

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE CO HOLDINGS LTD

Form PRE 14A

March 10, 2008

**Table of Contents**

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)  
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
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 Section 240.14a-12

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Not Applicable

(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:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(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):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:
  - (4) Date Filed:
-

**Table of Contents**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD  
27 Richmond Road  
Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda**

**NOTICE OF 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 8, 2008**

March [ ], 2008

To Our Shareholders:

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd (the Company) will be held at 10:00 a.m., local time, on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at the Company's corporate headquarters, 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda, for the following purposes:

To elect two Class I Directors to hold office until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2011 or until their successors are duly elected and qualified or their office is otherwise vacated;

To approve certain individuals as eligible subsidiary directors of certain of our non-U.S. subsidiaries;

To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan;

To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan;

To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan;

To approve and adopt the Second Amended and Restated Bye-laws of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd;

To act on a proposal to appoint Deloitte & Touche as the Company's independent auditors to serve until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2009; and

To transact such other further business, if any, as lawfully may be brought before the meeting.

Only shareholders of record holding voting common shares, as shown by the transfer books of the Company, as of the close of business on March 12, 2008 are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

**Please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy in the return envelope furnished for that purpose, as promptly as possible, whether or not you plan to attend the meeting. If you later desire to revoke your proxy for any reason, you may do so in the manner described in the attached Proxy Statement. For further information concerning the individuals nominated as directors, use of the proxy and other related matters, you are urged to read the Proxy Statement on the following pages.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Wesley D. Dupont  
*Secretary*

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<u>General Meeting Information</u>	1
<u>Election of Directors</u>	5
<u>Approval of Eligible Subsidiary Directors</u>	10
<u>Approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan</u>	13
<u>Approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan</u>	15
<u>Approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan</u>	17
<u>Approval of the Second Amended and Restated Bye-laws of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd.</u>	21
<u>Appointment of Independent Auditors</u>	21
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	22
<u>Principal Shareholders</u>	28
<u>Executive Officers</u>	30
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	31
<u>Shareholder Communication</u>	54
<u>Shareholder Proposals for 2009 Annual General Meeting</u>	54
<u>Other Matters</u>	54
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	54
<u>Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials</u>	54

**Table of Contents**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD  
27 Richmond Road  
Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION**

**Q: Why am I receiving these materials?**

A: You are receiving these materials because you are a shareholder of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd (the Company) as of the Record Date (as defined below). The Board of Directors (the Board) of the Company is soliciting the enclosed proxy to be voted at the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Company's shareholders to be held at 10:00 a.m., local time, on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at the Company's corporate headquarters, 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the Annual General Meeting). This Proxy Statement summarizes the information you need to know to vote at the Annual General Meeting. References in this Proxy Statement to we, us and our refer to Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd and our consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise. When the enclosed proxy card is properly executed and returned, the Company's common shares, par value \$0.03 per share (the Common Shares), it represents will be voted, subject to any direction to the contrary, at the Annual General Meeting **FOR** the matters specified in the Notice of Annual General Meeting attached hereto and described more fully herein.

This Proxy Statement, the attached Notice of Annual General Meeting and the enclosed proxy card are being first mailed to shareholders on or about March [ ], 2008. A copy of the Company's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 accompanies this Proxy Statement. Although the Annual Report and Proxy Statement are being mailed together, the Annual Report is not part of this Proxy Statement.

**Q: Who is entitled to vote?**

A: The Board has set March 12, 2008, as the record date for the Annual General Meeting (the Record Date). Shareholders of record holding voting Common Shares (the Voting Shares), as shown by the transfer books of the Company as of the close of business on the Record Date, will be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. Holders of non-voting Common Shares (the Non-Voting Shares) will receive this Proxy Statement but are not entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. As of March 12, 2008, there were outstanding [ ] Voting Shares and [ ] Non-Voting Shares.

**Q: What will I be voting on?**

A: You are voting on seven items (collectively, the proposals):

1. To elect two Class I directors to hold office until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2011 or until their successors are duly elected and qualified or their office is otherwise vacated;

2. To approve certain individuals as eligible subsidiary directors of certain of the Company's non-U.S. subsidiaries;
3. To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan;
4. To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan;
5. To approve the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan;



**Table of Contents**

6. To approve and adopt the Second Amended and Restated Bye-laws of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd; and

7. To act on a proposal to appoint Deloitte & Touche as the Company's independent auditors to serve until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2009.

You may also vote on any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

**Q: What are the voting recommendations of the Board?**

A: Your Board unanimously recommends that you vote:

1. **FOR** each of the nominees to the Board;

2. **FOR** each slate of eligible subsidiary directors;

3. **FOR** approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan;

4. **FOR** approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan;

5. **FOR** approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan;

6. **FOR** approval and adoption of the Second Amended and Restated Bye-laws of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd; and

7. **FOR** the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as the Company's independent auditors.

**Q: How many votes do I have?**

A: Holders of Voting Shares are entitled to one vote per share on each matter to be voted upon by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

**Q: How do I vote?**

A: The manner in which your shares may be voted depends on how your shares are held. If you own shares of record, meaning that your Voting Shares are represented by certificates or book entries in your name so that you appear as a shareholder on the records of the Company's share transfer agent, Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company, a proxy card for voting those shares will be included with this Proxy Statement. You may direct how your shares are to be voted by completing, signing and returning the proxy card in the enclosed envelope. If you own shares of record, you may also vote your Voting Shares in person at the Annual General Meeting.

If you own shares through a bank or brokerage firm, you may instead receive from your bank or brokerage firm a voting instructions form with this Proxy Statement that you may use to instruct how your shares are to be voted. As with a proxy card, you may direct how your shares are to be voted by completing, signing and returning the voting instructions form in the envelope provided. Many banks and brokerage firms have arranged for Internet or telephonic voting of shares and provide instructions for using those services on the voting instruction form. If you

want to vote your shares in person at the meeting, you must obtain a proxy from your bank or broker giving you the right to vote your Voting Shares at the Annual General Meeting.

The Company has requested that brokerage and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries forward solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of Voting Shares and will reimburse the brokers and other fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding the materials.

**Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?**

A: Generally, it means that you hold shares registered in more than one account. To ensure that all of your shares are voted, sign and return each proxy card you receive.

**Table of Contents**

**Q: What happens if I do not indicate how to vote by proxy?**

A: If no instructions are provided in an executed proxy, the Voting Shares represented by the proxy will be voted at the Annual General Meeting FOR each of the proposals, and, as to any other business as may properly come before the Annual General Meeting, in accordance with the proxyholder's judgment as to such business.

**Q: How are abstentions and broker non-votes treated?**

A: Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted toward the presence of a quorum at, but will not be considered votes cast on any of the proposals brought before, the Annual General Meeting. Therefore, abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of any proposal brought before the Annual General Meeting.

**Q: Can I change my vote after I have mailed my signed proxy card or otherwise instructed how my shares are to be voted?**

A: Yes. Any shareholder giving a proxy may revoke it prior to its exercise by providing the Secretary of the Company with written notice of revocation, by voting in person at the Annual General Meeting or by executing a later-dated proxy; *provided, however*, that the action is taken in sufficient time to permit the necessary examination and tabulation of the subsequent proxy or revocation before the vote is taken.

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting by a shareholder who has executed and delivered a proxy to us shall not in and of itself constitute a revocation of such proxy. Only your vote at the Annual General Meeting will revoke your proxy.

**Q: How does the voting take place at the Annual General Meeting?**

A: A vote by poll will be taken on all matters properly brought before the Annual General Meeting. On a vote by poll, each shareholder present who elects to vote in person and each person holding a valid proxy is entitled to one vote for each Voting Share owned or represented.

The nominees for election as Class I Directors of the Company at the Annual General Meeting who receive the highest number of FOR votes will be elected as directors. This is called plurality voting; an absolute majority of the votes cast is not a prerequisite to election.

All other proposals require the affirmative FOR vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual General Meeting.

**Q: Are there any voting restrictions?**

A: Each Voting Share entitles the holder of record on such date to one vote on a poll; *provided, however*, if the number of Controlled Shares of any holder would constitute 10% or more of the total combined voting power of the issued Voting Shares (such holder, a 10% Shareholder), such holder will have the voting rights attached to its Voting Shares reduced to less than 10% of the total voting rights attached to the outstanding Voting Shares, in the manner provided in the Company's Amended and Restated Bye-Laws (the Bye-Laws). Controlled Shares of any person refers to all Voting Shares owned by such person, whether (i) directly; (ii) with respect to persons who are United States persons, by application of the attribution and constructive ownership rules of Section 958(a) and 958(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code); or (iii) beneficially, directly or indirectly, within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act),

and the rules and regulations thereunder.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the Company is not aware of any shareholders that possess Controlled Shares requiring a reduction in their voting power to less than 10%; however, the applicability of the foregoing provisions may have the effect of increasing another shareholder's voting power to 10% or more, thereby requiring a corresponding reduction in such other shareholder's voting power. The Company's Bye-Laws exclude from the calculation of the 10%-voting power limitation described in the preceding paragraph any Voting Shares owned by a bank, broker, dealer or investment adviser that does not have or exercise the power to vote those shares and that has only a passive investment intent as reflected in its ability to file beneficial ownership reports on Schedule 13G under the Exchange Act with respect to the Voting Shares it holds. Because

**Table of Contents**

the applicability of the voting power reduction provisions to any particular shareholder depends on facts and circumstances that may be known only to the shareholder or related persons, the Company requests that any holder of Voting Shares with reason to believe that it is a 10% Shareholder within the meaning of the Bye-Laws please contact the Secretary of the Company promptly so that the Company may determine whether the voting power of such holder's Voting Shares should be reduced. By submitting a proxy, a holder of Voting Shares will be deemed to have confirmed that, to its knowledge, it is not, and is not acting on behalf of, a 10% Shareholder. The directors are empowered to require any shareholder to provide information as to that shareholder's legal or beneficial share ownership, the names of persons having beneficial ownership of the shareholder's shares, relationships with other shareholders or persons or any other facts the directors may deem relevant to a determination of the number of Controlled Shares attributable to any person. The directors may disregard the votes attached to shares of any holder failing to respond to such a request or submitting incomplete or untrue information. The directors retain certain discretion to make such final adjustments as to the aggregate number of votes attaching to the Voting Shares of any shareholder that they consider fair and reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that no person will be a 10% Shareholder at any time.

**Q: How many votes are required to transact business at the Annual General Meeting?**

A: A quorum is required to transact business at the Annual General Meeting. Without giving effect to the limitation on voting rights described above, the quorum required at the Annual General Meeting is two or more persons present in person and representing in person or by proxy more than 50% of the total issued and outstanding Voting Shares.

**Q: What else will happen at the Annual General Meeting?**

A: At the Annual General Meeting, shareholders will also receive the report of the Company's independent auditors and the Company's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007.

**Q: Who pays the costs of soliciting proxies?**

A: The cost of solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. Solicitation will be made by mail, and may be made by the Company's directors, officers and employees, personally or by telephone, facsimile or other electronic means, for which the Company's directors, officers and employees will not receive any additional compensation. Proxy cards and materials also will be distributed to beneficial owners of Voting Shares through brokers, custodians, nominees and other parties, and the Company expects to reimburse such parties for their charges and expenses. D.F. King & Co., Inc. and W.F. Doring & Co., Inc. have been retained to assist the Company in the solicitation of proxies at a fee not expected to exceed \$6,500 and \$1,500, respectively, plus out-of-pocket expenses.

**Q: How may I receive a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K?**

A: The Company will furnish without charge to any shareholder, a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). A copy of such report may be obtained upon written request to the Company at 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda, Attention: Wesley D. Dupont, Secretary. Each such request must include a representation that, as of March 12, 2008, the person making the request was a beneficial owner of Common Shares entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report on Form 10-K, and all of the Company's filings with the SEC, can be accessed through our website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com) under the SEC Filings link located in the section entitled Investor Relations. As permitted by the SEC's rules, the Company will not furnish any exhibits to its Annual Report on Form 10-K without charge, but will provide along with such report a list of such exhibits and

information about its charges for providing them.

**Table of Contents****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS  
(Item A on Proxy Card)**

The Board is divided into three classes of directors, Class I, Class II and Class III, each of approximately equal size. Two director nominees are being presented for election at the Annual General Meeting to serve as Class I Directors until the Annual General Meeting in 2011 or until their successors are duly elected and qualified or their office is otherwise vacated. All of the nominees are current members of the Board. Such nominees were recommended for appointment to the Board by the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee of the Board.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees listed on the enclosed proxy card.** It is not expected that any of the nominees will become unavailable for election as a director but, if any nominee should become unavailable prior to the meeting, proxies will be voted for such persons as your Board shall recommend.

The name, age, principal occupation and certain other information concerning each nominee is set forth below.

*Mark R. Patterson* (age 56) was appointed to the Board in March 2006. Since 2002, Mr. Patterson has served as Chairman of MatlinPatterson Asset Management, which manages distressed investment funds. From 1994 until 2002, Mr. Patterson was a Managing Director of Credit Suisse First Boston Corporation, where he served as Vice Chairman from 2000 to 2002. Mr. Patterson had 20 years prior experience in commercial and investment banking at Bankers Trust, Salomon Brothers and Scully Brothers & Foss. Mr. Patterson is currently a member of the board of directors of Broadpoint Securities Group, Inc.

*Samuel J. Weinhoff* (age 57) was appointed to the Board in July 2006. Mr. Weinhoff has served as a consultant to the insurance industry since 2000. Prior to this, Mr. Weinhoff was head of the Financial Institutions Group for Schroder & Co. from 1997 until 2000. He was also a Managing Director at Lehman Brothers, where he worked from 1985 to 1997. Mr. Weinhoff had ten years prior experience at Home Insurance Company and the Reliance Insurance Company in a variety of positions, including excess casualty reinsurance treaty underwriter, investment department analyst, and head of corporate planning and reporting. Mr. Weinhoff is currently a member of the board of directors of Infinity Property and Casualty Corporation where he is a member of both the Executive Committee and the Audit Committee, and of Inter-Atlantic Financial, Inc. where he is a member of both the Audit Committee and Nominating Committee.

The following individuals are the Company's continuing directors:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Scott A. Carmilani	Class III Director	2009
James F. Duffy	Class III Director	2009
Bart Friedman	Class III Director	2009
Michael I.D. Morrison	Class II Director	2010
Scott Hunter	Class II Director	2010

It is with deep regret that the Company reports the passing of Mr. Philip D. DeFeo. As a Board member of the Company, Mr. DeFeo provided invaluable guidance to the Company.

*Scott A. Carmilani* (age 43) was elected our President and Chief Executive Officer in January 2004 and became a director in September 2003. As of January 1, 2008, Mr. Carmilani was also appointed Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Carmilani was, prior to joining our Company as Executive Vice President in February 2002, the President of the Mergers & Acquisition Insurance Division of subsidiaries of American International Group, Inc. ( AIG ) and responsible for the management, marketing and underwriting of transactional insurance products for clients engaged in mergers, acquisitions or divestitures. Mr. Carmilani was previously the Regional Vice-President overseeing the New York general insurance operations of AIG. Before that he was the Divisional President of the Middle Market Division of National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., which underwrites directors and officers liability, employment practice liability and fidelity insurance for middle-market-sized companies. Prior to joining our Company, he held a succession of underwriting and management positions with subsidiaries of AIG since 1987.



## **Table of Contents**

*James F. Duffy* (age 64) was appointed to the Board in July 2006. Mr. Duffy retired in 2002 as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The St. Paul Reinsurance Group, where he originally served from 1993 until 2000 as President and Chief Operating Officer of global reinsurance operations. Prior to this, Mr. Duffy served as an executive vice president of The St. Paul Companies from 1984 to 1993, and as President and Chief Operating Officer of St. Paul Surplus Lines Insurance Company from 1980 until 1984. Mr. Duffy had 15 years prior experience in insurance underwriting with Employers Surplus Lines Insurance Company, First State Insurance Company and New England Re.

*Bart Friedman* (age 63) was appointed to the Board in March 2006 and was elected Deputy Chairman of the Board effective in July 2006. As of January 1, 2008, Mr. Friedman was also appointed Lead Independent Director of the Board. Mr. Friedman has been a partner at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, a New York law firm, since 1980. Mr. Friedman specializes in corporate governance, special committees and director representation. Mr. Friedman worked early in his career at the SEC. Mr. Friedman is currently a member of the board of directors of Sanford Bernstein Mutual Funds, where he is a member of the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee.

*Michael I.D. Morrison* (age 78) has been one of our directors since November 2001 and served as Chairman of the Board from July 2006 through December 2007. He currently also serves as a consultant to the Company. Mr. Morrison was our Vice Chairman from January 2004 to October 2004. Prior to this, Mr. Morrison served as our President and Chief Executive Officer from the inception of our Company in November 2001. He also served as a consultant to AIG from July 1997 to November 2001. Before this, he held various positions with AIG or its subsidiaries, including Vice Chairman of American Home Assurance Company and Senior AIG Executive for broker relations. He also served as General Manager for American International Underwriters Overseas Association's China Division from July 1994 to June 1997, where he was based in Shanghai. He also served as Director of Domestic Branch Operations from 1983 to 1988, President of American Home Assurance Company from 1978 to 1983 and President of Commerce and Industry Insurance Company from 1976 to 1978. Mr. Morrison joined the property-underwriting department of American Home Assurance Company in 1964 and was appointed manager in 1969. He was a broker and an underwriter in the Lloyd's market from 1953 to 1959, and a New York broker from 1959 to 1963.

*Scott Hunter* (age 56) was appointed to the Board in March 2006. Mr. Hunter has served as an independent consultant to Bermuda's financial services industry since 2002. From 1986 until 2002, Mr. Hunter was a partner at Arthur Andersen Bermuda, whose clients included numerous insurance and reinsurance companies.

The Board has determined that Messrs. Duffy, Friedman, Hunter, Patterson and Weinhoff are independent under the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ). The Company requires that a majority of its directors meet the criteria for independence under applicable law and the rules of the NYSE. The Board has adopted a policy to assist it and the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee in their determination as to whether a nominee or director qualifies as independent. This policy contains categorical standards for determining independence and includes the independence standards required by the SEC and NYSE as well as standards published by institutional investor groups and other corporate governance experts. In making its determination of independence, the Board applied these standards for director independence and determined that no material relationship existed between the Company and these directors. A copy of the Board Policy on Director Independence was attached as an appendix to the Company's Proxy Statement filed with the SEC on October 19, 2006.

## **Meetings and Committees of the Board**

During the year ended December 31, 2007, there were five meetings of the Board (including regularly scheduled and special meetings). Each of our directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate Board meetings and committee

meetings of which he was a member during the period he served on the Board, except for Messrs. Patterson and Weinhoff. Our non-management directors meet separately from the other directors in an executive session at least quarterly.

**Table of Contents**

Mr. Carmilani, our President and Chief Executive Officer, was appointed Chairman of the Board in January 2008. Concurrent with this appointment, the Board appointed Mr. Friedman, our Deputy Chairman of the Board, to serve as its Lead Independent Director. The Lead Independent Director's responsibilities include:

organizing and presiding over all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman of the Board is not present, including all executive sessions of the non-management and independent directors;

serving as the liaison between the Chairman of the Board and the non-management directors;

overseeing the information sent to the Board by management;

assisting the Chairman of the Board in setting meeting agendas and schedules for the Board to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items;

facilitating communication between the Board and management;

being available to communicate with and respond to certain inquiries of the Company's shareholders; and

performing such other duties as requested by the Board.

Michael I.D. Morrison, our Chairman of the Board during 2007, served as the presiding director of the executive sessions of our non-management directors held in 2007. As Mr. Morrison is not an independent director, in accordance with NYSE Rule 303A.03, we held one executive session in 2007 with only our independent directors. During this executive session, Mr. Friedman, our Deputy Chairman of the Board, served as the presiding director.

Our Board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, an Executive Committee, an Investment Committee and a Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee, each of which reports to the Board. During 2007, the Audit Committee held five meetings, the Compensation Committee held five meetings, the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee held four meetings, the Executive Committee held no meetings and the Investment Committee held four meetings. The Board has adopted an Audit Committee Charter, a Compensation Committee Charter, an Investment Committee Charter and a Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee Charter. Copies of these charters are available on our website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com) under Corporate Governance Charters. Printed copies are also available by sending a written request to the Company's Secretary.

Our Board has also approved Corporate Governance Guidelines, a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and a Code of Ethics for Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers. The foregoing information is available on our website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com) under Corporate Governance Guidelines and Corporate Governance Codes of Ethics. Printed copies are also available by sending a written request to the Company's Secretary.

*Audit Committee.* The Audit Committee presently consists of Messrs. Hunter (Chairman), Duffy and Weinhoff, each of whom is an independent director. Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing our independent auditors, internal auditors, compliance with legal and regulatory standards and the integrity of our financial reporting. Each of Messrs. Hunter, Duffy and Weinhoff has been determined by the Board to be financially literate within the meaning of the NYSE Listing Standards and each has been designated by the Board as an audit committee financial expert, as defined by applicable rules of the SEC, based on either his extensive prior accounting and auditing experience or having a range of experience in varying executive positions in the insurance or financial services industry.

*Compensation Committee.* The Compensation Committee presently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairman), Friedman and Hunter. The Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors. Pursuant to its charter, the Compensation Committee has the authority to establish compensation policies and recommend compensation programs to the Board, including administering all stock option plans and incentive compensation plans of the Company.

*Executive Committee.* The Executive Committee presently consists of Messrs. Carmilani (Chairman), Duffy and Weinhoff. The Executive Committee has the authority to oversee the general business and affairs of the Company to the extent permitted by Bermuda law.

**Table of Contents**

*Investment Committee.* The Investment Committee presently consists of Messrs. Patterson (Chairman), Hunter and Weinhoff. The Investment Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors. Pursuant to its charter, the Investment Committee is responsible for establishing investment guidelines and supervising our investment activity.

*Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee.* The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee consists of Messrs. Friedman (Chairman), Duffy and Hunter. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors. Pursuant to its charter, the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying individuals believed to be qualified to become directors and to recommend such individuals to the Board and to set compliance policies and corporate governance standards.

The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders and will evaluate such nominees on the same basis as all other nominees. Shareholders who wish to submit nominees for director for consideration by the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee for election at the Annual General Meeting in 2009 may do so by submitting in writing such nominees' names and other information required under Bye-law 34(2) of the Company's Bye-laws, in compliance with the procedures described under Shareholder Proposals for 2009 Annual General Meeting in this Proxy Statement.

The criteria adopted by the Board for use in evaluating the suitability of all nominees for director include the following:

high personal and professional ethics, values and integrity;

education, skill and experience with insurance, reinsurance or other businesses and organizations that the Board deems relevant and useful;

ability and willingness to serve on any committees of the Board; and

ability and willingness to commit adequate time to the proper functioning of the Board and its committees.

In addition to considering candidates suggested by shareholders, the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee considers candidates recommended by current directors, Company officers and others. The Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee determines whether or not the candidate meets the Company's general qualifications and specific qualities for directors and whether or not additional information is appropriate.

**Director Compensation**

The following table provides information concerning the compensation of the Company's non-employee directors for fiscal year 2007.

**Non-Employee Directors Compensation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash</b>	<b>Stock Awards(1)</b>	<b>All Other Compensation</b>	<b>Total(4)</b>
Michael I.D. Morrison	\$ 59,000	\$ 149,989 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 158,771 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 367,760
Bart Friedman	\$ 74,000	\$ 83,723		\$ 157,723

Edgar Filing: ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE CO HOLDINGS LTD - Form PRE 14A

Philip D. DeFeo	\$ 64,500	\$ 64,989	\$ 129,489
James F. Duffy	\$ 66,000	\$ 81,241	\$ 147,241
Scott Hunter	\$ 94,500	\$ 83,723	\$ 178,223
Mark R. Patterson	\$ 76,000	\$ 83,723	\$ 159,723
Samuel J. Weinhoff	\$ 58,500	\$ 81,241	\$ 139,741

(1) As of December 31, 2007, an aggregate of 26,791 restricted stock units ( RSUs ) were outstanding and held by our non-employee directors as follows: Mr. Morrison holds an aggregate of 11,494 RSUs; Mr. Friedman holds an aggregate of 3,147 RSUs; Mr. Duffy holds an aggregate of 2,928 RSUs; Mr. Hunter holds an aggregate of

**Table of Contents**

3,147 RSUs; Mr. Patterson holds an aggregate of 3,147 RSUs; and Mr. Weinhoff holds an aggregate of 2,928 RSUs. All of Mr. DeFeo's 1,494 RSUs vested upon his death in November 2007 in accordance with the terms of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Stock Incentive Plan"). In March 2006, Messrs. Friedman, Hunter and Patterson each received 2,204 RSUs and in July 2006, Messrs. Duffy and Weinhoff each received 1,912 RSUs. The RSUs issued in March 2006 to Messrs. Friedman, Hunter and Patterson were revalued in July 2006 as a result of a modification to the Stock Incentive Plan combined with the initial public offering of our Common Shares (the "IPO"). The revised grant date fair value of each of these RSUs was based on the IPO price of \$34.00 per share, and totaled \$74,936 for each of these directors. The RSUs issued to Messrs. Duffy and Weinhoff in July 2006 had a grant date fair value of \$34.00 per RSU for a fair value of \$65,000 for each of these directors. On January 3, 2007, Messrs. DeFeo, Duffy, Friedman, Hunter, Morrison, Patterson and Weinhoff each received 1,494 RSUs as part of their director compensation arrangement. The grant date fair value of each of these RSUs was \$43.50 per RSU, based on the closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE on such date, for a total fair value of approximately \$65,000 per individual grant. The total stock award compensation expense recorded in this table represents the accounting expense recognized in the consolidated financial statements of the Company in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123(R) "Share Based Payment" (FAS 123(R)) and does not correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by each director. For additional information on the calculation of the compensation expense, please refer to note 9(b) of the Company's consolidated financial statements contained in the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, as filed with the SEC.

- (2) Mr. Morrison received 10,000 RSUs in May 2004 when he was our Vice Chairman. To date, no portion of these RSU awards has vested. These RSUs were revalued in July 2006 as a result of a modification in the Stock Incentive Plan combined with the IPO. Their total fair value of \$340,000 is being expensed on a straight-line basis over the four-year vesting period from May 2004 in accordance with FAS 123(R). The total stock award compensation expense recorded in this table represents the accounting expense recognized in the consolidated financial statements of the Company in accordance with FAS 123(R) and does not correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by this director.
- (3) In October 2004, we entered into a consulting agreement with Mr. Morrison, who presently serves on our Board, pursuant to which he receives \$150,000 annually. In 2007, we also paid health benefits on behalf of Mr. Morrison and his wife. These amounts are shown in the "All Other Compensation" column above.
- (4) In 2007, our non-employee directors received no non-equity incentive plan compensation. In addition, in 2007, we did not have any pension or deferred compensation plans for our non-employee directors. Accordingly, these columns are not included in the "Non-Employee Directors Compensation" table above.

Since March 1, 2006, directors who are not our employees have been paid the following aggregate fees for serving as directors of both the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd:

\$45,000 annually for serving as a director; and

\$1,500 per meeting attended by a director (meetings of the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd held on the same day are considered one meeting for the purpose of calculating attendance fees).

Additionally, we provide to all non-employee directors reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with their service on the Board, including the reimbursement of director educational expenses. Commencing in January 2007, each non-employee director receives an annual equity award of RSUs of the Company worth \$65,000. Each RSU represents the right to receive one newly-issued, fully paid and non-assessable Common Share of the Company at a future date and fully vests on the first anniversary of the date of grant. The RSUs were, and will be, awarded to our

non-employee directors pursuant to the Stock Incentive Plan and were, and will be, granted on similar terms and conditions as those granted to our employees generally. On January 3, 2007, each of our non-employee directors received 1,494 RSUs. In 2008, these annual equity awards were granted concurrently with the grant of equity awards to members of our senior management following the preparation and completion of the 2007 year-end financial statements. Accordingly, on February 28, 2008, each of our non-employee directors received 1,502 RSUs.

The Compensation Committee recently approved an increase in the annual fee that the non-employee directors on the Board are entitled to receive. Commencing in 2008, each non-employee director will receive an aggregate



**Table of Contents**

annual retainer of \$55,000 for serving as a director of the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd. The meeting attendance fees and the dollar amount of RSU awards to be granted annually to the non-employee directors remain unchanged.

***Committee Fees***

An attendance fee of \$1,500 is paid to each committee member who is not an employee of the Company for attendance at committee meetings thereof. Committee meetings of the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd held on the same day are considered one meeting for the purpose of calculating attendance fees.

The Chairman of a committee of the Board also serves as the Chairman of the same committee of the board of directors of Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, and receives one retainer, paid annually, for such service. The Chairman of the Audit Committee of both the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd received an annual retainer of \$15,000 in 2007. All other committee chairmen of both the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd receive an annual retainer of \$8,000.

The Compensation Committee recently approved changes to the annual retainers received by committee chairmen and other non-employee directors on the Board. Commencing in 2008, the Chairman of the Audit Committee of both the Company and Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd will receive an annual retainer of \$25,000, and each other member of the Audit Committee will receive an annual retainer of \$10,000. In addition, our Lead Independent Director will receive an annual retainer of \$15,000.

***Stock Ownership Policy***

In order to promote equity ownership and further align the interests of the Board with our shareholders, in 2007 the Board adopted a stock ownership policy for all non-employee directors. Under this policy, non-employee directors are expected to own, within five years after his joining the Board, equity interests of the Company with a value equal to five times the then-current annual cash retainer for serving on the Board. Mr. Carmilani, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, is subject to a stock ownership policy for senior employees as described in Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Stock Ownership Policy.

**APPROVAL OF ELIGIBLE SUBSIDIARY DIRECTORS  
(Item B on Proxy Card)**

In accordance with our Bye-Laws, no person may be elected as a director of any of the Company's non-U.S. subsidiaries (excluding Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd) unless such person has been approved by the Company's shareholders. The individuals identified below have been nominated to serve as Eligible Subsidiary Directors for certain of our non-U.S. subsidiaries.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR each slate of nominees listed as Eligible Subsidiary Directors on the enclosed proxy card.** It is not expected that any of the nominees will become unavailable for approval as an Eligible Subsidiary Director but, if any nominee should become unavailable prior to the meeting, proxies will be voted for such persons as your Board shall recommend.

***Allied World Assurance Holdings (Ireland) Ltd***

Scott A. Carmilani  
John Clifford  
Wesley D. Dupont

Hugh Governey  
Michael I.D. Morrison  
John T. Redmond

**Table of Contents**

***Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited***

J. Michael Baldwin  
Scott A. Carmilani  
John Clifford  
Hugh Governey  
Michael I.D. Morrison  
John T. Redmond

***Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited***

J. Michael Baldwin  
Scott A. Carmilani  
John Clifford  
Hugh Governey  
Michael I.D. Morrison  
John T. Redmond

***Newmarket Administrative Services (Bermuda), Ltd***

Scott A. Carmilani  
Joan H. Dillard  
Wesley D. Dupont  
Richard E. Jodoin

***Newmarket Administrative Services (Ireland) Limited***

Scott A. Carmilani  
John Clifford  
Hugh Governey  
John T. Redmond

*J. Michael Baldwin* (age 66) served as Managing Director of Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited from November 2001 through July 2006. Mr. Baldwin worked for The Chubb Corporation ( Chubb ) for almost 30 years, starting in 1972. From 1997 to November 2001, Mr. Baldwin worked for Chubb s European Commercial Insurance Division in London and was elected Senior Vice President of Chubb Insurance Company of Europe in 1998. From 1991 to 1997, Mr. Baldwin was the Zone Underwriting Officer for Latin America and was elected Vice President in 1996. From 1988 to 1991, Mr. Baldwin managed Chubb s operations in Italy and from 1984 to 1988, he worked at Chubb U.S. as Home Foreign Manager and Underwriting Officer for Asia/Pacific. Prior to that, Mr. Baldwin held various underwriting and managerial positions at Chubb in Latin America. From 1962 to 1972, Mr. Baldwin worked for Royal Insurance in both the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

*Scott A. Carmilani.* Please see Mr. Carmilani s biography under Election of Directors elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

*John Clifford* (age 58) has been a non-executive director of Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited since July 2004. From 1967 to date, Mr. Clifford has held various positions at the Bank of Ireland, including Group

Secretary since 2003 to present; General Manager, Group Chief Executive Officer's Office, from 2000 to 2003; Executive Director GB (London Based), responsible for the Bank's commercial banking activities in Britain, from 1990 to 1999; General Manager, Group Credit Control, from 1987 to 1989; Group Chief Internal Auditor from 1985 to 1987; and Assistant General Manager Banking from 1983 to 1985. Mr. Clifford is a non-executive director of Irish Clearing House Ltd and a number of subsidiary companies within the Bank of Ireland Group. He is a fellow of the Institute of Bankers and a member of the Institute of Directors.

*Wesley D. Dupont* (age 39) is our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. In November 2003, Mr. Dupont began working for American International Company Limited, a subsidiary of AIG, and began providing legal services to us pursuant to a former administrative services contract with American International Company

**Table of Contents**

Limited. Through that contract, Mr. Dupont served as our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary from April 2004 until November 30, 2005. As of December 1, 2005, Mr. Dupont became an employee of our Company. Prior to joining American International Company Limited, Mr. Dupont worked as an attorney at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, a large international law firm, where he specialized in general corporate and securities law. From April 2000 to July 2002, Mr. Dupont was a Managing Director and the General Counsel for Fano Securities, LLC, a specialized securities brokerage firm. Prior to that, Mr. Dupont worked as an attorney at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, another large international law firm, where he also specialized in general corporate and securities law.

*Joan H. Dillard*, CMA (age 56), is our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In April 2003, Ms. Dillard began working for American International Company Limited, a subsidiary of AIG, and began providing accounting services to us pursuant to a former administrative services contract with American International Company Limited. Through that contract, Ms. Dillard served as our Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer until November 30, 2005. As of December 1, 2005, Ms. Dillard became an employee of our Company. From August 2001 until December 2002, Ms. Dillard served as the Chief Financial Officer of Worldinsure Ltd., an insurance technology provider. From May 2000 until April 2001, Ms. Dillard served as the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of CICcorp Inc., a medical equipment service provider. From March 1998 until May 2000, Ms. Dillard served as the Chief Financial Officer of ESG Re Limited, based in Hamburg, Germany, and from 1993 until 1998, Ms. Dillard worked for TIG Holdings, Inc. and served as the Chief Financial Officer of TIG Retail Insurance and later as the Senior Vice President of Alternative Distribution. Prior to that, Ms. Dillard served in various senior financial positions at both USF&G Corporation and American General Corporation. Ms. Dillard is currently a member of the board of directors of RAM Holdings Ltd. where she is a member of the Compensation Committee.

*Hugh Governey* (age 65) served as a non-executive director of Coyle Hamilton Willis Holdings, Ltd., a subsidiary of Willis Group Holdings Ltd., a NYSE-traded company, from August 2005 through December 2007, when he retired. From 2004 to 2005, Mr. Governey was the Chief Executive Officer of Coyle Hamilton Willis Holdings Ltd. From 2000 to 2004, Mr. Governey was the Chief Executive Officer of Coyle Hamilton Holdings Ltd. Prior to that, from 1981 to 2000, he was the Managing Director of Coyle Hamilton Corporate Broking, and from 1970 to 1981, was a Director of Coyle Hamilton Phillips Ltd. From 1965 to 1970, he worked for V.P. Phillips & Co. Ltd. Insurance Brokers (then a part of C.E. Heath) and from 1960 to 1965, he worked for the Royal Exchange Assurance Dublin (now part of the AXA Group). From May 2005 to June 2006, Mr. Governey served as the President of the Bureau International des Producteurs d Assurances at de Réassurances ( BIPAR ), the European Federation of Insurance Intermediaries, which represents the public affairs interests of insurance intermediaries with European institutions. He was Vice President of BIPAR and Chairman of its EU Executive Committee from 1997 to 1998 and was elected Honorary Vice President in 1999. Mr. Governey served as the President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce from 1999 to 2000; as a member of the board of the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (U.S.) from 1998 to 2004; as Vice President of The Chartered Insurance Institute (U.K.) from 1997 to 1998; and as President of the Irish Brokers Association and the Insurance Institute of Dublin from 1994 to 1995 and 1989 to 1990, respectively.

*Richard E. Jodoin* (age 56) has been the President of Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company since July 2002. Prior to joining Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc., Mr. Jodoin was employed by Lexington Insurance Company in various positions for 17 years, and served as Executive Vice President from 1994 until July 2002.

*Michael I.D. Morrison*. Please see Mr. Morrison's biography under Election of Directors elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

*John T. Redmond* (age 52) joined us in July 2002 and is the President of Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited. Prior to joining our Company, Mr. Redmond held various positions with Chubb, and served as a Senior Vice President of Chubb from 1993 until July 2002.



**Table of Contents**

**APPROVAL OF THE ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD  
SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED 2001 EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN  
(Item C on Proxy Card)**

At the Annual General Meeting, the Company's shareholders will be asked to approve a second amendment to and restatement of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan. The Board unanimously approved the Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan (which we refer to as the Amended Plan for purposes of this proposal only) on February 28, 2008 and recommends that the Company's shareholders approve and adopt the Amended Plan. The Amended Plan will become effective upon the approval of the Company's shareholders.

In 2001, the Company implemented the Allied World Assurance Holdings, Ltd 2001 Employee Warrant Plan (the Warrant Plan), under which up to 2,000,000 of our Common Shares could be issued. On June 9, 2006, the Company amended and restated the Warrant Plan and renamed it the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan (which we refer to as the Current Plan for purposes of this proposal only). Among other things, the amendment and restatement on such date extended the term of the Current Plan to June 9, 2016, required that any repricing of awards under the Current Plan be approved by our shareholders and provided the Compensation Committee additional flexibility with respect to awards in certain corporate events. The warrants that were granted under the Warrant Plan were converted to options under the Current Plan as part of our IPO.

Your Board recommends approval of the Amended Plan to:

Increase by 2,000,000 Common Shares (from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000) the total number of our Common Shares that may be issued;

Prohibit our Common Shares from becoming available for issuance under the Amended Plan once they are surrendered or withheld in connection with:

satisfying an option holder's income tax withholding obligations, or

paying the exercise price of the option;

Prohibit the Company from adversely affecting an option holder's rights with respect to an outstanding option without such option holder's consent;

Extend the termination date from June 9, 2016 to May 8, 2018, after which date no awards may be granted.

As compared to the Current Plan, additional changes under the Amended Plan include increasing limits on the maximum number of our Common Shares as to which options may be granted to any one person in any one year; eliminating restrictions prohibiting the granting of options to any one person with respect to which the number of our Common Shares underlying options granted to such person exceeds, in the aggregate, 9% of our Common Shares authorized for issuance; and making a technical correction to the determination of fair market value of our Common Shares from the average high and low bid prices on the date of grant to the closing price of the Common Shares on the date of grant.

The following summary of the Amended Plan is qualified in its entirety by express reference to the text of the Amended Plan, a copy of which is attached as *Appendix A* to this Proxy Statement. For more information about our Current Plan, our Stock Incentive Plan and our Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan (the LTIP ), please see Executive Compensation Narrative Disclosure Regarding Equity Plans and Employment Agreements elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

### **General**

The purposes of the Amended Plan are to provide certain officers, directors, employees, prospective employees, consultants and others who perform services for the Company with the opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company, to enhance the long-term performance of the Company and to attract to the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates people with superior training, experience and ability. The Board believes that the Amended Plan furthers these purposes by making available sufficient shares to permit future



## **Table of Contents**

awards by the Compensation Committee as a part of the Company's compensation program and believes that the Amended Plan is important to the success of the Company.

As of February 29, 2008, approximately 300 individuals would be eligible to participate in the Amended Plan. The closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE on February 29, 2008 was \$43.55 per share.

## **Administration**

As with the Current Plan, the Amended Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee, which will have the authority to establish rules and regulations for the administration of the Amended Plan; to take any action in connection with the Amended Plan that it deems necessary or advisable; to determine who shall receive awards and under what terms; to determine whether, to what extent, and under what circumstances and methods awards may be settled, canceled, forfeited or suspended; to determine whether awards may be settled in Common Shares or cash or other property; and to determine whether amounts payable under an award may be deferred. The determination of the Compensation Committee on all matters relating to the Amended Plan will be final and binding.

## **Awards; Adjustments**

The Amended Plan provides for the grants of options to purchase Common Shares. The terms and conditions of options granted under the Amended Plan are set out in option agreements between the Company and the individuals receiving such options, including vesting conditions, exercise price and the expiration date of the options, as well as the treatment of such options upon a termination of employment or service with the Company. All options granted under the Amended Plan are non-qualified stock options which are not intended to qualify as incentive stock options subject to favorable tax treatment under Section 422 of the Code. The exercise price of an option may not be less than the fair market value of our Common Shares on the date the award is granted. Options may be granted with an exercise period lasting not more than ten years from the date of grant. Except as otherwise provided in an option agreement, no option may be exercised after the holder's termination of employment or service with the Company, except that (i) if such termination of employment or service is on or after the holder's 65th birthday or is due to such holder's death or disability, the entire option may be exercised by the holder or his beneficiary at any time within the original term of the option, whether or not such option was exercisable at the time of such termination; and (ii) if such termination of employment or service is prior to the holder's 65th birthday or not due to such holder's death or disability, only that portion of such holder's options that were exercisable as of the date of such termination may be exercised after the date of such termination, and only during the 90-day period following such termination.

As with the Current Plan, under the Amended Plan the Compensation Committee will have the authority to make appropriate adjustments to the exercise price and other terms of any outstanding options in the event of changes to the Common Shares by reason of capital adjustments, such as stock splits and recapitalizations. In the event of a merger, amalgamation, consolidation, reorganization, liquidation or sale of a majority of the Company's securities, the Compensation Committee will have the discretion to provide, as an alternative to the adjustment described above, for the accelerated vesting of options prior to such an event or the cancellation of options in exchange for a payment based on the per-share consideration being paid in connection with the event.

## **Shares Subject to the Amended Plan**

Subject to the requisite affirmative shareholder vote at the Annual General Meeting, the total number of Common Shares reserved for issuance under the Amended Plan is 4,000,000. During any time that the Company is subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which awards may be granted to any individual in any one year shall not exceed the maximum number of Common Shares available for issue under the Amended Plan. Common Shares granted pursuant to the Amended Plan may be authorized but unissued Common

Shares or authorized and issued Common Shares held by the Company or acquired by the Company for the purposes of the Amended Plan.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Amendment and Termination**

Except as otherwise provided in an option agreement, the Board retains the right to amend, suspend or terminate the Amended Plan, and the Compensation Committee may amend the terms of any option provided that such amendment may not adversely affect an option holder's rights with respect to an outstanding option without his or her consent. In addition, no award may be amended if such amendment would constitute a repricing or similar event unless first approved by our shareholders.

### **Nonassignability; No Hedging**

As with the Current Plan, no award to any person under the Amended Plan may be assigned, transferred or hedged in any manner (except as expressly approved by the Compensation Committee), other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and all such awards shall be exercisable during the life of the option grantee only by the grantee or the grantee's legal representative. Any assignment or transfer in violation of the applicable provisions of the Amended Plan shall be null and void and any award that is hedged in any manner shall immediately be forfeited.

### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following is a brief discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of transactions with respect to options granted under the Amended Plan based on the Code, as in effect as of the date of this summary. This discussion is not intended to be exhaustive and does not describe any foreign, state or local tax consequences. Holders of options under the Amended Plan should consult with their own tax advisors.

No income is realized by an optionee at the time an option is granted. Generally, at exercise, ordinary income is realized by the optionee in an amount equal to the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the Common Shares subject to such option on such date over the exercise price, and the Company is generally entitled to a tax deduction in the same amount, subject to applicable tax withholding requirements. Upon a sale of Common Shares acquired due to the exercise of an option, appreciation (or depreciation) after the date of exercise is treated as either short-term or long-term capital gain (or loss) depending on how long the Common Shares have been held.

### **New Plan Benefits**

The grant of options under the Amended Plan is entirely within the discretion of the Compensation Committee and we cannot forecast the extent to which such grants will be made in the future. Therefore, we have omitted the tabular disclosure of the benefits or amounts allocated under the Amended Plan.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR the approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan.**

## **APPROVAL OF THE ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED 2004 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN (Item D on Proxy Card)**

At the Annual General Meeting, the Company's shareholders will be asked to approve a second amendment to and restatement of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. The Board unanimously approved the Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Amended Stock Incentive Plan for purposes of this proposal only) on February 28, 2008 and recommends that the Company's shareholders approve and adopt the Amended Stock Incentive Plan. The Amended Stock Incentive Plan will become effective upon the approval of the Company's shareholders.

On June 9, 2006, the Company amended and restated the Allied World Assurance Holdings, Ltd 2004 Stock Incentive Plan and renamed it the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (which we refer to as the Current Stock Incentive Plan for purposes of this proposal only).

## **Table of Contents**

Your Board recommends approval of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan to:

Increase the limits on the maximum number of our Common Shares as to which awards may be granted to any one person in any one year, provided that the maximum number of shares that may be issued under the Plan will not change; and

Extend the termination date from May 27, 2014 to May 8, 2018, after which date no awards may be granted.

The following summary of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan is qualified in its entirety by express reference to the text of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan, a copy of which has been marked to indicate changes from the Current Stock Incentive Plan and is attached as *Appendix B* to this Proxy Statement. For more information about our Current Stock Incentive Plan, our Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan and our LTIP, please see Executive Compensation Narrative Disclosure Regarding Equity Plans and Employment Agreements elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

***The changes discussed above are the only changes being proposed to the Current Stock Incentive Plan.***

## **General**

The purposes of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan are to attract, retain and motivate officers, directors, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and others who may perform services for the Company, to compensate them for their contributions to the long-term growth and profits of the Company, and to encourage them to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company. The Board believes that the Amended Stock Incentive Plan furthers these purposes by removing limits on the maximum number of our Common Shares that the Compensation Committee may award to a participant under this plan as a part of the Company's compensation program and believes that the Amended Stock Incentive Plan is important to the success of the Company.

As of February 29, 2008, approximately 300 individuals would be eligible to participate in the Amended Stock Incentive Plan. The closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE on February 29, 2008 was \$43.55 per share.

## **Administration**

As with the Current Stock Incentive Plan, the Amended Stock Incentive Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee, which will have the authority to establish rules and regulations for the administration of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan; to take any action in connection with the Amended Stock Incentive Plan that it deems necessary or advisable; to determine who shall receive awards and under what terms; to amend any outstanding awards; to determine whether, to what extent, and under what circumstances and methods awards may be settled, cancelled, forfeited or suspended; to determine whether awards may be settled in Common Shares or cash or other property; and to determine whether amounts payable under an award may be deferred. The determination of the Compensation Committee on all matters relating to the Amended Stock Incentive Plan will be final and binding.

## **Awards; Adjustments**

As with the Current Stock Incentive Plan, the Amended Stock Incentive Plan provides for the grant of restricted Common Shares, RSUs, dividend equivalent rights and other equity-based or equity-related awards. The terms and conditions of any such awards granted under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan are set out in award agreements between the Company and the individuals receiving such awards. No options to purchase Common Shares may be granted under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan. Only RSUs have been granted under the Current Stock Incentive Plan.

As with the Current Stock Incentive Plan, under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee will have the authority to make appropriate adjustments to the number of Common Shares authorized for issuance under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan, the number of Common Shares covered by each outstanding award and the type of property to which an award is subject, in each case in such manner as it deems appropriate to preserve the benefits intended to be made available to grantees of awards for any changes to the Common Shares by reason of capital adjustments, such as stock splits and recapitalizations. In the event of a merger, amalgamation,

## **Table of Contents**

consolidation, reorganization, liquidation or sale of a majority of the Company's securities, the Compensation Committee will have the discretion to provide, as an alternative to the adjustment described above, for the accelerated vesting of awards prior to such an event or the cancellation of awards in exchange for a payment based on the per-share consideration being paid in connection with the event.

### **Shares Subject to the Amended Stock Incentive Plan**

The total number of Common Shares reserved for issuance under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan is 2,000,000, which is unchanged from the Current Stock Incentive Plan. During any time that the Company is subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which awards may be granted to any individual in any one year shall not exceed the maximum number of Common Shares available for issue under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan. Common Shares granted pursuant to the Amended Stock Incentive Plan may be authorized but unissued Common Shares or authorized and issued Common Shares acquired by the Company for the purposes of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan.

### **Amendment and Termination**

Except as otherwise provided in an award agreement, the Board retains the right to suspend, discontinue, revise or amend the Amended Stock Incentive Plan without any grantee's consent, including in any manner that may adversely affect a grantee's rights with respect to an outstanding award.

### **Nonassignability; No Hedging**

As with the Current Stock Incentive Plan, no award to any person under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan may be assigned, transferred or hedged in any manner (except as expressly approved by the Compensation Committee), other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and all such awards shall be exercisable during the life of the grantee only by the grantee or the grantee's legal representative. Any assignment or transfer in violation of the applicable provisions of the Amended Stock Incentive Plan shall be null and void, and any award that is hedged in any manner shall immediately be forfeited.

### **New Plan Benefits**

The grant of awards under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan is entirely within the discretion of the Compensation Committee and we cannot forecast the extent to which such grants will be made in the future. Therefore, we have omitted the tabular disclosure of the benefits or amounts allocated under the Amended Stock Incentive Plan.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR the approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.**

## **APPROVAL OF THE ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD 2008 EMPLOYEE SHARE PURCHASE PLAN (Item E on Proxy Card)**

At the Annual General Meeting, the Company's shareholders will be asked to approve the Company's 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan (the "Share Purchase Plan"). The Board unanimously approved the Company's Share Purchase Plan on February 28, 2008 and recommends that the Company's shareholders approve and adopt the Share Purchase Plan. The Share Purchase Plan will become effective upon the approval of the Company's shareholders.

The Company is seeking shareholder approval of the Share Purchase Plan in order to comply with the requirements of Section 423 of the Code and in order that the Share Purchase Plan qualify as an employee share purchase plan thereunder. In the event that the Company's shareholders do not approve the Share Purchase Plan, it will not qualify as an employee share purchase plan under Section 423 of the Code, and no offerings will be made. The Company has reserved for issuance under the Share Purchase Plan 1,000,000 Common Shares.



## **Table of Contents**

The following summary of the Share Purchase Plan is qualified in its entirety by express reference to the text of the Share Purchase Plan, a copy of which is attached as *Appendix C* to this Proxy Statement.

### **Eligibility and Participation**

All employees of the Company and its subsidiaries are eligible to participate if they are employed by the Company or its subsidiaries for more than 20 hours per week and for more than five months in any calendar year. However, no employee is eligible to participate who, after the grant of options under the Share Purchase Plan, would own (including all Common Shares which may be purchased under any outstanding options under the Share Purchase Plan) 5% or more of the total Voting Shares issued and outstanding. The purposes of the Share Purchase Plan are to provide employees of the Company and its subsidiaries with an opportunity to purchase our Common Shares, help such employees to provide for their future security and encourage such employees to remain in the employment of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Share Purchase Plan provides for consecutive six-month offering periods (or other offering periods of not more than 27 months as determined by the Compensation Committee) under which participating employees can elect to have amounts withheld from their total compensation during the offering period and applied to purchase our Common Shares at the end of such offering period (each, an exercise date). An eligible employee may become a participant in the Share Purchase Plan for an offering period by completing a subscription agreement authorizing payroll deductions and filing it with the Company at least 15 business days prior to the first day of such offering period.

### **Payroll Deductions**

A participating employee may authorize after-tax payroll deductions of a specific whole percentage of his or her compensation between 1% and 10%, subject to the limitation that no employee may purchase more than \$25,000 of the Common Shares in any one calendar year.

Payroll deductions will commence on the first payroll date on or following the commencement of an offering period and will end on the last payroll date in the offering period to which such subscription agreement applies, unless terminated sooner by the participating employee. Deductions are accumulated in the participating employee's account during the applicable offering period. In the event that any participating employee's payroll deductions exceed the limits under the Code, his or her payroll deductions will automatically be decreased until such limits are satisfied.

A participating employee may discontinue participation in the Share Purchase Plan at any time during the offering period prior to the exercise date. Once an offering period has begun, a participating employee may increase or decrease the rate of payroll deductions for that offering period by completing a new subscription agreement. The Compensation Committee may limit the number of rate changes that a participating employee may elect during any offering period.

### **Grant and Exercise of Option**

The Company will grant to each participating employee an option, effective on each enrollment date, to purchase on the exercise date the number of full Common Shares that may be purchased with the accumulated payroll deductions in his or her account. Unless otherwise determined by the Compensation Committee before an offering period, the purchase price for each offering period will be 85% of the fair market value of the Common Shares on the exercise date. Unless a participant withdraws from the Share Purchase Plan, his or her option for the purchase of Common Shares will be exercised automatically on the exercise date.

### **Delivery; Transfer Restrictions**

The Common Shares will be purchased by a participating employee directly from the Company and will be deemed to have been issued and sold at the close of business on the exercise date. As promptly as practicable after each exercise date on which a purchase of shares occurs, the Company will arrange for the full Common Shares purchased to be issued to each participant and the Company may arrange for the deposit of such Common Shares

## **Table of Contents**

into each such participant's account with any broker designated by the Company to administer the Share Purchase Plan; *provided, however*, that no Participant shall be permitted to dispose of or transfer any Common Shares purchased pursuant to an option under the Share Purchase Plan prior to the date that is 12 months following the date upon which such Common Shares were so purchased, in which case the Compensation Committee may provide, in its sole discretion, that the Common Shares so purchased shall be held in book entry form, rather than delivered to the Participant, through the expiration of such 12-month period. If certificates representing the Common Shares are registered in the name of the Participant, the Compensation Committee may require that such certificates bear an appropriate legend referring to the terms, conditions and restrictions applicable to such Common Shares and that the Company retain physical possession of the certificates.

## **Withdrawal; Termination of Employment**

At any time prior to the exercise date, a participant may give written notice to the Company to withdraw payroll deductions credited to his or her account and not yet used to exercise his or her option. Once a participant withdraws, such participant's account balance will be distributed to him or her as soon as practicable, and no Common Shares will be purchased for such participant. Upon a participant's ceasing to be an employee of the Company or its subsidiaries for any reason, he or she will be deemed to have elected to withdraw from the Share Purchase Plan, and such participant's account balance will be distributed to him or her as soon as practicable, and no Common Shares will be purchased for such participant.

## **Administration**

The Share Purchase Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board. Subject to the provisions of the Share Purchase Plan, the Compensation Committee will have the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the interpretation and administration of the Share Purchase Plan. In addition, the Compensation Committee may adopt such procedures and sub-plans as are necessary or appropriate to permit participation in the Share Purchase Plan by employees who are foreign nationals or employed outside of the United States and to accommodate the specific requirements of the local laws and procedures of the relevant jurisdiction.

## **Adjustment Relating to Shares**

The Compensation Committee will have the authority to adjust the number of Common Shares authorized for issuance under the Share Purchase Plan, the maximum number of Common Shares each participant may purchase in each offering period, and the price per Common Share and the number of Common Shares covered by each unexercised option for increases or decreases in the number of issued Common Shares resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, combination or reclassification of the Common Shares, or any other event that the Compensation Committee determines affects our capitalization, other than regular cash dividends.

In the event the Company proposes to merge or amalgamate with or into another corporation or proposes to sell all or substantially all of its assets, each option under the Share Purchase Plan shall be assumed, or an equivalent option shall be substituted by the successor or amalgamated corporation. In the event that these options are not assumed or substituted, or in the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, the Compensation Committee may shorten the offering period then in progress and set a new exercise date to occur no later than immediately prior to the effective date of the applicable merger, amalgamation, sale, dissolution or liquidation.

## **Amendment and Termination of the Share Purchase Plan**

The Board may at any time and for any reason terminate or amend the Share Purchase Plan. Amendments may be made without regard as to whether any participant's rights are adversely affected and without shareholder approval

except as required to satisfy Section 423 of the Code. Except as provided above in Adjustments Relating to Shares , no termination may adversely affect options previously granted; provided, that an offering period may be terminated by the Board on any exercise date if it determines that the termination of the Share Purchase Plan is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Term**

The Share Purchase Plan became effective upon its adoption by the Board on February 28, 2008. Subject to approval by the shareholders of the Company, the Share Purchase Plan will continue in effect for a term of ten years thereafter unless all Common Shares authorized to be issued under it have been exhausted or the plan is otherwise terminated sooner.

### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following is a brief discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of transactions under the Share Purchase Plan based on the Code, as in effect as of the date of this summary. The Share Purchase Plan is not qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code. This discussion does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation and does not describe foreign, state, or local tax consequences. Participants in the Share Purchase Plan should consult with their own tax advisors.

Under Section 423(a) of the Code, the transfer to a participating employee of Common Shares pursuant to the Share Purchase Plan is entitled to the benefits of Section 421(a) of the Code. Under that section of the Code, a participant will not be required to recognize income at the time the option is granted or at the time the option is exercised. Section 423(c) of the Code requires that, provided the holding periods described below are met, when the Common Shares acquired during an offering period pursuant to the Share Purchase Plan are sold or otherwise disposed of in a taxable transaction (or in the event of the death of the participant while owning such shares whether or not the holding period requirements are met), the participant will recognize income subject to U.S. federal income tax as ordinary income for the taxable year in which disposition or death occurs in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the excess of the fair market value of the Common Shares at the time of such disposition or death over the purchase price and (ii) the excess of the fair market value of the Common Shares on the enrollment date of the applicable offering period over the purchase price, determined on the enrollment date. Such recognition of income upon disposition shall have the effect of increasing the taxable basis of the shares in the participant's possession by an amount equal to the income subject to U.S. federal income tax. Any additional gain or loss resulting from the disposition, provided it is not a disqualifying disposition (as defined below), measured by the difference between the amount paid for the shares and the amount realized (less the amount recognized as income as described above), will be recognized by the participant as long-term capital gain or loss. No portion of the amount received pursuant to such a disposition will be subject to withholding for U.S. federal income taxes or subject to withholding under the U.S. Federal Insurance Contribution Act ( FICA ) or the U.S. Federal Unemployment Tax Act ( FUTA ).

The Company will not be entitled to any deduction in the determination of its taxable income with respect to the Share Purchase Plan, except in connection with a disqualifying disposition as discussed below.

In order for a participant to receive the favorable tax treatment provided in Section 421(a) of the Code, Section 423(a) of the Code requires that the participant make no disposition of the shares acquired during an offering period within two years from the enrollment date of an applicable offering period, or within one year from the exercise date of such offering period. If a participant disposes of Common Shares acquired pursuant to the Share Purchase Plan before the expiration of these holding period requirements, it will be deemed a disqualifying disposition and the participant will realize, at the time of disposition, ordinary income to the extent the fair market value of the Common Shares on the exercise date exceeds the purchase price. The difference between the fair market value of the Common Shares on the exercise date and the amount realized on disposition is treated as long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the participant's holding period in the Common Shares. The amount treated as ordinary income will not be subject to the income tax or FICA or FUTA withholding requirements of the Code.

### **New Plan Benefits**

Because participation in the Share Purchase Plan is entirely within the discretion of the eligible employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, the Company cannot forecast the extent of participation in the future. Accordingly, the Company has omitted the tabular disclosure of the benefits or amounts allocated under the Share Purchase Plan.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR the approval and adoption of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd 2008 Employee Share Purchase Plan.**

**Table of Contents**

**APPROVAL OF THE SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED BYE-LAWS  
OF ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD  
(Item F on Proxy Card)**

At the Annual General Meeting, the Company's shareholders will be asked to approve and adopt the Company's Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws. Pursuant to Section 13(5) of the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda, as amended (the Companies Act) and the Company's current Bye-Laws, any amendment to the Company's Bye-Laws must receive shareholder approval. The Board unanimously approved the Company's Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws on February 28, 2008 and recommends that the Company's shareholders approve and adopt the Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws. The Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws will become effective upon the approval of the Company's shareholders.

The following summary of the proposed changes to the Company's current Bye-laws is qualified in its entirety by express reference to the text of the Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws, a copy of which has been marked to indicate changes from the Company's current Bye-Laws and is attached as *Appendix D* to this Proxy Statement.

**Proposed Changes**

The proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws provide greater flexibility to the Company to purchase its shares for cancellation because they allow such repurchases to be done only in a manner that the Board, in its sole and absolute discretion, reasonably believes would not result in, or materially increase the risk of, a material adverse regulatory or tax treatment of the Company, any subsidiary thereof or any shareholder in any jurisdiction. To provide for this ability, the proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws modify Bye-Law 11 and add a new Bye-Law 64(13) which clarifies that the transfer provisions in Bye-Law 64 shall not apply to purchases of shares by the Company pursuant to Bye-Law 11.

Additionally, the proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws revise the director and bye-law requirements relating to the Company's subsidiaries as set forth in Bye-Laws 90, 91, 92 and 93 of the Company's current Bye-Laws. These changes will make it easier for the Company to acquire and form any new insurance subsidiaries in the future. The proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws also make certain conforming and definitional changes to reflect the foregoing.

It is no longer a mandatory requirement of the Companies Act that deeds or other documents be executed under seal in order to be effective as a matter of Bermuda law. The requirements for issuing share certificates under seal have also been modernized to provide increased flexibility. The proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws amend Bye-Laws 86 and 87 of the Company's current Bye-Laws to provide the Company greater flexibility in terms of the use or non-use of its corporate seal.

Finally, the proposed Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws also provide for certain technical amendments, specifically to Bye-law 51(4), and revise Bye-law 64 to give the Board sole and absolute discretion to decline to register a share transfer in certain circumstances, particularly if there is reason to believe that such transfer may expose, or materially increase the risk of, a material adverse regulatory or tax treatment of the Company, any subsidiary thereof or any shareholder in any jurisdiction.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR the approval and adoption of the Second Amended and Restated Bye-Laws of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd.**

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**  
**(Item G on Proxy Card)**

The appointment of independent auditors is subject to approval annually by the Company's shareholders. Deloitte & Touche has served as the Company's independent auditors since April 9, 2002. The Audit Committee of



**Table of Contents**

your Board has recommended the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if they wish. They will also be available to answer questions at the meeting. If approved, Deloitte & Touche will serve as the Company's auditor until the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2009 for such compensation as the Audit Committee of your Board shall determine.

**Fees to Independent Registered Public Accountants for Fiscal 2007 and 2006**

The following table shows information about fees billed to us by Deloitte & Touche for services rendered for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

	2007	2006
Audit Fees	\$ 3,307,800	\$ 1,860,746
Audit-Related Fees(1)	\$	
Tax Fees(2)	\$ 2,699	\$ 90,088
All Other Fees(3)	\$ 233,577	

- (1) Audit-Related Fees are fees for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported under the Audit Fees category.
- (2) In 2006, Tax Fees are for work performed in the preparation of tax returns, tax planning and tax consulting for the Company's subsidiaries in the United States and Europe. In 2007, Tax Fees related to the transition to another firm of certain tax compliance services.
- (3) All Other Fees are fees related to technical consultations and services provided in relation to security offerings.

The Audit Committee has a policy to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditors and estimates therefor. The Audit Committee pre-approved all audit services and non-audit services and estimates therefor provided to the Company by the independent auditors in 2007 and 2006.

**Your Board recommends a vote FOR the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as the Company's independent auditors.**

**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

*The following summarizes certain relationships and the material terms of certain of our agreements. This summary is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the relevant agreements. A copy of certain of these agreements has been previously filed with the SEC and is listed as an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, a copy of which will be provided upon request. See General Meeting Information How may I receive a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K? .*

**Founding Shareholders**

We were formed in November 2001, by a group of investors, including AIG, Chubb, certain affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (the "Goldman Sachs Funds") and Securitas Allied Holdings, Ltd, an affiliate of Swiss Reinsurance Company. These investors purchased Common Shares and the shareholders listed below were granted warrants that entitle them to purchase a total of 5,500,000 additional Common Shares, or approximately 11% of all Common Shares outstanding at our formation, at an exercise price of \$34.20 per Common Share. These warrants expire on November 21, 2011.

The warrants are exercisable, in whole or in part, (1) in connection with any sale of Common Shares by the exercising selling shareholder or (2) to avoid a reduction of the exercising selling shareholder's equity ownership below a certain percentage. The exercise price and number of shares issuable under each warrant are subject to

**Table of Contents**

adjustment with respect to certain dilution events. The following table shows the ownership of warrants as of February 29, 2008:

<b>Holder</b>	<b>Warrants to Acquire Common Shares</b>
American International Group, Inc.	2,000,000
The Chubb Corporation	2,000,000
GS Capital Partners 2000, L.P.	848,113
GS Capital Partners 2000 Offshore, L.P.	308,172
GS Capital Partners 2000 Employee Fund, L.P.	269,305
GS Capital Partners 2000, GmbH & Co. Beteiligungs KG	35,449
Stone Street Fund 2000, L.P.	25,974
Bridge Street Special Opportunities Fund 2000, L.P.	12,987

**Certain Business Relationships**

We have assumed, and continue to assume, premiums from, and have paid, and continue to pay, production fees to affiliates of some of our shareholders. We also have ceded and assumed and will continue to cede and assume reinsurance to and from affiliates of some of our principal shareholders.

**Transactions with Affiliates of American International Group, Inc.*****Stock Purchase Agreement***

On December 14, 2007, we entered into a stock purchase agreement with AIG pursuant to which we purchased an AIG subsidiary whose sole asset was its holding of 11,693,333 Common Shares. These shares equated to approximately 19.4% of the Common Shares outstanding as of November 30, 2007. The purchase price per share was \$48.19 for an aggregate price of \$563.4 million and was based on and reflected a 0.5% discount from the volume-weighted average trading price of the Common Shares during the ten consecutive trading day period leading up to December 14, 2007.

***Software License***

On February 16, 2007, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd entered into an amended and restated software license agreement, effective as of November 17, 2006, with Transatlantic Holdings, Inc., a publicly traded company in which AIG holds a controlling interest, for certain reinsurance accounting management information software proprietary to Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. The initial term of the agreement expires on November 17, 2009 and will automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless either party delivers prior written notice to terminate at least 90 days prior to the end of any current term. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd has paid \$3.9 million to Transatlantic Holdings, Inc. for the initial term of the license.

***Guarantee***

On May 22, 2006, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd entered into a guarantee in favor of AIG. Pursuant to the guarantee, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd absolutely, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed the

payment of all amounts legally due and owed by either Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited or Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited to certain reinsurance subsidiaries of AIG under any new or renewal contract of reinsurance entered into between such AIG subsidiaries and Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and/or Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited on or after January 1, 2006.

*Office Space*

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd entered into a lease on November 29, 2006 with American International Company Limited, a subsidiary of AIG, under which Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd rents 78,057 square feet of office space at 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda that serves as the Company's corporate headquarters. The lease is for a 15-year term commencing on October 1, 2006 with an option to extend for

## **Table of Contents**

an additional ten years. For the first five years under the lease, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd will pay an aggregate monthly rent and user fees of approximately \$0.4 million. In addition to the rent, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd will also pay certain maintenance expenses. Effective as of October 1, 2011, and on each five-year anniversary date thereafter, the rent payable under the lease will be mutually agreed to by Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd and American International Company Limited.

### ***Hedge Fund***

Since April 1, 2004, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd has invested a total of \$56.6 million in shares of AIG Select Hedge Ltd. (the "Select Fund"). The Select Fund is a fund of hedge funds and is a Cayman Islands exempted company incorporated under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands. The Select Fund's investment objective is to seek attractive long-term, risk-adjusted absolute returns in a variety of capital market conditions. The investment manager of the Select Fund is AIG Global Investment Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIG. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd may request a redemption of all or some of its shares by giving notice three business days prior to the last business day of any calendar month for the redemption to be effective the last business day of the next following month. The Select Fund will pay the investment manager both a management fee and an incentive fee. The management fee is an annual asset-based fee of 1.5%, payable quarterly, and a 5% incentive fee is paid to the investment manager at the end of each year on the net capital appreciation of our shares, so long as a 5% non-cumulative annual return is obtained. The aggregate fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$1.0 million.

### ***Deferred Compensation Plan***

Scott A. Carmilani, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company; W. Gordon Knight, President, U.S. Operations, Distribution and Marketing; and Richard E. Jodoin, President of Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company (formerly known as Newmarket Underwriters Insurance Company), participated in the Starr International Company, Inc. Deferred Compensation Profit Participation Plan in connection with services previously rendered to AIG prior to joining us.

### ***Transactions with AIG in the Ordinary Course of Business***

Our company either accepts or rejects reinsurance offered by subsidiaries of AIG based upon our assessment of the risk selection, pricing, terms and conditions. All of our reinsurance transactions with AIG or its subsidiaries are open-market transactions that we believe have been on customary, arm's length terms. We assumed premiums from subsidiaries of AIG of approximately \$106.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, and we ceded premiums to subsidiaries of AIG during the same period of approximately \$13.3 million.

### **Transactions with Affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Funds**

#### ***Investment Management Services***

Certain affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Funds provide us with investment management services pursuant to several investment management agreements. Pursuant to these agreements, affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Funds manage substantially all of our investment portfolio. The investment management agreements are generally in force for an initial three-year term with subsequent one-year period renewals, during which they may be terminated by either party upon 60 days prior written notice. Each investment management agreement prohibits the investment manager from executing trades with or through itself or any of its affiliates acting as agent or principal. However, each investment management agreement does allow the investment manager to invest a portion of the portfolio in funds for which the investment manager or any of its affiliates serves as investment adviser, provided that these investments are made in

money market sweep or similar funds for the management of short-term cash balances in the account. We must pay all fees associated with these investments; however, these fees will be offset against the fee to be paid by us pursuant to the investment management agreements. With respect to Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd, the investment manager may also invest up to \$150 million in the Goldman Sachs Global High Yield Portfolio of the Goldman Sachs Funds SICAV and the restrictions and limits of our investment guidelines shall not apply to this investment. Mutual fund fees that will be deducted on both a monthly and quarterly basis will vary by fund and will include investment management fees, sales and distribution fees and operational expense fees. The aggregate fees for our investment in the Goldman Sachs Global High Yield Portfolio for the fiscal year ended

## **Table of Contents**

December 31, 2007 were \$0.4 million. The investment manager is also authorized to effect cross transactions between our account and other accounts managed by the investment manager and its affiliates.

We pay affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Funds an annual fee of 0.12% on the first \$1 billion of our aggregate funds under management, 0.10% on the next \$1 billion of our aggregate funds under management and 0.08% on all of our aggregate funds managed greater than \$2 billion. A pro rata portion of these annual fees is payable quarterly. The total advisory fee for investment management services provided by affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Funds with respect to the investment management agreements totaled \$5.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2007. Our Investment Committee periodically reviews the performance of the investment managers under these investment management agreements.

### ***Hedge Funds***

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd invested a total of \$57 million in shares of the Goldman Sachs Global Alpha Hedge Fund, plc (the Alpha Fund ) in December 2004. The Alpha Fund is an Irish open-ended investment company registered under the Companies Act, 1990 of Ireland. The Alpha Fund's investment objective is to seek attractive long-term, risk-adjusted returns across a variety of market environments with volatility and correlations that are lower than those of the broad equity markets. The investment manager of the Alpha Fund is Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P., an affiliate of the Goldman Sachs Funds. The Alpha Fund pays the investment manager both a management fee and an incentive fee. The management fee is an annual asset-based fee of 2.0%, payable quarterly, and a 20% incentive fee is paid to the investment manager on the net capital appreciation of our shares. The aggregate fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$0.9 million. On December 31, 2007, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd sold its shares in the Alpha Fund.

Effective February 1, 2005, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd invested \$62 million in shares of the Goldman Sachs Multi-Strategy Portfolio VI, Ltd. (the Portfolio VI Fund ). Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd is the sole investor in the Portfolio VI Fund. The Portfolio VI Fund is a fund of hedge funds and is an exempted limited company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. The Portfolio VI Fund's investment objective is to seek attractive long-term, risk-adjusted absolute returns in U.S. dollars with volatility lower than, and minimal correlation to, the broad equity markets. The investment manager of the Portfolio VI Fund is Goldman Sachs Hedge Fund Strategies LLC, an affiliate of the Goldman Sachs Funds. Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd may request a redemption of all or some of its shares at any time or from time to time by giving notice; *provided, however*, that the aggregate net asset value of the remaining shares held by the redeeming shareholders is not less than \$30 million. The Portfolio VI Fund pays the investment manager both a management fee and an incentive fee. The management fee is an annual asset-based fee of 1.0%, payable quarterly, and a 5% incentive fee is paid to the investment manager at the end of each year on the net capital appreciation of our shares. The aggregate fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$1.2 million.

Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd invested a total of \$45 million in shares of the Goldman Sachs Liquid Trading Opportunities Fund Offshore, Ltd. (the Opportunity Fund ) in December 2004. The Opportunity Fund is an exempted limited company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands. The Opportunity Fund's investment objective is to seek attractive total returns through both capital appreciation and current return from a portfolio of investments mainly in currencies, publicly traded securities and derivative instruments, primarily in the fixed income and currency markets. The investment manager of the Opportunity Fund is Goldman Sachs Asset Management, an affiliate of the Goldman Sachs Funds. The Opportunity Fund pays the investment manager both a management fee and an incentive fee. The management fee is an annual asset-based fee of 1.0%, payable quarterly, and a 20% incentive fee is paid to the investment manager on the net capital appreciation of our shares. The aggregate fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$0.4 million. On June 30, 2007, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd sold its shares in the Opportunity Fund.

On August 20, 2007, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd invested \$50 million in the Goldman Sachs Global Equity Opportunities Fund, plc (the Global Equity Fund ). The Global Equity Fund is an open-ended investment company incorporated in Ireland as a public limited company. The fund seeks to achieve attractive total returns through both capital appreciation and current returns in the global equity market. The investment manager of the Global Equity Fund is Goldman Sachs Asset Management, L.P., an affiliate of the Goldman Sachs Funds. The Global Equity Fund allows for monthly liquidity with a 15-day notification period, after a six month initial lock-up. The fund pays the investment manager both a management fee and an incentive fee. The management fee is an



## **Table of Contents**

annual asset-based fee of 1.5%, payable monthly, and a 20% incentive fee is paid to the investment manager on the net capital appreciation of our shares. The aggregate fees for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$0.3 million. On February 29, 2008, Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd sold its shares in the Global Equity Fund.

### ***Investment Banking Services***

Pursuant to the Placement Agency Agreement, dated October 25, 2001, among the Company, AIG, Chubb and GS Capital Partners 2000, L.P., in the event we determine to undertake any transaction in connection with which we will utilize investment banking or financial advisory services, we have agreed to offer Goldman, Sachs & Co. ( Goldman Sachs ) directly or to one of its affiliates the right to act in such transaction as sole lead manager or agent in the case of any offering or placement of securities, lead arranger, underwriter and syndication agent in the case of any syndicated bank loan, or as sole advisors or dealer managers, as applicable in the case of any other transaction. If Goldman Sachs or any of its affiliates agrees to act in any such capacity, we will enter into an appropriate agreement with Goldman Sachs or its affiliate, as applicable, which will contain customary terms and conditions. These investment banking rights of Goldman Sachs shall terminate upon the earlier of (a) the sale, transfer or other disposition of our capital stock to one party, other than AIG, Chubb or GS Capital Partners 2000, L.P. or their respective affiliates, if as a result of such sale, transfer or other disposition such party holds more than 50% of our outstanding voting capital stock; (b) GS Capital Partners 2000, L.P., together with related investment funds, ceasing to retain in the aggregate ownership of at least 25% of its original shareholding in Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd (including any shares that may be issued upon the exercise of warrants); or (c) the second anniversary of our IPO. This arrangement may be terminated by us with cause, or without cause upon a change of control of Goldman Sachs. There were no fees incurred under this Placement Agency Agreement for the year ended December 31, 2007.

### **Transactions with Affiliates of The Chubb Corporation**

#### ***Surplus Lines Agreement***

Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company (formerly known as Newmarket Underwriters Insurance Company) are each party to a surplus lines agreement, effective June 11, 2002, with Chubb Custom Market, Inc., an affiliate of Chubb. Under these two agreements, Chubb Custom Market, Inc. underwrites surplus lines insurance on behalf of Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company, subject to underwriting guidelines provided by our U.S. subsidiaries. Under these agreements, Chubb Custom Market, Inc., on behalf of our U.S. subsidiaries, also processes applications, collects and remits premiums, issues quotes, policies and other insurance documentation, keeps records, secures and maintains insurance licenses and provides and trains employees to perform these services. Total fees and commissions incurred under these agreements for the year ended December 31, 2007 were \$0.4 million. The amount of premiums placed through these surplus lines agreements for the year ended December 31, 2007 totaled \$1.7 million. These agreements were terminated effective as of June 2007.

#### ***Transactions with Chubb in the Ordinary Course of Business***

Our company either accepts or rejects reinsurance offered by subsidiaries of Chubb based upon our assessment of risk selection, pricing, terms and conditions. All of our reinsurance transactions with Chubb or its subsidiaries are open-market transactions that we believe have been on customary, arm's length terms. We assumed premiums from subsidiaries of Chubb of approximately \$10.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2007, and we ceded premiums to subsidiaries of Chubb during the same period of approximately \$8.2 million.

### **Registration Rights**

We executed a Registration Rights Agreement upon the closing of our IPO that provided AIG, Chubb, the Goldman Sachs Funds or Securitas Allied Holdings, Ltd. (the Specified Shareholders ) with registration rights for Common Shares held by them (or obtainable pursuant to warrants held by them) or any of their affiliates. Each of the Specified Shareholders has the right under this agreement to require us to register Common Shares under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ) for sale in the public market, in an underwritten offering, block trades from time to time, or otherwise. For the Specified Shareholders (other than AIG), the total amount of Common Shares requested to be registered under any demand of that kind must, as of the date of the demand, equal

**Table of Contents**

or exceed 10% of all Common Shares outstanding or Common Shares having a value of \$100 million (based on the average closing price during any 15 consecutive trading days ending within 30 days prior to but not including such date of demand). We agreed to waive this provision for AIG in connection with our purchase of an AIG subsidiary holding 11,693,333 Common Shares so that AIG may still make a demand registration request for Common Shares underlying its warrant. We may include other Common Shares in any demand registration of that kind on a second-priority basis subject to a customary underwriter's reduction. If we propose to file a registration statement covering Common Shares at any time, each Specified Shareholder will have the right to include Common Shares held by it (or obtainable pursuant to warrants held by it) in the registration on a second-priority basis with us, ratably according to the relevant respective holdings and subject to a customary underwriter's reduction. We have agreed to indemnify each Specified Shareholder with respect to specified liabilities, including civil liabilities under the Securities Act, and to pay specified expenses relating to any of these registrations. In addition, the Goldman Sachs Funds, as the financial founder, have the right under the Registration Rights Agreement to appoint Goldman Sachs as the lead managing underwriter if the Goldman Sachs Funds are selling more than 20% of the Common Shares sold in a registered public offering.

**Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons**

Pursuant to our Audit Committee charter, the Audit Committee reviewed and approved the related party transactions we entered into during 2007. We do not have written standards in connection with the review and approval of related party transactions as we believe each transaction should be analyzed on its own merits. In making its decision, the Audit Committee reviews, among other things, the relevant agreement, analyzes the specific facts and circumstances and speaks with, or receives a memorandum from, management that outlines the background and terms of the transaction. As insurance and reinsurance companies enter into various transactions in the ordinary course of business, the Audit Committee does not review these types of transactions to the extent they are open-market transactions that happen to involve related parties.

**Table of Contents****PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

The table below sets forth information as of March 3, 2008 regarding the beneficial ownership of our Common Shares by:

each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding Common Shares,

each of our directors,

our Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ), Chief Financial Officer ( CFO ) and our three other most highly compensated officers who were serving as executive officers at the end of our 2007 fiscal year (collectively, our named executive officers or NEOs ), and

all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Beneficial Ownership of Common Shares(1)		Percent of Common Shares
	Voting	Non-Voting	
American International Group, Inc. 70 Pine Street New York, NY 10270	2,000,000(2)		3.3%
The Chubb Corporation 15 Mountain View Road Warren, NJ 07059	1,266,995	8,369,936(3)	15.8%
GS Capital Partners 2000, L.P.(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		4,745,198(5)	7.8%
GS Capital Partners 2000 Offshore, L.P.(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		1,721,770(6)	2.8%
GS Capital Partners 2000 Employee Fund, L.P.(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		1,504,476(7)	2.5%
GS Capital Partners 2000, GmbH & Co. Beteiligungs KG(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		197,924(8)	*
Stone Street Fund 2000, L.P.(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		145,018(9)	*
Bridge Street Special Opportunities Fund 2000, L.P.(4) 85 Broad Street New York, NY 10004		72,506(10)	*
Wellington Management Company, LLP(11)	3,810,227		6.3%

75 State Street		
Boston, MA 02109		
Scott A. Carmilani	117,333(12)	*
Bart Friedman	4,596	*
James F. Duffy	2,972	*
Scott Hunter	2,596	*
Michael I.D. Morrison	118,161(13)	*
Mark R. Patterson	31,596	*
Samuel J. Weinhoff	2,972	*
Joan H. Dillard	26,582(14)	*
Wesley D. Dupont	16,916(15)	*
Marshall J. Grossack	10,698(16)	*
Richard E. Jodoin	31,042(17)	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons)	368,922(18)	*

\* Less than 1%.

**Table of Contents**

- (1) Pursuant to the regulations promulgated by the SEC, our Common Shares are deemed to be beneficially owned by a person if such person directly or indirectly has or shares the power to vote or dispose of our Common Shares, whether or not such person has any pecuniary interest in our Common Shares, or the right to acquire the power to vote or dispose of our Common Shares within 60 days, including any right to acquire through the exercise of any option, warrant or right. As of March 3, 2008, we had 60,512,869 Common Shares issued and outstanding, this figure includes 11,693,333 Common Shares held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. As of March 3, 2008, 43,166,291 Voting Shares and 17,346,578 Non-Voting Shares were issued and outstanding.
- (2) Based on information reported on Schedule 13G/A, as filed by AIG with the SEC on December 18, 2007, the 2,000,000 Voting Shares reported as beneficially owned by AIG in the table above are issuable upon the exercise of a warrant. The warrant is exercisable, in whole or in part, only (1) in connection with a contemporaneous sale by AIG of Common Shares or (2) to avoid a reduction of AIG's equity ownership percentage below 19.8%. Based upon the percentage of currently outstanding Common Shares, AIG may currently exercise the warrant with respect to 2,000,000 Common Shares.
- (3) Based on information reported on Schedule 13G/A, as filed by Chubb with the SEC on February 14, 2008, and information we received from our transfer agent. Of the aggregate amount of 9,636,931 Common Shares shown as beneficially owned by Chubb in the table above, (i) 1,266,995 shares are Voting Shares, (ii) 8,078,005 shares are Non-Voting Shares and (iii) 291,931 shares are Non-Voting Shares issuable upon exercise of a warrant held by Chubb. A total of 2,000,000 Common Shares are issuable upon exercise of this warrant, but the warrant is exercisable, in whole or in part, only (1) in connection with the contemporaneous sale by Chubb of Common Shares or (2) to avoid a reduction of Chubb's equity ownership percentage below 15.8%. Based upon the percentage of currently outstanding Common Shares, the number of Common Shares with respect to which Chubb may currently exercise the warrant, other than for purposes of the contemporaneous sale of Common Shares, is 291,931 Common Shares.
- (4) The Goldman Sachs Funds have converted all of the Voting Shares they owned prior to the IPO to Non-Voting Shares. The warrants held by each of the Goldman Sachs Funds were amended so that they may only be exercised into Non-Voting Shares. In addition, under our Bye-Laws, all Voting Shares held by the Goldman Sachs Funds and their affiliates automatically convert to Non-Voting Shares.

Based on previously received information, we believe that: (i) affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (the Goldman Sachs Group) and Goldman Sachs, which is a broker-dealer, are the general partner, managing general partner or managing limited partner of the Goldman Sachs Funds; and (ii) Goldman Sachs is the investment manager for certain of the Goldman Sachs Funds. Each of the Goldman Sachs Group and Goldman Sachs has previously disclaimed beneficial ownership of the Common Shares owned by the Goldman Sachs Funds, except to the extent of the Goldman Sachs Group's and Goldman Sachs' pecuniary interest therein, if any. Based on previously received information, we also believe that the Goldman Sachs Group, Goldman Sachs and the Goldman Sachs Funds share voting power and investment power with certain of their respective affiliates and Goldman Sachs is a direct and indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of the Goldman Sachs Group.

Each of the Goldman Sachs Funds owns warrants that are exercisable into Non-Voting Shares. The number of warrants held by each Goldman Sachs Fund is reported in Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Founding Shareholders. Each Goldman Sachs Fund may exercise its respective warrant, in whole or in part, only (1) in connection with a contemporaneous sale by such Goldman Sachs Fund of Common Shares or (2) to avoid a reduction of such Goldman Sachs Fund's equity ownership percentage as of the date the Company completed the IPO. Based upon the percentage of currently outstanding Common Shares, the number of

Common Shares with respect to which each Goldman Sachs Fund may currently exercise its respective warrant, other than for purposes of the contemporaneous sale of Common Shares, is reflected in footnotes 5 through 10 below.

- (5) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 131,579 Non-Voting Shares.
- (6) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 45,359 Non-Voting Shares.
- (7) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 39,493 Non-Voting Shares.
- (8) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 5,086 Non-Voting Shares.

**Table of Contents**

- (9) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 3,723 Non-Voting Shares.
- (10) Includes warrants currently exercisable to purchase up to approximately 1,859 Non-Voting Shares.
- (11) Based on information reported on Schedule 13G, as filed by Wellington Asset Management, LLP, an investment advisor ( Wellington ), with the SEC on February 14, 2008, Wellington is the beneficial owner of 3,810,227 Voting Shares held by its clients who had the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of, dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities. No such client was known to have such right or power with respect to more than 5% of the class of the Voting Shares. According to this Schedule 13G, Wellington Asset Management, LLP had the following dispositive powers with respect to the Voting Shares: (a) sole voting power: none; (b) shared voting power: 3,263,817; (c) sole dispositive power: none; and (d) shared dispositive power: 3,810,227.
- (12) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 103,333 Voting Shares.
- (13) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 116,667 Voting Shares.
- (14) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 16,666 Voting Shares.
- (15) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 12,500 Voting Shares.
- (16) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 7,915 Voting Shares.
- (17) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 28,542 Voting Shares.
- (18) Includes stock options exercisable to purchase 302,081 Voting Shares.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Our executive officers are elected by and serve at the discretion of your Board. The following table identifies the executive officers of the Company, including their respective ages and positions as of the date hereof.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Scott A. Carmilani(1)	43	President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board
Joan H. Dillard(2)	56	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Wesley D. Dupont(2)	39	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Marshall J. Grossack	48	Senior Vice President Chief Corporate Actuary
Richard E. Jodoin(2)	56	President, Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company
W. Gordon Knight	49	President, U.S. Operations, Distribution and Marketing, Allied World National Assurance Company
John T. Redmond(2)	52	President Allied World Assurance Company (Europe) Limited and Allied World Assurance Company (Reinsurance) Limited



- (1) Please see Mr. Carmilani's biography under "Election of Directors" elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.
- (2) Please see the biographies of Ms. Dillard and Messrs. Dupont, Jodoin and Redmond under "Approval of Eligible Subsidiary Directors" elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

*Marshall J. Grossack* has been our Senior Vice President – Chief Corporate Actuary since July 2004. From June 2002 until July 2004, Mr. Grossack was a Vice President and Actuary for American International Company Limited, a subsidiary of AIG, and provided services to us pursuant to a former administrative services contract with American International Company Limited. From June 1999 until June 2002, Mr. Grossack worked as the Southwest Region Regional Actuary for subsidiaries of AIG in Dallas, Texas.

*W. Gordon Knight* joined Allied World National Assurance Company as President, U.S. Operations, Distribution and Marketing in January 2008. Prior to joining our Company, Mr. Knight held various global management and underwriting positions for AIG and its subsidiaries since 1982, most recently as President of Sales &

## **Table of Contents**

Marketing for AIG Domestic Brokerage Group from 2005 to January 2008. Mr. Knight began his career as a casualty underwriter at Hartford Insurance Company in 1981.

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### **Executive Summary**

*Overview.* The Company is a Bermuda-based specialty insurance and reinsurance company that underwrites a diversified portfolio of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance lines of business. The Company became a public company in July 2006 after the successful completion of its IPO. In anticipation of its IPO, the Company reconstituted the Board and appointed five new independent board members, three of whom serve on the current Compensation Committee in accordance with the rules of the NYSE. The Board also adopted a Compensation Committee Charter discussed elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation Committee oversees our compensation programs and makes all final compensation decisions regarding the NEOs. The Company has achieved considerable growth since its inception in November 2001 and its compensation programs and plans have been designed to reward executives who contribute to the continuing success of the Company.

*Compensation Philosophy.* The Compensation Committee believes that an effective executive compensation program is one that is designed to reward strong Company and individual performance, which serves to align the interests of the NEO and the Company's shareholders and which balances the objectives of pay-for-performance and retention. The insurance and reinsurance industry is very competitive, cyclical and often volatile, and the Company's success depends in substantial part on its ability to attract and retain successful, high-achieving employees who will remain motivated and committed to the Company during all insurance industry cycles.

*2007 NEO Compensation Structure.* In keeping with this philosophy, our NEO compensation structure is comprised of cash compensation primarily consisting of base salary and annual cash bonus, and long-term equity-based compensation consisting of RSUs granted under the Company's Stock Incentive Plan and performance-based awards granted under the Company's LTIP. For 2007, the Compensation Committee targeted total cash compensation at approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile and total direct compensation (including both cash compensation and equity-based compensation) at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of our Bermuda Peer Group described herein, with actual pay delivered dependent on Company and individual performance. The Compensation Committee believes that setting total cash compensation at approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of our Bermuda Peer Group enables the Company to remain competitive with our Bermuda Peer Group in attracting and retaining employees. Setting total direct compensation at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of our Bermuda Peer Group means that a substantial portion of each NEO's compensation is in the form of long-term equity awards, much of which is at risk with vesting dependent on the Company achieving certain performance targets that should benefit shareholders as well. The Compensation Committee believes that by having a substantial portion of NEO compensation in the form of these long-term equity awards, the Company pays for performance and the interests of the NEOs and the Company's shareholders are better aligned.

#### **Compensation Objectives**

The Compensation Committee's objectives for the Company's compensation programs include:

Driving and rewarding employee performance that supports the Company's business objectives and financial success;

Attracting and retaining talented and highly-skilled employees;

Aligning NEO compensation with the Company's financial success by having a substantial portion of compensation in long-term, performance-based equity awards, particularly at the senior officer level where such person can more directly affect the Company's financial success; and

## **Table of Contents**

Remaining competitive with other insurance and reinsurance companies, particularly other Bermuda insurance and reinsurance companies with which the Company competes for talent.

### **Compensation Oversight and Process**

The Compensation Committee has established a number of processes to assist it in ensuring that NEO compensation is achieving its objectives. Among those are:

Assessment of Company performance;

Assessment of individual performance via interactions with the CEO and other NEOs;

Benchmarking and engagement of a compensation consultant; and

Total compensation review, which includes base salary, annual cash bonuses, long-term incentive compensation, perquisites and contributions to retirement plans.

In determining the level of compensation for the NEOs in 2007, both quantitative and qualitative factors of the Company's and each NEO's performance were analyzed.

### ***Assessment of Company Performance***

The Company's performance was assessed using various factors that the Compensation Committee believed were relevant to creating value for its shareholders. These factors include growth in book value, earnings before interest and taxes, return on equity and the Company's combined ratio. The Company's performance was considered in light of the current market conditions in the insurance industry, which include increased competition, decreasing rates for new and renewal business and, for the casualty segment of the Company's business, pressure on insurance policy terms and conditions to broaden coverage.

### ***Assessment of Individual Performance***

Each NEO's performance is reviewed annually by Mr. Carmilani, our CEO, on his or her individual skills and qualifications, management responsibilities and initiatives, staff development and the achievement of departmental, geographic and/or established business goals and objectives, depending on the role of the NEO. Each NEO's performance was also assessed in light of current market conditions in the insurance industry. In 2007, these performance reviews formed the basis on which compensation-related decisions were made for annual cash bonuses and grants of RSUs under the Company's Stock Incentive Plan as well as 2008 base salaries and grants of performance-based awards granted under the Company's LTIP. Due to the volatility of the insurance industry and thus the Company's financial results, the Compensation Committee believes that pure quantitative performance measures are not the most appropriate measure of rewarding NEO performance.

*The CEO's Role.* The Compensation Committee determines the Company's compensation philosophy and objectives and sets the framework for the NEO's compensation structure. Within this framework, Mr. Carmilani, our CEO, is responsible for recommending to the Compensation Committee all aspects of compensation for each NEO, excluding himself. He reviews the recommendations, survey data and other materials provided to him by Watson Wyatt (our independent compensation consultant) as well as proxy statements and other publicly available information, and consults with our Senior Vice President of Human Resources in making his recommendations. He also assesses the Company's and each NEO's performance as described above. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from

these reviews and consultations, including proposed salary adjustments, annual cash bonus amounts and equity award amounts, are then presented to the Compensation Committee for its consideration and approval. The Compensation Committee has discretion to modify any recommendation it receives from management, but strongly relies on Mr. Carmilani's recommendations.

*The Board and NEO Interactions.* The Board has the opportunity to meet with the NEOs regularly during the year. In 2007, the Company's NEOs met with and made many presentations to the Board regarding their respective business lines or responsibilities. The Company believes that the interaction among its NEOs and the Board is important in enabling the Board, including the members of the Compensation Committee, to form its own assessment of each NEO's performance.

## **Table of Contents**

*Timing of Awards.* The Compensation Committee believes that compensation decisions regarding employees should be made after year-end results have been determined to better align employee compensation with Company performance and shareholder value. This requires that annual cash bonuses, equity awards and base salary adjustments be determined after year-end financials have been prepared and completed. The Compensation Committee's policy is to approve compensation decisions at its regularly scheduled meeting during the first quarter of the year.

### ***Benchmarking***

*The Role of Watson Wyatt, Our Independent Compensation Consultant.* The Company has engaged Watson Wyatt for the benefit of the Compensation Committee to conduct analyses on key aspects of NEO and other senior officer pay and performance, and to provide recommendations about compensation plan design. Watson Wyatt reports directly to the Compensation Committee. Watson Wyatt meets with members of senior management to gain a greater understanding of key issues facing the Company and its equity and retirement plans and other benefits. The Compensation Committee meets separately with Watson Wyatt to review in detail all compensation-related decisions regarding the CEO. During this review, the Compensation Committee receives Watson Wyatt's recommendations, surveys (including Bermuda Peer Group compensation information) and other materials.

The survey data and other information provided by Watson Wyatt is used as a frame of reference for setting the total cash and total direct compensation of our NEOs. With the aid of this data, the Compensation Committee has sought to target cash compensation (base salary and annual cash bonus) at approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile and total direct compensation (both cash and equity-based compensation) at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile among the Bermuda Peer Group. Setting compensation targets based on data provided by an independent third party is intended to ensure that our compensation practices are both prudent and effective.

*Compensation Benchmarking to Bermuda Peer Group.* The Company's Bermuda Peer Group consists of seven companies that were reviewed with Watson Wyatt and adopted by the Compensation Committee based on being within the range of annual revenue, market to book value, net income, total assets and return on equity similar to the Company. The Bermuda Peer Group includes: Arch Capital Group Ltd., Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited, Axis Capital Holdings Limited, Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd., Max Capital Group, Ltd., Montpelier Re Holdings Ltd. and Platinum Underwriters Holdings, Ltd. Watson Wyatt compared key aspects of these companies' executive compensation programs and also compared the pay of individual executives where the jobs are sufficiently similar to make the comparison meaningful.

### ***Total Compensation Review***

In 2007, the Compensation Committee reviewed a summary report or tallysheet prepared by the Company for each NEO as well as other senior officers. The purpose of a tallysheet is to show the aggregate dollar value of each officer's total annual compensation, including base salary, annual cash bonus, equity-based compensation, perquisites and all other compensation. The tallysheet also shows amounts payable to each NEO upon termination of his or her employment under various severance and change-in-control scenarios. Tallysheets are reviewed by our Compensation Committee for primarily informational purposes and are not a material factor in making determinations as to compensation amounts.

### ***Components of Executive Compensation***

For 2007, total compensation for the NEOs consisted of the following components:

Base salary;

Annual cash bonus;

Equity compensation, through grants of RSUs and performance-based awards;

Perquisites, particularly reimbursement for housing expenses and a cost of living allowance for the Company's senior officers residing in Bermuda; and

Retirement, health and welfare benefits.

**Table of Contents****Cash Compensation*****Base Salary***

*Overview.* Base salary is the guaranteed element of the NEO's annual cash compensation. Having competitive base salaries is an important part of attracting and retaining key employees. Base salaries are benchmarked to our Bermuda Peer Group and are also impacted by the NEO's performance as well as the Company's performance. In 2007, the Compensation Committee wanted to reward the NEOs and our other senior officers for their and the Company's strong performance in 2006. The Compensation Committee reviewed the base salaries of our NEOs with the objective of benchmarking total cash compensation (base salaries and annual cash bonuses) at approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the Bermuda Peer Group. The base salaries of the NEOs were increased effective retroactive to January 1, 2007 and are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table below.

Based on the market comparison data and survey data reviewed by the Compensation Committee, our NEOs were relatively close to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for base salaries, other than Mr. Carmilani whose base salary was significantly below the median. The Compensation Committee decided to raise Mr. Carmilani's salary to be closer to the median, to compensate him for his greater level of responsibilities compared to the other NEOs, to recognize his leadership role in developing, and executing on, the Company's business plan and to help ensure his retention with the Company. For 2006 and 2007, the annualized base salary rates for the NEOs are summarized below:

Name	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007	Annualized Percent Increase
Scott A. Carmilani	\$ 550,000	\$ 900,000	63.6%
Joan H. Dillard	\$ 300,000	\$ 320,000	6.7%
Wesley D. Dupont	\$ 265,000	\$ 276,500	4.3%
Marshall J. Grossack	\$ 258,000	\$ 275,000	6.6%
Richard E. Jodoin	\$ 300,000	\$ 315,000	5.0%

***Annual Cash Bonus***

*Overview.* The Company pays annual cash bonuses pursuant to its cash bonus program, which is designed to align individual performance with the Company's performance and earnings growth objectives for the year. The Company's annual cash bonus program is another important element in retaining talented employees and rewarding performance. Cash bonuses paid to our NEOs for 2007 appear in the Summary Compensation Table under the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column.

After extensive internal reviews and discussions, as well as consultations with Watson Wyatt, the Company established a structured, yet still flexible, cash bonus program that has been implemented by the Compensation Committee.

*Cash Bonus Program.* The cash bonus program has two facets: (1) an overall cash bonus pool that is funded and out of which individual annual cash bonuses are paid; and (2) a process by which individual annual cash bonuses are determined. For each senior officer eligible to participate in the cash bonus program, a target bonus percentage was established during the first quarter of 2007. Each officer's 2007 target bonus was based on a percentage of his or her base salary. Target bonus percentages for the NEOs and other senior officers were recommended by the CEO and



approved by the Compensation Committee. The CEO's target bonus percentage was determined solely by the Compensation Committee. These bonus targets below were established so that total cash compensation (base salaries and annual cash bonuses) of each NEO was at approximately the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the Bermuda Peer Group. Our NEOs were eligible to receive an annual cash bonus based on a percentage of their annual base salary as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Bonus Target Percentage</b>
Scott A. Carmilani	100%
Joan H. Dillard	75%
Wesley D. Dupont	50%
Marshall J. Grossack	50%
Richard E. Jodoin	50%

**Table of Contents**

The methodology used to determine the annual cash bonus pool from which individual bonuses are paid contains both a formulaic element and a discretionary element. The formulaic element makes up 50% of the cash bonus pool funding, and the discretionary element makes up the other 50% of this pool. The objective is to provide structure and predictability for the Company's senior officers while also permitting the Compensation Committee to take actions when necessary in light of the cyclical and volatility of the insurance and reinsurance industry.

*The Formulaic Element.* For the 2007 fiscal year, the annual cash bonus pool used earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) as the financial metric to establish funding targets in one of three categories: (1) Minimum Target, (2) Target and (3) Maximum Target. The Minimum Target category was the lowest EBIT number that could be reached and still obtain funding of the formulaic element. The annual cash bonus pool is only 50% funded if the Minimum Target is reached. The Target category is where EBIT meets the goal set by the Compensation Committee, and if the Company reaches this category, the annual cash bonus pool is 100% funded. The Maximum Target occurs when the Company equals or exceeds 120% of its EBIT goal and the cash bonus pool is 150% funded.

For 2007, the following EBIT amounts and annual cash bonus pool funding were approved:

<b>Performance Versus Goal</b>	<b>Minimum Target</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum Target</b>
EBIT	\$282 million	\$353 million	\$424 million
EBIT as a Percentage Goal	80%	100%	120%
Bonus Pool Funding	50%	100%	150%

*Why use EBIT as the financial metric?* The Compensation Committee selected the EBIT financial metric for the 2007 fiscal year because they believed it was the most relevant measure of the Company's annual results.

*How is EBIT calculated?* EBIT is calculated by taking the Company's net income and adding back interest expense and tax expense. In 2007, EBIT was derived as follows (based on approximate totals): \$469.2 million of net income, plus \$37.8 million of interest expense, plus \$1.1 million of income tax expense equals \$508.1 million of EBIT. Based on the \$424 million Maximum Target reflected in the table above, the Company exceeded the maximum target by approximately \$84.1 million, or 19.8%.

*How were the targets determined?* The targets for 2007 for the annual cash bonus pool were the same targets established in 2006, which was a record year for the Company. Given the significant increase in competition and reduced insurance rates in some lines of business, the Compensation Committee did not adjust the 2007 targets from the prior year. The factors that primarily contributed to the Company exceeding the maximum target in 2007 included the benign level of catastrophe activity in the United States during the year, favorable releases of reserves from prior loss years and increased investment income due to interest rate movements. For 2008, the target is based on budgeted EBIT for the Company, which budgeted amount is an increase over 2007.

*The Discretionary Element.* As stated above, the discretionary portion of the award is intended to give the Compensation Committee flexibility in light of the cyclical and volatility of the insurance and reinsurance industry. The Compensation Committee first funds the annual cash bonus pool based on EBIT and then funds 50% of the annual cash bonus pool based on various discretionary considerations. The Compensation Committee then determines each senior officer's annual cash bonus, which is paid out of the total pool.

Depending on the overall cash bonus pool funding level, awards to individual officers are made based on the CEO's and Compensation Committee's assessment of individual performance.

The Compensation Committee sought to reward the NEOs for their performance and achievements in 2007, including:

Acquiring approximately 11.7 million Common Shares held by AIG, one of our founding shareholders;

Posting by the Company of a strong annualized net income return on average equity of 21.7%;

Expanding the Company's business in the United States;

Commencing a U.S. reinsurance platform;

**Table of Contents**

Entering into two credit facilities during the year, consisting of (1) a collateralized \$750 million amended letter of credit facility with Citibank Europe plc; and (2) a five-year \$800 million senior credit facility consisting of a \$400 million unsecured facility and a \$400 million secured facility, with Bank of America, N.A., acting as syndication agent and Wachovia Bank, National Association, acting as administrative agent, fronting bank and letter of credit agent;

Filing with the SEC a universal shelf registration statement on Form S-3 pursuant to which the Company registered various securities that it may issue to raise capital in the future; and

Settling for \$2.1 million all matters relating to the investigation of the Company by the Antitrust and Civil Medicaid Fraud Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

Based on the EBIT calculations above, the annual cash bonus pool was funded at 150% of the Target column in the table above. The annual cash bonus earned for 2007 by each of the NEOs as a percentage of his or her salary and as a percentage of target bonus is as follows:

Name	Bonus as a Percentage of Salary	Bonus as a Percentage of Target
Scott A. Carmilani	150.0%	150.0%
Joan H. Dillard	112.5%	150.0%
Wesley D. Dupont	75.9%	151.9%
Marshall J. Grossack	74.5%	149.1%
Richard E. Jodoin	74.6%	149.2%

**Equity Compensation**

For the NEOs in 2007, the Company's long-term incentive compensation was structured under:

the Stock Incentive Plan; and

the LTIP.

*Overview.* The Compensation Committee believes that a substantial portion of each NEO's compensation should be in the form of long-term equity awards, the largest portion of which should be at risk awards with vesting dependent on the Company achieving certain performance targets. Equity awards serve to align the interests of the NEOs and the Company's shareholders. Equity awards also help to ensure a strong connection between NEO compensation and the Company's financial performance because the value of the award depends on the Company's future performance and share price. Long-term equity awards, meaning awards that vest over a period of years, also serve as a management retention tool. The Compensation Committee utilizes equity awards to accomplish its compensation objectives while recognizing its duty to the Company's shareholders to limit equity dilution. The Compensation Committee has received analysis from Watson Wyatt on relevant factors of its equity compensation program, including the values of the vested and unvested equity stakes, burn rates and comparisons to the equity compensation programs of the Bermuda Peer Group.

*RSU Awards.* An RSU gives a holder the right to receive a specified number of Common Shares at no cost if the holder remains employed at the Company through the applicable vesting date. Although an RSU's value may increase or decrease with changes in the share price during the period before vesting, an RSU will have value in the long term, encouraging retention. While the bulk of the Company's RSU awards to NEOs have historically been made pursuant to our annual grant program, the Compensation Committee retains the discretion to make additional awards at other times. In July 2006, the Board awarded special retention RSUs to key employees of the Company, including the NEOs, prior to the IPO. The Compensation Committee wanted to ensure the long-term retention of our senior officers, including the NEOs. The objectives of these RSU awards primarily were to motivate and retain senior officers, including the NEOs, by increasing their unvested equity stakes, and to ensure continuity of management as the Company approached its IPO. The RSUs were awarded under the Stock Incentive Plan with vesting terms as follows: 50% vest after the fourth anniversary of the date of grant and the remaining 50% vest after the fifth anniversary.

**Table of Contents**

The Company also grants RSUs as part of its equity compensation package to its employees, including the NEOs. Generally these RSUs vest pro rata over four years. The Company granted the following awards in the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to date:

Name	RSUs Granted in 2007 for 2006 Performance	RSUs Granted in 2008 for 2007 Performance
Scott A. Carmilani	12,000	16,667
Joan H. Dillard	5,000	5,000
Wesley D. Dupont	3,000	4,000
Marshall J. Grossack	3,000	3,000
Richard E. Jodoin	4,000	4,000

*LTIP Awards.* Each LTIP award represents the right to receive a number of the Company's Common Shares in the future, based upon the achievement of established performance criteria during an applicable three-year performance period. Awards issued in 2007 will vest after the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 in accordance with the terms and performance conditions of the LTIP as described in more detail below. The LTIP awards are at risk, meaning should the Company fail to perform at a minimum prescribed level, no LTIP awards will vest and no compensation will be derived by the NEOs from these awards. The Compensation Committee believes that the performance-based LTIP awards serve to promote the Company's growth and profitability over the long term. By having a three-year vesting period, the LTIP awards also encourage employee retention.

*Financial Metric.* The Compensation Committee selected adjusted book value as the financial metric for the 2007 grant of performance-based LTIP awards because it believes this metric correlated best with long-term shareholder value and the long-term health of the Company.

For 2007, vesting of the performance shares is based on an average annual growth in the adjusted book value of the Company's Common Shares as follows:

<b>Performance Versus Goal</b>	<b>Below Threshold</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
2007-2009 Average Per Annum Adjusted Book Value Growth	Below 9%	9%	12%	15%
Number of Shares Earned	0	50% of Targeted Shares	100% of Targeted Shares	150% of Targeted Shares

No performance-based equity awards vest if the Company's average annual growth in adjusted book value for the three-year period ending December 31, 2009 falls below 9%. The Compensation Committee believes that even at this threshold amount, there is a significant increase in value to the Company's shareholders, and the NEOs' and shareholders' interests are aligned because the NEOs' receipt of Common Shares is conditioned upon the Company performing well. LTIPs were first awarded in 2006 and again in 2007. None of these LTIP awards have vested because the performance metric is not measured until after the completion of the third year.

In 2007, each of the Company's NEOs received an award of performance shares as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Target Shares</b>
Scott A. Carmilani	50,000
Joan H. Dillard	30,000
Wesley D. Dupont	17,500
Marshall J. Grossack	17,500
Richard E. Jodoin	15,000

## **Table of Contents**

*How is Adjusted Book Value calculated?* For purposes of vesting performance shares under the LTIP, adjusted book value is defined as total shareholder's equity adjusted for (1) any special, one-time dividends declared; (2) accumulated other comprehensive income (consisting primarily of unrealized gains and losses on the investment portfolio); and (3) any capital events (such as capital contributions or share repurchases).

*Is there a Discretionary Element?* In addition to the above three factors, the Compensation Committee may consider in its discretion any other extraordinary events that may affect year-end results.

The number of performance-based awards available for grant each year is determined by the Compensation Committee. In making its determination, the Compensation Committee may consider the number of available shares remaining under the LTIP, the number of employees who will be participating in the LTIP, market data from competitors with respect to the percentage of outstanding shares made available for annual grants to employees and the need to retain and motivate key employees. In 2007, performance-based awards and RSUs were granted in an aggregate amount to each of our NEOs so that his or her total direct compensation (including both cash compensation and equity-based compensation) was at approximately the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of our Bermuda Peer Group.

## **Benefits and Perquisites**

The location of our global headquarters in Bermuda affects our ability to attract and retain talented employees as well as the ways in which we compensate these employees. Because many of our NEOs are non-Bermudians who have relocated to Bermuda, we believe it is important to remain competitive with other Bermuda insurance and reinsurance companies regarding compensation in order to attract and retain talented employees to grow our business. Many of the benefits and perquisites discussed below are offered only to those NEOs who have relocated to Bermuda. Some of the NEOs have not received one or more of the benefits or perquisites in 2007. Mr. Jodoin was not eligible to receive the benefits and perquisites described below because he is a U.S. citizen based out of the Company's Boston office.

*Perquisites.* Our NEOs receive various perquisites paid by the Company. In 2007, these perquisites included a housing allowance, cost of living allowance (COLA), club membership and return flights to their home country for executives and their family members who are in Bermuda. Many of these perquisites are typical of perquisites provided to the Company's other expatriate employees located in Bermuda. Similar perquisites are provided by the Company's competitors for employees in a similar position and have been necessary for recruitment and retention purposes. The Company's perquisites generally include:

*Housing Allowance.* Non-Bermudians are significantly restricted by law from owning property in Bermuda. This has resulted in a housing market that is largely based on renting to expatriates who work on the island. Housing allowances are a near universal practice for expatriates. The Company bases its housing allowances on available rental market information and the Company's knowledge of the housing rental market in general. Each housing allowance is based on the level of the employment position and the size of the employee's family living in Bermuda compared with such market data.

*COLA.* In addition to the base salary, the NEOs and other senior officers who work on the island also receive a monthly COLA based upon the amount of base salary that would have been spent on a basket of goods and services had such individual not relocated to Bermuda versus the cost of the same basket of goods and services in Bermuda. Factors in determining COLA also include the level of base salary (capped at \$300,000) and the size of the senior officer's family living in Bermuda. The Compensation Committee recently reviewed this benefit and decided to eliminate in 2008 the COLA as a separate benefit and instead combine the amount of COLA each senior officer was receiving with his or her annual base salary.



*Club Membership.* The provision of a club membership or financial assistance with joining a club in Bermuda is common practice in the marketplace and enables the NEOs and other employees who are expatriates to settle into the community. It also has the benefit of enabling the NEOs to establish social networks with clients and others.

*Home Leave.* Reimbursement for airfare to a home country is common practice for expatriates who are working in Bermuda. The Company believes that this helps the expatriate and his or her family to better keep in

## **Table of Contents**

touch with relatives and other social networks. Such a benefit is provided by the Bermuda Peer Group companies and is necessary for both recruitment and retention purposes.

*Financial and Tax Planning.* Because many of the Company's senior officers are non-Bermudians and are subject to complicated tax issues from working abroad, the Company provides reimbursement or payment of the cost of financial and tax planning to certain of the senior officers, including its NEOs. The Company believes this perquisite is necessary for retention purposes and is important for the financial welfare of the Company's expatriated employees.

*Tax Gross-Ups.* In 2006, the U.S. Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (the Tax Act) was passed, which significantly increased the amount of U.S. federal tax our employees that are U.S. citizens have to pay. As a result of the Tax Act, the Company agreed to gross-up U.S. taxpayers who are employees working in Bermuda in connection with these additional tax obligations. The Company believes this perquisite is important in retaining employees affected by the Tax Act.

*Aircraft Usage.* One of the Company's subsidiaries leases the fractional use of one aircraft and fractionally owns another. The Company determined that these aircraft were necessary primarily to facilitate directors attending Board meetings in Bermuda. During 2007, certain of the NEOs used these aircraft from time to time for business purposes. If the aircraft are used for personal reasons, the incremental cost for such use, not including fixed costs, shall be included in total perquisites for the NEO. During 2007, certain of our NEOs did use the aircraft for personal reasons. See Summary Compensation Table below for more information.

## **Retirement, Health and Welfare Benefits**

The Company offers a variety of health and welfare programs to all eligible employees. The NEOs are generally eligible for the same benefit programs on the same basis as the rest of the Company's employees. The health and welfare programs are intended to protect employees against catastrophic loss and include medical, pharmacy, dental, vision, life insurance, accidental death and disability, and short- and long-term disability. The Company provides full-time employees with these benefits at no cost to the employee. We offer a qualified 401(k) savings and retirement plan for our employees who are U.S. citizens (wherever they may be located) and similar plans for our other employees. All Company employees, including the NEOs, are generally eligible for these plans. The Company contributes to such employees' accounts as well.

We have established the Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (the SERP), effective as of January 1, 2005, for certain of our employees who are U.S. citizens (generally assistant vice presidents and up) wherever they may be located. Each of our NEOs participates in the SERP. Under the SERP, the Company or its subsidiaries will make a contribution equal to 10% of a participant's annual salary, and participants may voluntarily contribute up to 25% of their annual salary (for these purposes annual salary is currently capped at \$200,000). Participant contributions to the SERP vest immediately. There is a five-year cumulative vesting period for all Company contributions so that upon completion of five years of service, a participant will be 100% vested in all prior and future contributions made on his or her behalf by the Company or its subsidiaries. The Company contributions shall also fully vest upon a participant's retiring after attaining the age of 65. Executives may defer receipt of part or all of their cash compensation under the SERP. The program allows U.S. officers to save for retirement in a tax-effective way at minimal cost to the Company. The investment alternatives under the SERP are the same choices available to all participants under the 401(k) plan, and the NEOs do not receive preferential treatment on their investments. The Company believes that contributing to a participant's retirement and having a five-year cumulative vesting for the Company's contributions on behalf of a participant attracts senior officers who want to remain with the Company for the long term and help it achieve its business objectives.

## **Stock Ownership Policy**

In order to promote equity ownership and further align the interests of management with our shareholders, in 2007 the Board adopted a stock ownership policy for senior employees. Under this policy, all of our employees with

**Table of Contents**

titles of vice president and above are expected to own within five years after his or her joining us or after a promotion, equity interests in the Company, expressed as a multiple of base salary as follows:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Multiple of Base Salary</b>
Chief Executive Officer	5 times
Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President or Presidents	2 times
Vice President	1 time

Under the Company's Policy Regarding Insider Trading for all Directors, Officers and Employees and its Code of Conduct and Business Ethics, employees are prohibited from engaging in speculative or in and out trading in securities of the Company. In addition, the Company also prohibits hedging and derivative transactions in its securities (other than transactions in the Company's employee stock options). These transactions are characterized by short sales, buying or selling publicly traded options, swaps, collars or similar derivative transactions.

**Employment Agreements/Severance Arrangements**

The Company has entered into employment agreements with each of Messrs. Carmilani, Dupont and Grossack and Ms. Dillard – the four NEOs who reside in Bermuda. Apart from name, title, base salary and housing allowance, the employment agreements of these NEOs are identical to each other as well as to other senior officers. The Company believes that entering into these employment agreements supports its compensation objectives of attracting and retaining talented and highly-skilled employees and remaining competitive with other insurance and reinsurance companies in Bermuda that offer similar benefits.

Generally, these employment agreements provide each NEO with two years' base salary and annual bonus, among other things, should he or she be terminated by the Company without cause or should he or she terminate the employment agreement with good reason. Should an NEO's employment be terminated for these reasons, in order to receive this payout they are subject to two year non-compete and non-solicitation provisions, which serve to protect the Company and its business objectives.

The two-year period for base salary and annual bonus increases to three should such termination occur within 12 months of a change in control. The Company believes that the change in control provisions are appropriate for certain of the NEOs to further align their interests and shareholders' interests when considering corporate transactions that may be in the best interests of the shareholders without causing undue concern over whether the transaction may jeopardize the NEO's own employment.

In addition, all equity-based awards shall fully vest immediately prior to such change in control, regardless of whether or not the NEO is terminated. The Board approved the acceleration of vesting of equity awards in the event of a change in control to permit the NEOs to participate in the transaction in the same manner that all other shareholders will be participating, without being exposed to continuing vesting risk. As the full vesting of equity awards does not occur until immediately prior to the change in control, the acceleration provision also has a retention element in that it helps to ensure that the NEOs will remain with the Company through the entire transaction process. The increase in the Severance Multiplier (from two to three) upon a qualified termination within 12 months of a change in control also provides a greater incentive for the NEO to remain with the Company through the change in control regardless of potential redundancies in executive personnel. Please see Narrative Disclosure Regarding Equity Plans and Employment Agreements – Employment Agreements for more information.



**Table of Contents****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table provides information concerning the compensation for services in all capacities earned by the NEOs for fiscal years 2007 and 2006.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)(2)	Option Awards (\$)(3)	Non-Equity Incentive		Total (\$)
					Plan Compensation (\$)(4)	All Other Compensation (\$)(5)	
Scott A. Carmilani(1) <i>President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board</i>	2007	\$ 900,000	\$ 2,804,225	\$ 78,965	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 447,117	\$ 5,580,307
	2006	\$ 550,000	\$ 1,457,120	\$ 209,105	\$ 900,000	\$ 418,633	\$ 3,534,858
Joan H. Dillard <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i>	2007	\$ 320,000	\$ 1,102,419	\$ 100,589	\$ 360,000	\$ 253,472	\$ 2,136,480
	2006	\$ 300,000	\$ 325,117	\$ 100,589	\$ 330,000	\$ 238,333	\$ 1,294,039
Wesley D. Dupont <i>Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary</i>	2007	\$ 276,500	\$ 833,637	\$ 75,442	\$ 210,000	\$ 298,100	\$ 1,693,679
	2006	\$ 265,000	\$ 303,518	\$ 75,442	\$ 155,000	\$ 279,702	\$ 1,078,662
Marshall J. Grossack(6) <i>Senior Vice President Chief Corporate Actuary</i>	2007	\$ 275,000	\$ 541,806	\$ 29,044	\$ 205,000	\$ 291,859	\$ 1,342,709
Richard E. Jodoin <i>President, Allied World Assurance Company (U.S.) Inc. and Allied World National Assurance Company</i>	2007	\$ 315,000	\$ 749,117	\$ 13,246	\$ 235,000	\$ 34,580	\$ 1,346,943
	2006	\$ 300,000	\$ 322,481	\$ 58,385	\$ 225,000	\$ 37,075	\$ 942,941

(1) Mr. Carmilani receives no additional compensation for serving as one of our directors.

(2) The amounts shown in the Stock Awards column equal the dollar amount recognized by us during the applicable year as compensation expense for financial statement reporting purposes as a result of RSU and LTIP awards made in such year and in prior years in accordance with FAS 123(R). Pursuant to the SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. For RSUs and LTIP awards issued in 2007 and in 2006 subsequent to the IPO, the fair value has been calculated using the closing price of the Company's Common Shares on the date of grant. For RSUs issued prior to the IPO, the incremental fair value as a result of the IPO and modification of the plans has been calculated using the difference between the IPO price of \$34.00 per share and the book value immediately prior to the IPO. For additional information on the calculation of the compensation expense, please refer to note 9(b) and (c) of the Company's consolidated financial statements contained in the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, as filed with the SEC. These amounts reflect the Company's accounting expense for these awards and do not correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by the NEOs. For more information on RSU and performance-based awards under our LTIP made to the NEOs during 2007, please see the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table below.

- (3) The amounts shown in the Option Awards column equal the dollar amount recognized by us during the applicable year as compensation expense for financial reporting purposes as a result of options granted in such year in accordance with FAS 123(R). Pursuant to the SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions. For all stock option awards issued, the fair value has been calculated by using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. For additional information on the calculation of the compensation expense including the valuation assumptions used within the option-pricing model, please refer to note 9(a) of the Company's consolidated financial statements contained in the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, as filed with the SEC. These amounts reflect the Company's accounting expense for these awards and do not correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by the NEOs. For more information on option grants made to the NEOs during 2007, please see the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table below.
- (4) The amounts shown in the Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation column represent cash bonuses earned under our 2007 and 2006 cash bonus plans and were paid in February 2008 and 2007, respectively. For a description of our annual cash bonus plan, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Cash Compensation Annual Cash Bonus.

**Table of Contents**

- (5) The amounts shown in the **All Other Compensation** column are attributable to perquisites and other personal benefits or compensation not reported elsewhere in the Summary Compensation Table. The table below shows certain components of the **All Other Compensation** column.

Name	Year	401(k)/ Company Contributions	SERP Company Contributions	Perquisites(a)	Tax Gross- Ups (b)	Aggregate All Other Compensation
Scott A. Carmilani	2007	\$ 11,250	\$ 20,000	\$ 321,282	\$ 94,585	\$ 447,117
Joan H. Dillard	2007	\$ 11,250	\$ 20,000	\$ 181,353	\$ 40,869	\$ 253,472
Wesley D. Dupont	2007	\$ 11,250	\$ 20,000	\$ 211,995	\$ 54,855	\$ 298,100
Marshall J. Grossack	2007	\$ 11,250	\$ 20,000	\$ 204,231	\$ 56,378	\$ 291,859
Richard E. Jodoin	2007	\$ 11,250	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,330		\$ 34,580

- (a) Perquisites in 2007 for the NEOs include reimbursements for amounts for certain home leave travel expenses, housing allowances, utilities, club dues, life insurance premiums, tax preparation, parking, storage expenses, company-leased or fractionally-owned airplane usage and cost of living allowances. Not all of these perquisites are applicable to all of our NEOs. For 2007, Mr. Carmilani received a housing allowance of \$192,000 and a cost of living allowance of \$63,171; Ms. Dillard received a housing allowance of \$98,600 and a cost of living allowance of \$59,548; Mr. Dupont received a housing allowance of \$119,100 and a cost of living allowance of \$63,178; and Mr. Grossack received a housing allowance of \$120,000 and a cost of living allowance of \$63,178. We lease the fractional use of one aircraft and fractionally own another. We also lease aircraft outside of this arrangement on an **as needed** basis. The incremental cost of the personal use of these aircraft is based on the variable operating costs to us, including fuel costs, mileage, trip-related maintenance, federal excise tax, landing/ramp fees and other miscellaneous variable costs. Fixed costs that do not change based on usage, such as the lease and ownership costs and the cost of maintenance not related to trips, are excluded. During 2007, Mr. Carmilani used the aircraft on three occasions for personal use, the incremental cost of which was \$42,307. The incremental costs of such uses are included in the aggregate amount of perquisites he received in 2007. For more information on personal benefits and perquisites, please see **Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Benefits and Perquisites**.
- (b) We agreed to **gross-up** our employees residing in Bermuda who are U.S. taxpayers for additional tax obligations incurred in 2007 as a result of the Tax Act. The amounts provided in the table above for Tax Gross-Ups are estimates based on advice from an independent tax advisor and our current understanding of the Tax Act. The application of the Tax Act to the applicable NEOs has not been finalized and the **gross-up** amounts provided above are subject to revision. For more information on personal benefits and perquisites, please see **Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Benefits and Perquisites**.
- (6) Mr. Grossack was not one of our NEOs in 2006 and, in accordance with SEC requirements, compensation information is being provided for him only for 2007.



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

The following table provides information concerning grants of share-based awards made to our NEOs in fiscal year 2007.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of	All Other Options or Underlying Awards (\$)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards
		Threshold (\$)	Target Maximum (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)			
Scott A. Carmilani	2/26/2007	\$ 450,000	\$ 900,000							
	2/26/2007				25,000	50,000	75,000			\$ 3,255,000
	2/28/2007							12,000(3)		\$ 500,280
Joan H. Dillard	2/26/2007	\$ 120,000	\$ 240,000							
	2/26/2007				15,000	30,000	45,000			\$ 1,953,000
	2/28/2007							5,000(3)		\$ 208,450
Wesley D. Dupont	2/26/2007	\$ 69,125	\$ 138,250							
	2/26/2007				8,750	17,500	26,250			\$ 1,139,250
	2/28/2007							3,000(3)		\$ 125,070
Marshall J. Grossack	2/26/2007	\$ 68,750	\$ 137,500							
	2/26/2007				8,750	17,500	26,250			\$ 1,139,250
	2/28/2007							3,000(3)		\$ 125,070
Richard E. Rodoin	2/26/2007	\$ 78,750	\$ 157,500							
	2/26/2007				7,500	15,000	22,500			\$ 976,500
	2/28/2007							4,000(3)		\$ 166,760

(1) The Company's 2007 cash bonus plan provided for funding of the pool based on target EBIT goals. The NEOs are eligible for annual cash bonuses as a percentage of their base salaries. For more information on the target EBIT goals and percentages, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Cash Compensation Annual Cash Bonus.

The amounts provided in the Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards columns above assume that the same percentage of funding of the annual cash bonus pool will be applied to each NEO.

Threshold. The amounts provided in the applicable threshold column above assume that the annual cash bonus pool will be 50% funded and that each NEO will receive 50% of the target cash bonus that he or she is eligible to receive. Accordingly, we have reduced by 50% the amount each NEO would be eligible to receive based on his or her target bonus as a percentage of base salary, as reflected below in the adjusted bonus column below.

Name	<b>Bonus Target as a Percentage of Base Salary</b>	<b>Adjusted Bonus Target as a Percentage of Base Salary</b>
Scott A. Carmilani	100%	50.0%
Joan H. Dillard	75%	37.5%
Wesley D. Dupont	50%	25.0%
Marshall J. Grossack	50%	25.0%
Richard E. Jodoin	50%	25.0%

The amounts provided in the applicable threshold column above indicates the dollar amount calculated by multiplying the adjusted bonus target as a percentage of base salary (as set forth in the table in this footnote) by the NEO's base salary.

Target. The amounts provided in the applicable target column above assume that the annual cash bonus pool will be 100% funded and that each NEO will receive the full amount of the cash bonus that he or she is eligible to receive. The dollar amount for each NEO is calculated by multiplying the bonus target as a percentage of base salary (as set forth in the table in this footnote) by the NEO's base salary.

Maximum. Individual bonuses under the 2007 cash bonus plan are not capped or subject to any maximums. Accordingly, no information appears in the applicable column above.

**Table of Contents**

- (2) The vesting of performance-based awards under the LTIP is currently based on average per annum adjusted book value growth, which is described in greater detail in Compensation Discussion and Analysis Equity Compensation LTIP Awards. The vested share amounts disclosed in the applicable threshold, target and maximum columns of the Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards heading assume an average per annum growth in adjusted book value of 9%, 12% and 15%, respectively. Each of the performance-based awards made under the LTIP had a grant date fair value equal to the closing price of the Common Shares on February 26, 2007 (\$43.40). In calculating the grant date value, it was assumed that the maximum performance target regarding such awards will be attained, and accordingly, the grant date value has been increased to 150% of the value based on the target performance-based awards issued.
- (3) Represents each NEO's annual grant of RSUs on February 28, 2007. In accordance with FAS 123(R), the grant date fair value included in the table reflects the closing price of the Common Shares on such date (\$41.69) multiplied by the number of RSUs granted to the NEO.

**Narrative Disclosure Regarding Equity Plans and Employment Agreements**

***Stock Option Plan***

The following description of the Stock Option Plan does not include any of the proposed changes to this plan as set forth in the Company's Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan, which is attached as *Appendix A* to this Proxy Statement and which is also described under the proposal Approval of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. We implemented the Stock Option Plan, under which up to 2,000,000 Common Shares may be issued, subject to adjustment as described below. Of that amount, 590,656 Common Shares remained available for issuance as of December 31, 2007. During 2007, the Company granted stock options to purchase 261,650 Common Shares under the Stock Option Plan. These stock options are exercisable in certain limited conditions, expire after ten years and generally vest pro rata over four years from the date of grant. Awards may be made to any of our directors, officers, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and other individuals who perform services for us, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its discretion. The Compensation Committee may grant non-qualified stock options to purchase Common Shares (at the price set forth in the award agreement, but in no event less than 100% of the fair market value of the Common Shares on the date of grant) subject to the terms and conditions as it may determine. While the Board retains the right to terminate the Stock Option Plan at any time, in any case the Stock Option Plan will terminate on the tenth anniversary of the approval of its amendment and restatement.

The shares subject to the Stock Option Plan are authorized but unissued Common Shares. If any award is forfeited or is otherwise terminated or canceled without the delivery of Common Shares, if Common Shares are surrendered or withheld from any award to satisfy a grantee's income tax or other withholding obligations or if Common Shares owned by a grantee are tendered to pay the exercise price of stock option awards, then such shares will again become available under the Stock Option Plan. Generally, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which options may be granted to an individual grantee in any one year is 16,667 (subject to the adjustment described below) and any one grantee may not be granted options, in the aggregate, relating to more than 9% of the Common Shares authorized for issuance under the Stock Option Plan. Our Compensation Committee has the authority to adjust the terms of any outstanding awards and the number of Common Shares issuable under the Stock Option Plan for any increase or decrease in the number of issued Common Shares resulting from a stock split, reverse stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, combination or reclassification of the Common Shares, or any other event that the Compensation Committee determines affects our capitalization, other than regular cash dividends. In the event of a merger, amalgamation, consolidation, reorganization, liquidation or sale of a majority of the Company's securities, the

Compensation Committee will have the discretion to provide, as an alternative to the adjustment described above, for the accelerated vesting of options prior to such an event or the cancellation of options in exchange for a payment based on the per-share consideration being paid in connection with the event.

***Stock Incentive Plan***

The following description of the Stock Incentive Plan does not include any proposed changes to this plan as set forth in the Company's Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, which is attached as *Appendix B* to this Proxy Statement and which is also described under the proposal Approval of the Allied World Assurance

**Table of Contents**

Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. We implemented the Stock Incentive Plan, under which up to 2,000,000 Common Shares may be issued, subject to adjustment as described below. Of that amount, 1,141,393 Common Shares remained available for issuance as of December 31, 2007. During 2007, the Company granted 196,158 RSUs under the Stock Incentive Plan. The Stock Incentive Plan provides for awards of restricted stock, RSUs, dividend equivalent rights and other equity-based or equity-related awards. We will not grant stock options pursuant to the plan. Awards under the Stock Incentive Plan may be made to any of our directors, officers, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and other individuals who perform services for us, as determined by the Compensation Committee in its discretion. Only RSUs have been granted under the Stock Incentive Plan and these RSUs generally vest in the fourth or fifth year from the original grant date, or pro rata over four years from the date of grant. For additional information regarding RSUs granted under the Stock Incentive Plan, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Equity Compensation RSU Awards. While the Board retains the right to terminate the Stock Incentive Plan at any time, the plan will automatically terminate on May 27, 2014.

The shares subject to the Stock Incentive Plan may be either authorized but unissued Common Shares or Common Shares previously issued and reacquired by the Company. If any award expires, terminates or otherwise lapses, in whole or in part, any Common Shares subject to such award will again become available for issuance under the Stock Incentive Plan. Generally, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which awards may be granted to an individual grantee in any one year is 16,667 and any one grantee may not be granted stock appreciation rights with respect to more than 16,667 Common Shares in any calendar year. Our Compensation Committee has the authority to adjust the terms of any outstanding awards as it deems appropriate and the number of Common Shares issuable under the Stock Incentive Plan for any increase or decrease in the number of issued Common Shares resulting from a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, combination or exchange of the Common Shares, merger, amalgamation, consolidation, rights offering, separation, reorganization or liquidation, or any other change in the corporate structure or Common Shares. In the event of a merger, amalgamation, consolidation, reorganization, liquidation or a sale of a majority of the Company's securities, the Compensation Committee will have the discretion to provide, as an alternative to the adjustment described above, for the accelerated vesting of awards prior to such an event or the cancellation of awards in exchange for a payment based on the per-share consideration being paid in connection with the event.

***Long-Term Incentive Plan***

On May 22, 2006, the Board adopted the Long-Term Incentive Plan. On November 7, 2007, the Board adopted the Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan to make certain changes necessary to comply with Section 409A of the Code. Under the LTIP, up to 2,000,000 Common Shares may be issued pursuant to the terms of the plan. Of that amount, 1,379,166 Common Shares remained available for issuance as of December 31, 2007. Participation in the LTIP is limited to employees who are selected by the Compensation Committee. During 2007, the Company granted 392,500 performance-based equity awards under the LTIP. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis Equity Compensation LTIP Awards for more information about the performance-based awards made under the LTIP.

The LTIP provides for grants of long-term incentive awards that are earned based upon the achievement of applicable performance conditions over a three consecutive fiscal-year period. Performance conditions are selected by the Compensation Committee or the Board prior to the commencement of an applicable performance period from a list of permissible financial metrics, including (i) consolidated earnings before or after taxes (including earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization); (ii) net income; (iii) operating income; (iv) earnings per share; (v) book value per share; (vi) return on shareholders' equity; (vii) return on investment; (viii) stock price; (ix) improvements in capital structure; (x) revenue or sales; and (xi) total return to shareholders. Awards are expressed as a target amount representing the number of shares to be issued upon 100% achievement of applicable performance conditions, with the actual number of shares delivered ranging from 0% to 150% of the target amount based on the level of actual

achievement of applicable performance conditions.

The shares subject to the LTIP shall be authorized but unissued Common Shares. If any award expires or is canceled, forfeited or otherwise terminated, any Common Shares subject to such award will again become available

**Table of Contents**

for issuance under the LTIP. The Compensation Committee has the authority to adjust the terms of any outstanding awards, as it deems appropriate, and the number of Common Shares issuable under awards for any increase or decrease in the number of issued Common Shares resulting from a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, combination or exchange of the Common Shares, merger, consolidation or reorganization, or any other change in the capital structure or Common Shares.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table presents information concerning our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2007.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights(1)</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in the First Column)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by shareholders	1,223,875	\$ 31.03	1,732,049 <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity compensation plans not approved by shareholders(3)			1,379,166
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,223,875</b>	<b>\$ 31.03</b>	<b>3,111,215</b>

(1) Represents stock options granted under the Stock Option Plan, which have a weighted average remaining contractual life of 6.65 years.

(2) Includes 590,656 Common Shares available for issuance pursuant to stock options granted under the Stock Option Plan, with the remaining Common Shares available for issuance pursuant to RSUs awarded under the Stock Incentive Plan.

(3) Represents Common Shares available for issuance under the LTIP.

**Employment Agreements**

Effective as of November 1, 2006, the Company entered into employment agreements with Messrs. Carmilani and Dupont and Ms. Dillard. Effective as of December 1, 2006, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Grossack. Mr. Jodoin does not have an employment agreement. Apart from name, title, base salary and housing allowance, the employment agreements for Messrs. Carmilani, Dupont, Grossack and Ms. Dillard are identical. Under their respective employment agreements, each NEO receives an enumerated base salary that may be increased only upon approval of the Board. In addition, each NEO is eligible for a discretionary annual cash bonus.

The employment agreements provide for a cost of living allowance in addition to base salary, financial and tax planning, expense reimbursement for housing, club membership fees for a club in Bermuda and other business

expenses, subject to applicable limits set forth in each employment agreement and the policies of the Company as approved from time to time by the Board. As discussed above under Compensation Discussion and Analysis Benefits and Perquisites, these types of perquisites are standard in the compensation packages of executives among the Company's Bermuda Peer Group and other Bermuda companies.

Under the employment agreements, during the term of employment and ending on the 24-month anniversary following any termination of employment, the NEO is subject to a non-interference covenant. Generally, the non-interference covenant prevents the NEO from soliciting or hiring employees or other service providers of the Company or its subsidiaries and from inducing any customer, supplier, licensee or other business relation of the Company or its subsidiaries to cease doing business, or reduce the amount of business conducted, with the Company or its subsidiaries, or in any other manner interfering with the Company's or its subsidiaries' relationship with these parties. During the term of employment and ending following the Non-Compete Period (as defined below), the NEO is subject to a non-competition covenant. Generally, the non-competition covenant prevents the NEO from



**Table of Contents**

engaging in activities that are competitive with the business of the Company or its subsidiaries in certain jurisdictions. Each employment agreement also contains standard confidentiality and assignment of inventions provisions. In addition, each employment agreement provides that the Company shall generally indemnify the NEO to the fullest extent permitted by Bermuda law, except in certain limited circumstances.

The Non-Compete Period means the period commencing on the date of the employment agreement and (i) in the case of the NEO's termination of employment by the Company with cause, ending on the date of such termination; (ii) in the case of a NEO's termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the NEO for good reason, ending on the 24-month anniversary of the date of such termination; and (iii) in the case of a NEO's termination of employment by the NEO without good reason or as a result of a disability, ending on the date of such termination; *provided, however*, in the case of clause (iii) above, the Company may elect to extend the Non-Compete Period up to an additional 12 months following the date of such termination, during which period the Company will be required to continue to pay the NEO his or her base salary and provide coverage under the Company's health and insurance plans (or the economic equivalent of such coverage, including its cash value).

Each employment agreement terminates upon the earliest to occur of (i) the NEO's death, (ii) a termination by reason of a disability, (iii) a termination by the Company with or without cause and (iv) a termination by the NEO with or without good reason. Upon any termination of the NEO's employment for any reason, except as may otherwise be requested by the Company in writing and agreed upon in writing by the NEO, the NEO will resign from any and all directorships, committee memberships or any other positions the NEO holds with the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Upon termination of the NEO's employment with the Company for any reason, including a termination by the Company with cause or by the NEO without good reason, the NEO will be entitled to all prior accrued obligations. Upon termination of the NEO's employment due to his or her death or disability, the NEO (or his or her estate or beneficiaries), in addition to all prior accrued obligations, will be entitled to any (i) unpaid annual bonus in respect to any completed fiscal year prior to such termination, (ii) a pro rata annual bonus if such termination occurs during a fiscal year and (iii) vesting, as of the date of termination, in the number of equity-based awards that otherwise would have vested during the one-year period immediately following such termination.

Upon termination of the NEO's employment by the Company without cause or by the NEO with good reason, in addition to any prior accrued obligations and unpaid annual bonus, the NEO will receive (i) an amount equal to the Severance Multiplier (as defined below) multiplied by the sum of the NEO's base salary and annual bonus to be paid in substantially equal monthly installments over the period beginning on the termination date and ending one day prior to two and one-half months following the end of the Company's fiscal year in which such termination occurs, (ii) continuation of coverage under the Company's health and insurance plans (or the economic equivalent of such coverage, including its cash value) for a period of years equal to the Severance Multiplier and (iii) vesting, as of the date of termination, in the number of equity-based awards that otherwise would have vested during the two-year period immediately following such termination. The Severance Multiplier will equal two; *provided, however*, if the NEO's termination occurs within the 12-month period following a change in control, the Severance Multiplier will equal three. The Company may require the NEO to execute a general release prior to payment of any amount or provision of any benefit as a result of termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the NEO for good reason. In addition, upon the occurrence of a change in control, all equity-based awards received by the NEO will fully vest immediately prior to such change in control.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table summarizes the number of securities underlying awards for each NEO at December 31, 2007.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units, or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)(8)
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price(1)(\$)	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 (\$)(8)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units, or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)(8)	
Scott A. Carmilani	61,667		\$ 24.27	11/21/2011	16,667(2)	\$ 836,183	60,000(9)	\$ 3,010,200
	13,333		\$ 23.61	01/02/2013	8,333(3)	\$ 418,067	50,000(10)	\$ 2,508,500
	13,333		\$ 29.52	12/31/2013	50,000(4)	\$ 2,508,500		
	10,000	10,000	\$ 32.70	01/03/2015	12,000(5)	\$ 602,040		
Joan H. Dillard	16,666	16,667	\$ 28.32	12/01/2015	1,667(6)	\$ 83,633	13,333(9)	\$ 668,917
					20,000(4)	\$ 1,003,400	30,000(10)	\$ 1,505,100
					5,000(5)	\$ 250,850		
Wesley D. Dupont	12,500	12,500	\$ 28.32	12/01/2015	1,667(6)	\$ 83,633	10,000(9)	\$ 501,700
					30,000(4)	\$ 1,505,100	17,500(10)	\$ 877,975
					3,000(5)	\$ 150,510		
Marshall J. Grossack	3,750	1,250	\$ 31.77	07/01/2014	833(3)	\$ 41,792	17,500(10)	\$ 877,975
	1,666	1,667	\$ 32.70	01/03/2015	1,251(7)	\$ 62,763		
	833	2,500	\$ 28.32	01/03/2016	15,000(4)	\$ 752,550		
					3,000(5)	\$ 150,510		
Richard E. Jodoin	22,500		\$ 24.27	11/21/2011	1,667(2)	\$ 83,633	13,333(9)	\$ 668,917
	1,667		\$ 23.61	01/02/2013	1,667(3)	\$ 83,633	15,000(10)	\$ 752,550
	2,500		\$ 29.52	12/31/2013	17,500(4)	\$ 877,975		
	1,250	1,250	\$ 32.70	01/03/2015	4,000(5)	\$ 200,680		

(1) The table below shows the vesting dates of each stock option:

<b>Stock Option Exercise Price</b>	<b>Vesting Dates</b>
\$24.27	Fully vested
\$23.61	Fully vested
\$29.52	Fully vested
\$32.70	Pro rata on January 3, 2008 and 2009
\$28.32	Pro rata on December 1, 2008 and 2009 (Pro rata on January 3, 2008, 2009 and 2010 for Mr. Grossack only)
\$31.77	July 1, 2008

(2) These RSUs vest on May 27, 2008.

(3) These RSUs vest on January 3, 2009.

(4) These RSUs vest as follows: 50% on July 11, 2010 and 50% on July 11, 2011.

(5) These RSUs vest pro rata on February 28, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(6) These RSUs vest pro rata on December 1, 2008 and 2009.

(7) These RSUs vest pro rata on January 3, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

(8) Assumes a price of \$50.17 per Common Share, the closing price as of December 31, 2007.

(9) These performance-based equity awards, or LTIP Awards, are not eligible to vest until after December 31, 2008. These performance-based awards vest upon the achievement of established performance criteria during an applicable three-year period. The share amounts reflected in the table above represent the target performance goals. For additional information regarding LTIP Awards, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Equity Compensation.

**Table of Contents**

- (10) These performance-based equity awards, or LTIP awards, are not eligible to vest until after December 31, 2009. These performance-based awards vest upon the achievement of established performance criteria during an applicable three-year period. The share amounts reflected in the table above represent the target performance goals. For additional information regarding LTIP Awards, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Equity Compensation.

**Option Exercises and Stock Vested**

The following table summarizes information underlying each exercise of stock options or vesting of RSUs for each NEO in 2007.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Scott A. Carmilani	5,000	\$ 111,650(1)		
Joan H. Dillard			833	\$ 38,551(2)
Wesley D. Dupont			833	\$ 38,551(2)
Marshall J. Grossack			416	\$ 18,096(3)
Richard E. Jodoin	27,500	\$ 526,625(4)		

- (1) Assumes a price of \$46.60 per Common Share, the closing price on November 5, 2007, the date of exercise.
- (2) Assumes a price of \$46.28 per Common Share, the closing price on November 30, 2007, the last trading date before vesting.
- (3) Assumes a price of \$43.50 per Common Share, the closing price on January 3, 2007, the vesting date.
- (4) Assumes a price of \$43.42 per Common Share, the closing price on February 9, 2007, the date of exercise.

**Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation**

The following table summarizes information regarding each NEO's participation in the SERP in 2007.

Name	Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)(1)	Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)(2)	Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (\$)(3)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year-End (\$)
Scott A. Carmilani	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,300		\$ 241,991
Joan H. Dillard	\$ 48,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,192		\$ 116,272
Wesley D. Dupont		\$ 20,000	\$ 235		\$ 41,112

Marshall J. Grossack	\$	20,000	\$	7,172	\$	85,401
Richard E. Jodoin	\$	20,000	\$	11,502	\$	129,070

- (1) Reflects amount of base salary deferred by the NEO under the SERP in 2007.
- (2) Reflects amounts contributed by us on behalf of the NEO. All amounts that we contributed on behalf of the NEO have been reported in the Summary Compensation Table.
- (3) Represents capital gains and dividends on and earnings from the investments made in one or more mutual funds selected by the NEO, less any losses incurred from one or more selected mutual funds during 2007.

*Provisions of the SERP.* Under the SERP, we will make a contribution equal to 10% of the NEO's annual salary and the NEO may voluntarily contribute up to 25% of his or her annual salary (for these purposes annual salary is currently capped at \$200,000). NEO contributions to the SERP vest immediately. There is a five-year cumulative vesting period for all contributions we make on behalf of the NEO, so that upon completion of five years of service, an NEO will be 100% vested in all prior and future contributions made on his or her behalf. Contributions we make on behalf of the NEO shall also fully vest upon an NEO retiring after attaining the age of 65, the

**Table of Contents**

termination of employment on account of the NEO's death or disability, the termination of the SERP or a change in control of the Company. These events are deemed distribution events under the SERP, and all contributions made on behalf of the NEO may be distributed to him or her upon the occurrence of any such event. The SERP complies with Section 409(A) of the Code.

*Investment Alternatives Under the SERP.* Under the SERP, each NEO has the option to select a variety of mutual funds that are used to determine the additional amounts to be credited to his or her account. These mutual funds are the same as those offered under our 401(k) plan. Each NEO is permitted to change, on a monthly basis, the mutual funds to be used to determine the additional amounts to be credited to his or her account.

*Payouts and Withdrawals.* Each NEO may elect to receive at retirement amounts deferred and contributions credited to his account in either a lump sum or in annual installments over a period of up to ten years. For more information regarding the SERP, please see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Retirement, Health and Welfare Benefits.

### Potential Payments Upon a Termination or Change in Control

The table below reflects the amount of compensation and benefits payable to each NEO in the event of (i) a termination by the NEO without good reason (a voluntary termination), (ii) a termination without cause or with good reason (involuntary termination), (iii) a change in control, (iv) a termination due to death and (v) a termination due to disability. The amounts shown assume that the applicable triggering event occurred on December 31, 2007, and therefore are estimates of the amounts that would be paid to the applicable NEO upon the occurrence of such triggering event, assuming a price of \$50.17 per Common Share, the closing price as of December 31, 2007.

Name	Type of Payment	Voluntary Termination(1)	Involuntary Termination(2)	Change in Control(3)	Death(4)	Disability(5)
Scott A. Carmilani	Cash Severance:	\$ 900,000	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,800,000
	Continued Benefits:	\$ 16,995	\$ 33,990	\$ 50,985	\$ 700,000	\$ 16,995
	Equity Acceleration:	\$	\$ 7,248,607	\$ 10,058,190	\$ 8,176,815	\$ 4,798,718
	TOTAL:	\$ 916,995	\$ 10,882,597	\$ 15,509,175	\$ 9,776,815	\$ 6,615,713
Joan H. Dillard	Cash Severance:	\$ 320,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 650,000
	Continued Benefits:	\$ 12,915	\$ 25,830	\$ 38,745	\$ 640,000	\$ 12,915
	Equity Acceleration:	\$	\$ 2,747,249	\$ 3,876,074	\$ 2,747,249	\$ 1,513,870
	TOTAL:	\$ 332,915	\$ 4,073,079	\$ 5,864,819	\$ 3,717,249	\$ 2,176,785
Wesley D. Dupont	Cash Severance:	\$ 276,500	\$ 863,000	\$ 1,294,500	\$ 155,000	\$ 431,500
	Continued Benefits:	\$ 15,780	\$ 31,560	\$ 47,340	\$ 500,000	\$ 15,780
	Equity Acceleration:	\$	\$ 1,811,638	\$ 3,392,043	\$ 2,733,561	\$ 1,073,738
	TOTAL:	\$ 292,280	\$ 2,706,198	\$ 4,733,883	\$ 3,388,561	\$ 1,521,018
	Cash Severance:	\$ 275,000	\$ 920,000	\$ 1,380,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 460,000

Marshall J.  
Grossack

Continued Benefits:	\$ 15,763	\$ 31,526	\$ 47,289	\$ 500,000	\$ 15,763
Equity Acceleration:	\$	\$ 1,146,259	\$ 2,013,207	\$ 1,354,726	\$ 384,789
TOTAL:	\$ 290,763	\$ 2,097,785	\$ 3,440,496	\$ 2,039,726	\$ 860,552

Richard E.  
Jodoin

Cash Severance:	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Continued Benefits:	\$	\$	\$	\$ 500,000	\$
Equity Acceleration:	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,790,381	\$ 544,459
TOTAL:	\$	\$	\$	\$ 2,290,381	\$ 544,459

(1) Under the employment agreements by and between the Company and each NEO (other than Mr. Jodoin, who has no employment agreement), in the case of a termination of employment by the NEO without good reason,

**Table of Contents**

the NEO is entitled only to the prior accrued obligations. However, for purposes of precluding the NEO from joining an organization that competes with the Company, the Company may elect to extend a non-compete period for up to 12 months from the date employment is terminated by the NEO without good reason. The amounts included in the voluntary termination column above under Cash Severance represent the NEO's 2007 base salary (the amount to which the NEO would be entitled for the non-compete period) and the amounts included under Continued Benefits represent participation in the Company's health and insurance plans, based on current health and insurance premiums for the NEO projected over the applicable period, and such amounts assume that the Company has elected to extend the non-compete period for the full 12 months. Please see Narrative Disclosure Regarding Equity Plans and Employment Agreements Employment Agreements for more information on the employment agreements.

- (2) Under the employment agreements executed by and between the Company and each NEO, involuntary terminations consist of terminations of employment by the Company without cause and by the NEO with good reason. In such circumstances, the NEO is entitled to: (i) his or her base salary and the highest annual cash bonus paid or payable for the two immediately prior fiscal years multiplied by two, (ii) participation in the Company's health and insurance plans (or the economic equivalent of such participation) for a period of two years from the date of such termination and (iii) vesting in the number of equity awards held by the NEO that otherwise would have vested during the two-year period from the date of such termination. The dollar value reflected under the Involuntary Termination column above for Equity Acceleration assumes all equity awards vested, were exercised and sold as of December 31, 2007.
- (3) Under the employment agreements executed by and between the Company and each NEO, upon the occurrence of a change in control of the Company all equity awards held by the NEO shall fully vest immediately prior to such change in control. If within 12 months of a change in control the NEO is terminated by the Company without cause or the NEO terminates his or her employment with good reason, the NEO is entitled to: (i) his or her base salary and the highest annual cash bonus paid or payable for the two immediately prior fiscal years multiplied by three and (ii) participation in the Company's health and insurance plans (or the economic equivalent of such participation) for a period of three years from the date of such termination. The dollar value reflected under the Change in Control column above for Equity Acceleration assumes all equity awards vested, were exercised and sold as of December 31, 2007.
- (4) The amounts included under the Death column above for Cash Severance represent the highest cash bonus paid or payable for the two immediately prior fiscal years to which the NEO would be entitled under his or her employment agreement and which would be received by the NEO's estate or beneficiary. Under the employment agreement, upon the NEO's death, the NEO's estate or beneficiary is also entitled to receive a pro rata annual bonus for that portion of the year that the NEO worked.

Each employee of the Company has life insurance paid by the Company for the benefit of his or her estate or beneficiaries. Assuming the death of each NEO as of December 31, 2007, the estate or beneficiaries of such NEO would be entitled to the amounts reflected under the Death column above for Continued Benefits for the NEOs.

Under the employment agreements, as of the date of the NEO's death, his or her estate or beneficiaries would also be entitled to the number of equity awards held by the NEO that otherwise would have vested during the one-year period following such date. In addition, the Stock Option Plan and the Stock Incentive Plan provide for the accelerated vesting of all stock options and RSUs, respectively, held by the NEO in the event of his or her death. The LTIP provides for vesting on a proportional basis depending on the date of death in relation to the three-year performance period. If the NEO were to die in the first fiscal year of the three-year performance period, the NEO would be entitled to 25% of the award; in the second fiscal year of the three-year performance



period, the NEO would be entitled to 50% of the award; and in the third fiscal year of the three-year performance period, the NEO would be entitled to 75% of the award. The dollar value reflected under the Death column above for Equity Acceleration assumes all equity awards vested, were exercised and sold as of December 31, 2007.

- (5) Under the employment agreements by and between the Company and each NEO, in the case of a termination of employment as a result of the NEO's disability, the NEO is entitled to: (i) his or her highest annual cash bonus paid or payable for the two immediately prior fiscal years and (ii) the number of equity awards held by the NEO

**Table of Contents**

that otherwise would have vested during the one-year period following the date of disability. For purposes of precluding the NEO from joining an organization that competes with the Company, the Company may elect to extend a non-compete period for up to 12 months from the date the NEO's employment is terminated as a result of a disability. The amounts included in the disability column above under Cash Severance represent the NEO's 2007 base salary and the highest annual cash bonus paid or payable for the two immediately prior fiscal years and Continued Benefits represent participation in the Company's health and insurance plans (or the economic equivalent of such participation) and assumes that the Company has elected to extend the Non-Compete Period for the full 12 months. The Company pays on behalf of our employees, including the NEOs, short-term and long-term disability insurance. Under this insurance, if the NEO (other than Mr. Jodoin) is considered disabled, he or she will be entitled to 100% of his or her base salary for the first 90 days after a disability and thereafter he or she will be entitled to 75% of his or her base salary up to a maximum of \$15,000 per month until the age of 65. Mr. Jodoin will be entitled to \$2,000 per week for the first 26 weeks after a disability and thereafter he will be entitled to \$10,000 per month until the age of 65.

The Stock Option Plan provides for the accelerated vesting of all stock options held by the NEO in the event of his or her disability. Under the Stock Incentive Plan, there is no acceleration of vesting of the RSUs; however, the NEO would not forfeit his or her RSUs upon being disabled and the RSUs will vest according to the schedule established on the date of grant. The LTIP provides for vesting on a proportional basis depending on the date of disability in relation to the three-year performance period. If the NEO were to be disabled in the first year of the three-year performance period, the NEO would be entitled to 25% of the award; in the second fiscal year of the three-year performance period, the NEO would be entitled to 50% of the award; and in the third fiscal year of the three-year performance period, the NEO would be entitled to 75% of the award. The dollar value reflected under the Disability column above for Equity Acceleration assumes all equity awards vested, were exercised and sold as of December 31, 2007.

Under the employment agreements, if the NEO is terminated for cause, he or she is entitled only to the prior accrued obligations. Under the employment agreements, the NEO is subject to certain restrictive covenants, including non-compete, non-interference, confidentiality and assignment of inventions provisions. In the case where the NEO is terminated by the Company without cause or by the NEO with good reason, should the NEO breach these restrictive covenants, the payments and benefits described above (other than the vesting of equity awards) would cease immediately.

Under the RSU Award Agreement to the Stock Incentive Plan, each employee agrees that the Company may terminate the NEO's right to any RSU he or she holds (whether or not vested) upon the occurrence of: (i) any event that constitutes cause; (ii) the NEO violating the non-solicitation provision set forth in the RSU Award Agreement; or (iii) the NEO interfering with a relationship between the Company and one of its clients.

Under the Stock Option Plan, a participant retiring after attaining the age of 65 is entitled to accelerated vesting of all stock options held by them. Under the Stock Incentive Plan, there is no acceleration of vesting of the RSUs; however, a participant would not forfeit his or her RSUs upon retirement after attaining the age of 65 and these RSUs will vest according to the schedule established on the date of grant. Under the employment agreements, there are no additional compensation provisions for retirement. None of our NEOs was 65 as of December 31, 2007. Accordingly, if any of our NEOs had retired as of December 31, 2007, he or she would not have been entitled to the acceleration of vesting of equity awards or any additional compensation.

In addition to the payments and benefits described above, upon the NEO's retirement at or after age 65, termination of employment (other than with cause), change in control or death or disability of the NEO, the NEO (or his or her estate or beneficiaries) would be entitled to the distribution of the vested contributions we made to the SERP on his or her behalf. The NEO would also be entitled to receive his or her own contributions to the SERP.

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

None of our directors or executive officers has a relationship with us or any other Company that the SEC defines as a compensation committee interlock or insider participation that should be disclosed to shareholders. Our Compensation Committee is comprised solely of independent directors.

**Table of Contents**

**Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation**

*The following report of the Compensation Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this report by reference therein.*

We have reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K. Based on such review and discussion, we recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Proxy Statement.

Mark R. Patterson (Chairman)  
Bart Friedman  
Scott Hunter

**Audit Committee Report**

*The following report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this report by reference therein.*

The Audit Committee is comprised of Messrs. Scott Hunter (Chairman), James F. Duffy and Samuel J. Weinhoff, each of whom has been determined by the Board to be independent under the rules of the NYSE, Section 10A(m)(3) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10A-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act. The Board adopted an Audit Committee Charter, which is available on our website at [www.awac.com](http://www.awac.com) under Corporate Governance Charters.

The role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board in its oversight of the Company's financial reporting process. The management of the Company is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's accounting and financial reporting principles and policies, and its internal controls and procedures. The independent auditors are responsible for auditing the Company's financial statements, reviewing the Company's quarterly financial statements, annually auditing management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting and other procedures. Members of the Audit Committee are entitled to rely without independent verification on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and the independent auditors. The independent auditors have access to the Audit Committee to discuss any matters they deem appropriate.

As set forth in the Audit Committee Charter, in the performance of its oversight function, the Audit Committee reviews and discusses the Company's audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors. The Audit Committee also discusses with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees. Finally, the Audit Committee receives the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, considers whether the provision of non-audit services by the independent auditors to the Company is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence and discusses with the auditors the auditors' independence.

Based upon the reviews and discussions described in this report, and subject to the limitations on the role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee referred to above and in the Audit Committee Charter, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 that was filed with the SEC.

Scott Hunter (Chairman)

James F. Duffy

Samuel J. Weinhoff

**Table of Contents**

**SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATION**

Shareholders and other interested parties may communicate directly with the Board by sending written notice to the Company's General Counsel at the executive offices of the Company. The notice may specify whether the communication is directed to the entire Board, to a committee of the Board, to the non-management directors, to the presiding director of the non-management directors or to any other director. Except as provided below, if any written communication is received by the Company and addressed to the persons listed above (or addressed to the General Counsel of the Company with a request to be forwarded to the persons listed above), the General Counsel of the Company shall be responsible for promptly forwarding the correspondence to the appropriate persons. Obvious marketing materials or other general solicitations will not be forwarded. Directors will generally respond in writing, or cause the Company to respond, to *bona fide* shareholder and other interested party communications that express legitimate concerns or questions about us.

The Board does not have a formal policy regarding the attendance of directors at meetings of shareholders; however, it encourages all directors to attend the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders. Seven of the Company's directors attended the Annual General Meeting in 2007.

**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

If you wish to submit a proposal to be considered for inclusion in the proxy materials for the 2009 Annual General Meeting or propose a nominee for the Board, please send such proposal to the Secretary, Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd, 27 Richmond Road, Pembroke HM 08, Bermuda. Under the rules of the SEC, proposals must be received by no later than November [ ], 2008 to be eligible for inclusion in the 2009 Annual General Meeting proxy statement. If a shareholder wishes to submit a proposal to the 2009 Annual General Meeting without including such proposal in the proxy statement for that meeting, that proposal will be considered untimely if the Company is not notified in writing of such proposal between January 8, 2009 and February 7, 2009. In that case, the proxies solicited by the Board will confer discretionary authority on the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy to vote on that proposal as they see fit.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Your Board does not know of any matters that may be presented at the Annual General Meeting other than those specifically set forth in the Notice of Annual General Meeting attached hereto. If matters other than those set forth in the Notice of Annual General Meeting come before the meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy and acting thereunder will vote in their discretion with respect to such matters.

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

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file reports of ownership of, and transactions in, our equity securities with the SEC. Such directors, executive officers and shareholders are also required to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports they file. Purchases and sales of our equity securities by such persons are published on our website.

Based on a review of the copies of such reports, and on written representations from our reporting persons, we believe that all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our directors, executive officers and shareholders were

complied with during the period such persons were subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

**NOTICE OF INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS**

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the 2008 Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008. The Proxy Statement and Annual Report are available at <http://www.awac.com/proxy.aspx>.**

For the date, time and location of the Annual General Meeting, please see General Meeting Information. For information on how to attend and vote in person at the Annual General Meeting, an identification of the matters to be voted upon at the Annual General Meeting and the Board's recommendations regarding those matters, please also refer to General Meeting Information.

**Table of Contents**

**APPENDIX A**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**

**SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED 2001 EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN**

1. Purpose. As of May 8, 2008 (the Second Amendment and Restatement Effective Date ), the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan was amended and restated and renamed the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd Second Amended and Restated 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan (the Plan ). The purpose of the Plan is to advance the interest of Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd ( Allied World ) and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Company ) by providing certain Key Persons (as defined below) with the opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company, to enhance the long-term performance of the Company, as well as to attract people with training, experience and ability to the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates.

2. Definitions of Certain Terms.

(i) Award means a stock option granted pursuant to the Plan, including Prior Grants. Stock options granted under the Plan are not intended to qualify as incentive stock options meeting the requirements of Section 422 of the Code.

(ii) Award Agreement means the written document by which each Award is evidenced.

(iii) Board means the Board of Directors of Allied World.

(iv) Code means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, and the applicable rulings and regulations thereunder.

(v) Committee has the meaning set forth in Section 3.a.

(vi) Common Shares means the common shares of Allied World.

(vii) Covered Person has the meaning set forth in Section 3.c.

(viii) Fair Market Value means, with respect to a Common Share on any day, the fair market value as determined in accordance with a valuation methodology approved by the Committee and consistent with the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, or if there is a public market for the shares on such date, the closing price of the Common Shares on such stock exchange on which the shares are principally trading on the date in question, or, if there were no sales on such date, on the closest preceding date on which there were sales of shares.

(ix) Key Persons means officers, directors, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and others who may perform services for the Company. For purposes of the Plan, if a Key Person provides services to the Company in a non-employee capacity, references herein to employee shall instead refer to service provider and references herein to employment or similar terms shall instead refer to service or similar terms.

(x) Prior Grants means stock options and warrants granted prior to the Second Amendment and Restatement Effective Date under previous versions of the Plan.

3. Administration.



a. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Plan shall be administered by a committee (the Committee ) of the Board to be drawn solely from members of the Board who are not and have not been officers of the Company. The Committee is authorized, subject to the provisions of the Plan, to establish such rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the proper administration of the Plan and to make such determinations and interpretations and to take such action in connection with the Plan and any Award granted hereunder as it deems necessary or advisable. All determinations and interpretations made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on all grantees and on their legal representatives and beneficiaries. The Committee shall have the authority, in its absolute discretion, to determine which Key Persons shall receive Awards, the time when Awards shall be issued, the terms of

A-1

---

**Table of Contents**

such Awards and the number of shares for which Awards shall be issued; *provided, however*, that the Board shall have the sole authority to make such determinations with respect to Awards, if any, to be issued to the members of the Committee. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the Plan or an Award Agreement, the Committee shall have the authority, in its absolute discretion, to (i) amend any outstanding Award Agreement in any respect, subject to the consent of any grantee where the rights of the grantee of such Award are adversely affected, including, without limitation, to accelerate the time or times at which the Award becomes vested, unrestricted or may be exercised, waive or amend any restrictions or conditions set forth in such Award Agreement, or impose new restrictions and conditions, or reflect a change in the grantee's circumstances; and (ii) determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances and method or methods (A) Awards may be (1) settled in cash, Common Shares, other securities, other Awards or other property or (2) canceled, forfeited or suspended, (B) Common Shares, other securities, other Awards or other property, and other amounts payable with respect to an Award may be deferred either automatically or at the election of the grantee thereof or of the Committee and (C) Awards may be settled by the Company or any of its designees. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Board may, in its sole discretion, at any time and from time to time, grant Awards (including grants to members of the Board who are not employees of the Company) or administer the Plan, in which case the Board shall have all of the authority and responsibility granted to the Committee herein.

b. Actions of the Committee may be taken by the vote of a majority of its members. The Committee may allocate among its members and delegate to any person who is not a member of the Committee any of its powers, responsibilities or duties in accordance with applicable law.

c. No member of the Board or the Committee or any employee of the Company (each such person a Covered Person) shall have any liability to any person (including any grantee) for any action taken or omitted to be taken or any determination made in good faith with respect to the Plan or any Award. Each Covered Person shall be indemnified and held harmless by Allied World against and from any loss, cost, liability or expense (including attorneys' fees) that may be imposed upon or incurred by such Covered Person in connection with or resulting from any action, suit or proceeding to which such Covered Person may be a party or in which such Covered Person may be involved by reason of any action taken or omitted to be taken under the Plan or any Award Agreement and against and from any and all amounts paid by such Covered Person, with Allied World's approval, in settlement thereof, or paid by such Covered Person in satisfaction of any judgment in any such action, suit or proceeding against such Covered Person, provided that Allied World shall have the right, at its own expense, to assume and defend any such action, suit or proceeding and, once Allied World gives notice of its intent to assume the defense, Allied World shall have sole control over such defense with counsel of Allied World's choice. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be available to a Covered Person to the extent that a court of competent jurisdiction in a final judgment or other final adjudication, in either case, not subject to further appeal, determines that the acts or omissions of such Covered Person giving rise to the indemnification claim resulted from such Covered Person's fraud or dishonesty. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights of indemnification to which Covered Persons may be entitled under Allied World's Memorandum of Association or Bye-laws, as a matter of law, or otherwise, or any other power that Allied World may have to indemnify such persons or hold them harmless.

4. Common Shares Available for Awards; Adjustments.

a. Common Shares Available for Awards. The total number of Common Shares that may be issued pursuant to Awards granted under the Plan shall not exceed four million (4,000,000) Common Shares (the Maximum Number) as adjusted pursuant to the provisions of Section 4.b. Common Shares issued upon exercise of Prior Grants shall count against the Maximum Number. Awards may be granted to Key Persons in such number and at such times during the term of this Plan as the Committee or the Board shall determine; *provided, however*, that during any time that the Company is subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which Awards may be granted to any individual in any one year shall not exceed the maximum number of Common Shares

available for issue hereunder, as such number may change from time to time. Shares granted pursuant to this Plan may be authorized but unissued Common Shares or authorized and issued Common Shares held by the Company or acquired by the Company for the purposes of the Plan. If any Award granted under this Plan or any Prior Grant is forfeited or otherwise terminates or is canceled without the delivery of Common Shares, then the Common Shares covered by such forfeited, terminated or canceled Award or Prior Grant shall again become available for transfer pursuant to Awards granted or to be granted under this Plan. Without

A-2

---

**Table of Contents**

affecting the number of Common Shares reserved or available hereunder, the Committee may authorize under the Plan the issuance of Awards or the assumption of awards granted under plans of other entities in connection with any amalgamation, merger, consolidation, acquisition of property or stock, or reorganization upon such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate, and any other applicable laws or stock exchange rules.

b. Capitalization Adjustments. The aggregate number of Common Shares which may be granted or purchased pursuant to Awards granted hereunder, the number of Common Shares covered by each outstanding Award, and the price per share thereof in each such Award shall be equitably and proportionally adjusted or substituted, as determined by the Committee in good faith and in its sole discretion, as to the number, price or kind of Common Shares or other consideration subject to such Awards or as otherwise determined by the Committee in good faith to be fair and equitable (i) in the event of changes in the outstanding Common Shares or in the capital structure of the Company by reason of stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, recapitalizations, reorganizations, mergers, consolidations, combinations, exchanges or other relevant changes in capitalization occurring after the date of grant of any such Award; (ii) in the event of any change in applicable laws or any change in circumstances which results in or would result in any substantial dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to, or available for, participants in the Plan; or (iii) for any other reason which the Committee determines, in its sole discretion and acting in good faith, to otherwise warrant equitable adjustment.

c. Corporate Events. Notwithstanding subsection (b) above, in the event of (i) a merger, amalgamation or consolidation involving the Company in which the Company is not the surviving corporation; (ii) a merger, amalgamation or consolidation involving the Company in which the Company is the surviving corporation but the holders of Common Shares receive securities of another corporation and/or other property, including cash; (iii) the sale of greater than fifty percent (50%) of the securities of the Company entitled to vote in the election of directors to the Board; or (iv) the reorganization or liquidation of the Company (each, a Corporate Event ), in lieu of providing the adjustment set forth in subsection (b) above, the Committee may, in its discretion, provide that all outstanding Awards shall terminate as of the consummation of such Corporate Event, and either (x) accelerate the exercisability of, and cause all vesting restrictions to lapse on, all outstanding Awards to a date at least ten days prior to the date of such Corporate Event, such that holders may exercise all such Awards prior to the Corporate Event, or (y) provide that holders of Awards will receive a payment in respect of cancellation of their Awards based on the amount of the per share consideration being paid for the Common Shares in connection with such Corporate Event less the applicable exercise price. Payments to holders pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be made in cash, or, in the sole discretion of the Committee, in such other consideration necessary for a holder of an Award to receive property, cash or securities as such holder would have been entitled to receive upon the occurrence of the transaction if the holder had been, immediately prior to such transaction, the holder of the number of Common Shares covered by the Award at such time.

d. Fractional Shares. Any such adjustment may provide for the elimination of any fractional share which might otherwise become subject to an Award.

5. Eligibility. Awards under the Plan may be made to such Key Persons as the Committee may select in its discretion.

6. Grant of Awards. The Committee is authorized to grant Awards only in the form of stock options to purchase Common Shares from the Company, to such Key Persons, in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Committee shall determine in its discretion.

7. Terms and Conditions of Award Agreements. Each Award granted under the Plan shall be evidenced by a written document which shall contain such provisions and conditions as the Committee deems appropriate. By accepting an Award pursuant to the Plan, a grantee thereby agrees that the Award shall be subject to all of the terms and provisions

of the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement. All Awards granted under the Plan shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Exercise Price. The exercise price per share with respect to each Award shall be determined by the Committee or the Board but shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of the Common Shares on the date the Award is granted.

A-3

---

**Table of Contents**

b. Term of Award. In no event shall any Award be exercisable after the expiration of 10 years from the date on which the Award is issued.

c. Termination of Employment. Except as otherwise provided by the Committee or the Board, no part of any Award issued to an employee (including an officer) may be exercised after the termination of his or her employment with the Company, except that:

(i) if such termination of employment is on or after the date the employee attains age sixty-five (65) or due to disability or death, any portion of an Award, whether or not exercisable at the time of such termination, may be exercised by the grantee (or in case of death by the person or persons to whom the grantee's rights under such Award are transferred by will or the laws of descent and distribution) at any time within the term of the Award; and

(ii) if such termination of employment is not at or after normal retirement age or due to disability or death, any portion of an Award may be exercised by the grantee within 90 days after such termination, but only to the extent such Award was exercisable at the time of such termination, and any portion of such Award that remains unvested at the time of such termination shall terminate and no longer be exercisable at any time.

8. Term of Plan. The Plan shall terminate on, and no Awards shall be issued pursuant to the Plan after, May 8, 2018; *provided, however*, that Awards granted theretofore may extend beyond such date and the terms and conditions of the Plan shall continue to apply thereto.

9. Termination or Amendment of Plan. The Board may at any time terminate the Plan with respect to any Common Shares of Allied World not at the time subject to an Award, and may from time to time alter or amend the Plan or any part thereof. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, shareholder approval of any suspension, discontinuance, revision or amendment shall be obtained only to the extent necessary to comply with any applicable law or stock exchange listing requirement; *provided, however*, that unless approved by the Company's shareholders or as otherwise specifically provided under Section 4(a) hereof, no adjustments or reduction of the exercise price of any outstanding Awards shall be made in the event of a decline in stock price, either by reducing the exercise price of outstanding Awards or through cancellation of outstanding Awards in connection with a re-granting of Awards at a lower price to the same individual.

10. Employment Status and Rights; Waiver of Claims. The granting of any Award does not alter the at-will nature of any grantee's employment with the Company. In addition, prior to being granted an Award, no employee of the Company has any right to any benefits hereunder. Accordingly, in consideration of a Key Person's selection to receive an Award under the Plan and by acceptance of the grant of such Award, such Key Person expressly waives any right to contest the number of Awards issued to him or her, the terms of the Plan or the Award Agreement, any determination, action or omission under the Plan or any Award Agreement by Allied World, the Board or the Committee, or any amendment to the Plan or any Award Agreement (other than an amendment to the Plan or an Award Agreement to which his or her consent is expressly required by the express terms of an Award Agreement).

11. Confidentiality. In consideration of the grantee's acceptance of any Award, the grantee hereby agrees to keep confidential the existence of, and any information concerning, any dispute arising in connection with any Award, the Plan and any related matters, except that the grantee may disclose information concerning such dispute to the court that is considering such dispute or to the grantee's legal counsel (provided that such counsel agrees not to disclose any such information other than as necessary to the prosecution or defense of the dispute).

12. Tax Withholding. As a condition to the delivery of any Common Shares pursuant to any Award, or in connection with any other event that gives rise to a federal or other governmental tax withholding obligation on the part of the Company relating to an Award (including, without limitation, FICA tax), (a) the Company may deduct or withhold (or

cause to be deducted or withheld) from any payment or distribution to a grantee whether or not pursuant to the Plan or (b) the Committee shall be entitled to require that the grantee remit cash to the Company (through payroll deduction or otherwise), in each case in an amount sufficient in the opinion of the Company to satisfy such withholding obligation.

A-4

---

**Table of Contents**

13. *Required Consents and Legends.*

a. If the Committee shall at any time determine that any consent (as hereinafter defined) is necessary or desirable as a condition of, or in connection with, the granting of any Award, the delivery of Common Shares or the delivery of any cash, securities or other property under the Plan, or the taking of any other action hereunder (each such action being hereinafter referred to as a Plan Action ), then such Plan Action shall not be taken, in whole or in part, unless and until such consent shall have been effected or obtained to the full satisfaction of the Committee. The Committee may direct that any certificate evidencing shares delivered pursuant to the Plan shall bear a legend setting forth such restrictions on transferability as the Committee may determine to be necessary or desirable, and may advise the transfer agent to place a stop transfer order against any legended shares.

b. The term consent as used in this Section 13 with respect to any Plan Action includes (i) any and all listings, registrations or qualifications in respect thereof upon any securities exchange or under any federal, state or local law, or law, rule or regulation of a jurisdiction outside the United States; (ii) or any other matter, which the Committee may deem necessary or desirable to comply with the terms of any such listing, registration or qualification or to obtain an exemption from the requirement that any such listing, qualification or registration be made; (iii) any and all other consents, clearances and approvals in respect of a Plan Action by any governmental or other regulatory body or any stock exchange or self-regulatory agency; and (iv) any and all consents required by the Committee. Nothing herein shall require Allied World to list, register or qualify the Common Shares on any securities exchange.

14. *Nonassignability; No Hedging.* Except to the extent otherwise expressly provided in the applicable Award Agreement or determined by the Committee, no Award (or any rights and obligations thereunder) granted to any person under the Plan may be sold, exchanged, transferred, assigned, pledged, hypothecated or otherwise disposed of or hedged, in any manner (including through the use of any cash-settled instrument), whether voluntarily or involuntarily and whether by operation of law or otherwise, other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and all such Awards (and any rights thereunder) shall be exercisable during the life of the grantee only by the grantee or the grantee's legal representative. Any sale, exchange, transfer, assignment, pledge, hypothecation or other disposition in violation of the provisions of this Section 14 shall be null and void and any Award which is hedged in any manner shall immediately be forfeited. All of the terms and conditions of this Plan and the Award Agreements shall be binding upon any permitted successors and assigns.

15. *Successor Entity.* Unless otherwise provided in the applicable Award Agreement and except as otherwise determined by the Committee, in the event of a merger, amalgamation, consolidation, mandatory share exchange or other similar business combination of Allied World with or into any other entity or any transaction in which another person or entity acquires all of the issued and outstanding Common Shares of Allied World, or all or substantially all of the assets of Allied World, outstanding Awards may be assumed or a substantially equivalent award may be substituted by such successor entity or a parent or subsidiary of such successor entity.

16. *Nature of Payments.*

a. Any and all grants of Awards and deliveries of Common Shares, cash, securities or other property under the Plan shall be in consideration of services performed or to be performed for the Company by the grantee. Awards under the Plan may, in the discretion of the Committee, be made in substitution in whole or in part for cash or other compensation otherwise payable to a grantee by the Company. Only whole Common Shares shall be delivered under the Plan. Awards shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, be aggregated in order to eliminate any fractional shares. Fractional shares shall be rounded down to the nearest whole share and any such fractional shares shall be forfeited.

b. All such grants and deliveries shall constitute a special discretionary incentive payment to the grantee and shall not be required to be taken into account in computing the amount of salary or compensation of the grantee for the purpose



of determining any contributions to or any benefits under any pension, retirement, profit-sharing, bonus, life insurance, severance or other benefit plan of the Company or under any agreement with the grantee, unless the Company specifically provides otherwise.

17. Non-Uniform Determinations. The Committee's determinations under the Plan and Award Agreements need not be uniform and may be made by it selectively among persons who receive, or are eligible to receive,

A-5

---

**Table of Contents**

Awards under the Plan (whether or not such persons are similarly situated). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Committee shall be entitled, among other things, to make non-uniform and selective determinations under Award Agreements, and to enter into non-uniform and selective Award Agreements, as to (a) the persons to receive Awards, (b) the terms and provisions of Awards and (c) whether a grantee's employment has been terminated for purposes of the Plan.

18. *Other Payments or Awards.* Nothing contained in the Plan shall be deemed in any way to limit or restrict the Company from making any award or payment to any person under any other plan, arrangement or understanding, whether now existing or hereafter in effect.

19. *Plan Headings.* The headings in this Plan are for the purpose of convenience only and are not intended to define or limit the construction of the provisions hereof.

20. *Governing Law; Venue.* **THIS PLAN SHALL BE GOVERNED BY, AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE GRANTEE'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ISSUANCE OF ANY AWARD, THE GRANTEE HEREBY EXPRESSLY SUBMITS TO THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF AND VENUE IN THE COURTS OF BERMUDA WITH RESPECT TO ANY SUIT OR CLAIM INSTITUTED BY THE COMPANY OR THE GRANTEE RELATING TO THIS PLAN OR THE AWARD.**

21. *Severability; Entire Agreement.* If any of the provisions of this Plan or any Award Agreement is finally held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable (whether in whole or in part), such provision shall be deemed modified to the extent, but only to the extent, of such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability and the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby; provided, that if any of such provisions is finally held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable because it exceeds the maximum scope determined to be acceptable to permit such provision to be enforceable, such provision shall be deemed to be modified to the minimum extent necessary to modify such scope in order to make such provision enforceable hereunder. The Plan and any Award Agreements contain the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter thereof and supersede all prior agreements, promises, covenants, arrangements, communications, representations and warranties between them, whether written or oral with respect to the subject matter thereof.

22. *No Third Party Beneficiaries.* Except as expressly provided therein, neither the Plan nor any Award Agreement shall confer on any person other than Allied World and the grantee of any Award any rights or remedies thereunder. The exculpation and indemnification provisions of Section 3.c shall inure to the benefit of a Covered Person's estate and beneficiaries and legatees.

23. *Successors and Assigns of Allied World.* The terms of this Plan shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of Allied World and any successor entity contemplated by Section 15.

24. *Date of Adoption.* This Plan was adopted effective on February 28, 2008 by the Board, subject to approval by the shareholders of Allied World at a General Meeting of Shareholders on May 8, 2008.

**Table of Contents**

**APPENDIX B**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**

**SECOND  
AMENDED AND RESTATED  
2004 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ARTICLE I GENERAL	B-1
1.1 Purpose	B-1
1.2 Definitions of Certain Terms	B-1
1.3 Administration	B-1
1.4 Persons Eligible for Awards	B-2
1.5 Types of Awards Under Plan	B-2
1.6 Common Shares Available for Awards	B-2
ARTICLE II AWARDS UNDER THE PLAN	B-3
2.1 Agreements Evidencing Awards	B-3
2.2 No Rights as a Shareholder	B-4
2.3 Grant of Restricted Common Shares	B-4
2.4 Grant of Restricted Stock Units	B-4
2.5 Grant of Dividend Equivalent Rights	B-4
2.6 Other Stock-Based Awards	B-4
2.7 Certain Restrictions	B-4
ARTICLE III MISCELLANEOUS	B-5
3.1 Amendment of the Plan	B-5
3.2 Confidentiality	B-5
3.3 Tax Withholding	B-5
3.4 Required Consents and Legends	B-5
3.5 Nonassignability; No Hedging	B-5
3.6 Successor Entity	B-6
3.7 Right of Discharge Reserved	B-6
3.8 Nature of Payments	B-6
3.9 Non-Uniform Determinations	B-6
3.10 Other Payments or Awards	B-6
3.11 Plan Headings	B-7
3.12 Termination of Plan	B-7
3.13 Governing Law; Venue	B-7
3.14 Severability; Entire Agreement	B-7
3.15 Waiver of Claims	B-7
3.16 No Third Party Beneficiaries	B-7
3.17 Successors and Assigns of Allied World	B-7
3.18 Date of Adoption and Approval of Shareholders	B-8
3.19 Section 409A	B-8

---

**Table of Contents**

**ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, LTD**

**SECOND  
AMENDED AND RESTATED**

**2004 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN**

**ARTICLE I**

**GENERAL**

**1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd  
Second

Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan is to attract, retain and motivate officers, directors, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and others who may perform services for the Company, to compensate them for their contributions to the long-term growth and profits of the Company, and to encourage them to acquire a proprietary interest in the success of the Company.

**1.2 Definitions of Certain Terms**

**ALLIED WORLD** means Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd or a successor entity contemplated by Section 3.6.

**AWARD** means an award made pursuant to the Plan.

**AWARD AGREEMENT** means the written document by which each Award is evidenced.

**BOARD** means the Board of Directors of Allied World.

**CERTIFICATE** means a share certificate (or other appropriate document or evidence of ownership) representing Common Shares of Allied World.

**COMMITTEE** has the meaning set forth in Section 1.3.1.

**COMMON SHARES** mean the common shares of Allied World.

**COMPANY** means Allied World and its subsidiaries.

**COVERED PERSON** has the meaning set forth in Section 1.3.3.

**EMPLOYMENT** means a grantee's performance of services for the Company, as determined by the Committee. The terms *employ* and *employed* shall have their correlative meanings.

**EXCHANGE ACT** means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder.

**PLAN** means the Allied World Assurance Company Holdings, Ltd

Second

Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, as described herein and as hereafter amended from time to time.

### **1.3 Administration**

1.3.1 Except, as otherwise provided herein, the Plan shall be administered by a committee (the Committee) of the Board to be drawn solely from members of the Board who are not and have not been officers of the Company. The Committee is authorized, subject to the provisions of the Plan, to establish such rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the proper administration of the Plan and to make such determinations and interpretations and to take such action in connection with the Plan and any Award granted thereunder as it deems necessary or advisable. All determinations and interpretations made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on all grantees and on their legal representatives and beneficiaries. The Committee shall have the authority, in its absolute discretion, to determine the persons who shall receive Awards, the time when Awards shall be granted, the terms of such Awards and the number of Common Shares, if any, which shall be subject to such Awards. Unless otherwise provided in an Award Agreement, the Committee shall have the authority, in its absolute discretion, to (i) amend any outstanding Award Agreement in any respect, whether or not the rights of the grantee of such Award

B-1

---

## **Table of Contents**

are adversely affected, including, without limitation, to accelerate the time or times at which the Award becomes vested, unrestricted or may be exercised, waive or amend any goals, restrictions or conditions set forth in such Award Agreement, or impose new goals, restrictions and conditions, or reflect a change in the grantee's circumstances; and (ii) determine whether, to what extent and under what circumstances and method or methods (A) Awards may be (1) settled in cash, Common Shares, other securities, other Awards or other property or (2) canceled, forfeited or suspended, (B) Common Shares, other securities, other Awards or other property, and other amounts payable with respect to an Award may be deferred either automatically or at the election of the grantee thereof or of the Committee and (C) Awards may be settled by the Company or any of its designees. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Board may, in its sole discretion, at any time and from time to time, grant Awards (including grants to members of the Board who are not employees of the Company) or administer the Plan, in which case the Board shall have all of the authority and responsibility granted to the Committee herein.

1.3.2 Actions of the Committee may be taken by the vote of a majority of its members. The Committee may allocate among its members and delegate to any person who is not a member of the Committee any of its powers, responsibilities or duties in accordance with applicable law.

1.3.3 No member of the Board or the Committee or any employee of the Company (each such person a Covered Person) shall have any liability to any person (including any grantee) for any action taken or omitted to be taken or any determination made in good faith with respect to the Plan or any Award. Each Covered Person shall be indemnified and held harmless by Allied World against and from any loss, cost, liability or expense (including attorneys' fees) that may be imposed upon or incurred by such Covered Person in connection with or resulting from any action, suit or proceeding to which such Covered Person may be a party or in which such Covered Person may be involved by reason of any action taken or omitted to be taken under the Plan or any Award Agreement and against and from any and all amounts paid by such Covered Person, with Allied World's approval, in settlement thereof, or paid by such Covered Person in satisfaction of any judgment in any such action, suit or proceeding against such Covered Person, provided that Allied World shall have the right, at its own expense, to assume and defend any such action, suit or proceeding and, once Allied World gives notice of its intent to assume the defense, Allied World shall have sole control over such defense with counsel of Allied World's choice. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be available to a Covered Person to the extent that a court of competent jurisdiction in a final judgment or other final adjudication, in either case, not subject to further appeal, determines that the acts or omissions of such Covered Person giving rise to the indemnification claim resulted from such Covered Person's fraud or dishonesty. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights of indemnification to which Covered Persons may be entitled under Allied World's Memorandum of Association or Bye-Laws, as a matter of law, or otherwise, or any other power that Allied World may have to indemnify such persons or hold them harmless.

## **1.4 Persons Eligible for Awards**

Awards under the Plan may be made to such officers, directors, employees (including prospective employees), consultants and other individuals who may perform services for the Company, as the Committee may select.

## **1.5 Types of Awards Under Plan**

Awards may be made under the Plan in the form of (a) restricted stock, (b) restricted stock units, (c) dividend equivalent rights and (d) other equity-based or equity-related Awards that the Committee determines to be consistent with the purposes of the Plan and the interests of the Company. Allied World, however, will not grant stock options pursuant to the Plan.

## **1.6 Common Shares Available for Awards**

1.6.1 Subject to adjustment as provided in Section 1.6.2 hereof, the maximum number of shares that may be issued under the Plan is two million (2,000,000) Common Shares. Such Common Shares may, in the discretion of the Committee, be either authorized but unissued shares or shares previously issued and reacquired by Allied World. If any Award shall expire, terminate or otherwise lapse, in whole or in part, any Common Shares subject to such Award (or portion thereof) shall again be available for issuance under the Plan. Any Common Shares delivered by

B-2

---



## **Table of Contents**

Allied World, any Common Shares with respect to which Awards are made by Allied World and any Common Shares with respect to which Allied World becomes obligated to make Awards, through the assumption of, or in substitution for, outstanding awards previously granted by an acquired entity, shall not be counted against the shares available for Awards under this Plan.

1.6.2 The Committee shall adjust the number of Common Shares authorized pursuant to Section 1.6.1 and the terms of any outstanding Awards (including, without limitation, the number of Common Shares covered by each outstanding Award, the type of property to which the Award is subject and the exercise or strike price of any Award), in such manner as it deems appropriate to preserve the benefits or potential benefits intended to be made available to grantees of Awards, for any increase or decrease in the number of issued Common Shares resulting from a recapitalization, stock split, stock dividend, combination or exchange of Common Shares, merger, amalgamation, consolidation, rights offering, separation, reorganization or liquidation, or any other change in the corporate structure or shares of Allied World. After any adjustment made pursuant to this Section 1.6.2, the number of Common Shares subject to each outstanding Award shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of (i) a merger, amalgamation or consolidation involving Allied World in which Allied World is not the surviving corporation; (ii) a merger, amalgamation or consolidation involving Allied World in which Allied World is the surviving corporation but the holders of shares of Common Shares receive securities of another corporation and/or other property, including cash; (iii) a the sale of greater than fifty percent (50%) of the securities of Allied World entitled to vote in the election of directors to the Board; or (iv) the reorganization or liquidation of Allied World (each a Corporate Event ), in lieu of providing the adjustment set forth in subsection (b) above, the Committee may, in its discretion, provide that all outstanding Awards shall terminate as of the consummation of such Corporate Event, and either (x) accelerate the vesting of, and cause all vesting restrictions to lapse on, all outstanding Awards to a date at least ten days prior to the date of such Corporate Event, or (y) provide that holders of Awards will receive a payment in respect of cancellation of their Awards based on the amount of the per share consideration being paid for the Common Shares in connection with such Corporate Event. Payments to holders pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be made in cash, or, in the sole discretion of the Committee, in such other consideration necessary for a holder of an Award to receive property, cash or securities as such holder would have been entitled to receive upon the occurrence of the transaction if the holder had been, immediately prior to such transaction, the holder of the number of Common Shares covered by the Award at such time.

1.6.3 There shall be no limit on the amount of cash, securities (other than Common Shares as provided in this Section 1.6) or other property that may be delivered pursuant to the Plan or any Award; *provided, however*, that ~~Awards with respect to no more than 16,667 Common Shares may be granted to any one grantee in any calendar year, and provided further, that Awards of stock appreciation rights with respect to no more than 16,667 Common Shares may be granted to any one grantee in any calendar year~~ during any time that the Company is subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, the maximum number of Common Shares with respect to which Awards may be granted to any individual in any one year shall not exceed the maximum number of Common Shares available for issue hereunder, as such number may change from time to time.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **AWARDS UNDER THE PLAN**

#### **2.1 Agreements Evidencing Awards**

Each Award granted under the Plan shall be evidenced by a written document that shall contain such provisions and conditions as the Committee deems appropriate. The Committee may grant Awards in tandem with or in substitution for any other Award or Awards granted under this Plan or any award granted under any other plan of the Company. By accepting an Award pursuant to the Plan, a grantee thereby agrees that the Award shall be subject to all of the

terms and provisions of the Plan and the applicable Award Agreement.

B-3

---

**Table of Contents**

**2.2**