon's Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is available to shareholders without charge upon written request to Mary McColl, Shareholder Relations, at 515 Franklin Square, Michigan City, Indiana 46360. The Form 10-K and Horizon's other SEC filings also are available online in the SEC's EDGAR database at www.sec.gov.

REVOCABLE PROXY

HORIZON BANCORP

x PLEASE MARK VOTES AS IN THIS EXAMPLE

With- For All

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby appoints James H. Foglesong, Thomas H. Edwards or Lawrence J. Mazur, or each of them, as Proxies, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and vote, as designated below, all shares of common stock of Horizon Bancorp that the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. (local time), at the Holiday Inn, 5820 S. Franklin Street, Michigan City, Indiana, or any adjournment thereof, on the following matters:

1. Election of Directors

For With- For All
.. .. Except

Susan D. Aaron
 Charley E. Gillispie

Larry N. Middleton, Jr.

Robert E. Swinehart

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for any individual, write the individual's name on the space provided below.)

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A FOR VOTE ON THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTORS AND RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF BKD, LLP.

2. Ratification of Appointment of BKD, LLP

For Against Abstain

.. ..

3. In their discretion, on such other business as may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof

Please be sure to sign and date Date _____

this Proxy in the box below.

ON ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BEST JUDGMENT OF THE ABOVE-STATED PROXIES. THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED, OR IF NO DIRECTION IS INDICATED, WILL BE VOTED FOR THE FOUR NOMINEES STATED ABOVE AND FOR PROPOSAL 2.

 Stockholder sign above

 Co-holder (if any) sign above

Please indicate your intentions of attending the meeting on May 6, 2004, by completing the section below.

I WILL attend the Annual Meeting.

..

Number of Persons attending will be

Detach above card, sign, date and mail in postage-paid envelope provided.

HORIZON BANCORP

515 Franklin Square, Michigan City, IN 46360

Please sign exactly as name appears on this card. If there are two or more owners, both should sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by President or other authorized officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN YOUR PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, PLEASE CORRECT THE ADDRESS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH THE PROXY IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.
