

VECTOR GROUP LTD
Form PRE 14A
March 26, 2014
Table of Contents

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 Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

Vector Group Ltd.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

PROXY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

BOARD PROPOSAL 1 -- NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FOR YEARS 2010 - 2012

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS IN 2012

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

PENSION BENEFITS AT 2012 FISCAL YEAR END

BOARD PROPOSAL 2 -- ADVISORY APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (THE SAY ON PAY VOTE)

BOARD PROPOSAL 3 -- TO APPROVE THE VECTOR GROUP LTD. 2014 MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PLAN (THE 2014 PLAN)

BOARD PROPOSAL 4 -- TO AMEND THE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED SHARES OF COMMON STOCK OF THE COMPANY FROM 150,000,000 TO 200,000,000

BOARD PROPOSAL 5 -- RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSEHOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETING MATERIALS

ANNEX A

Table of Contents

VECTOR GROUP LTD.

4400 Biscayne Blvd.

Miami, Florida 33137

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held May 16, 2014

To the Stockholders of Vector Group Ltd.:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), will be held at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137 on Friday, May 16, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., and at any postponement or adjournment thereof, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors to hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified;
2. To hold an advisory vote on executive compensation (the "say on pay vote");
3. To approve the Vector Group Ltd. 2014 Management Incentive Plan (the "2014 Plan");
4. To amend the Company's Certificate of Incorporation to increase the authorized shares of Common Stock of the Company from 150,000,000 to 250,000,000; and
5. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2014;
6. To transact such other business as properly may come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

Every holder of record of Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on March 24, 2014 is entitled to notice of the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof and to vote, in person or by proxy, one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such holder. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available to any stockholder for any purpose germane to the meeting during ordinary business hours from May 2, 2014 to May 16, 2014, at the headquarters of the Company located at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, 10th Floor, Miami, Florida 33137. A proxy statement, form of proxy and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 are enclosed herewith.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
HOWARD M. LORBER
President and Chief Executive Officer

Miami, Florida

April 7, 2014

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. THEREFORE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE PRE-PAID ENVELOPE.

Table of Contents

VECTOR GROUP LTD.
4400 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

PROXY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the board of directors of Vector Group Ltd., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”). The proxy is solicited for use at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137 on Friday, May 16, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., and at any postponement or adjournment. The Company’s offices are located at 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, 10th Floor, Miami, Florida 33137, and its telephone number is (305) 579-8000.

VOTING RIGHTS AND SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

Every holder of record of Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on March 24, 2014 is entitled to notice of the meeting and any adjournments or postponements and to cast, in person or by proxy, one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such holder. At the record date, the Company had outstanding 99,711,494 shares of Common Stock. This proxy statement, accompanying notice and proxy and the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 are first being mailed to stockholders on or about April 9, 2014.

Any stockholder who has given a proxy has the power to revoke the proxy prior to its exercise. A proxy can be revoked by an instrument of revocation delivered at, or prior to the annual meeting, to Marc N. Bell, the secretary of the Company, by a duly executed proxy bearing a date or time later than the date or time of the proxy being revoked, or at the annual meeting if the stockholder is present and elects to vote in person. Mere attendance at the annual meeting will not serve to revoke a proxy. A stockholder whose shares are held in a brokerage or bank account will need to obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank or other intermediary in order to vote at the meeting.

The presence, in person or represented by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the shares represented and entitled to vote is required for the election of each director, for the advisory approval of the say on pay vote, for the adoption of the 2014 Plan, the amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation and for the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company’s independent registered certified public accounting firm. Abstentions will have the effect of votes against the advisory say on pay proposal, the 2014 Plan, the amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation and the ratification of the appointment of our auditors.

Except for the ratification of the auditors, shares that are held by brokers in retail accounts may only be voted if the broker receives voting instructions from the beneficial owner of the shares. Otherwise, the “broker non-votes” may only be counted toward a quorum and, in the broker’s discretion, voted regarding the ratification of auditors. Broker non-votes will have no effect on any of the other matters presented at the annual meeting.

All proxies received and not revoked will be voted as directed. If no directions are specified, proxies which have been signed and returned will be voted “FOR” the election of the board’s nominees as directors, “FOR” the advisory say on pay vote, “FOR” the adoption of the 2014 Plan, “FOR” the amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation and “FOR” the ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company’s independent registered certified public accounting firm.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth, as of the record date, the beneficial ownership of the Company’s Common Stock, the only class of voting securities, by:

- each person known to the Company to own beneficially more than five percent of the Common Stock;
- each of the Company’s directors and nominees;

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

each of the Company's named executive officers shown in the Summary Compensation Table below; and
all directors and executive officers as a group.

Unless otherwise indicated, each person possesses sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares indicated as beneficially owned.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares	Percent of Class	
Dr. Phillip Frost(1) 4400 Biscayne Boulevard Miami, FL 33137	17,031,964	16.7	%
Bennett S. LeBow(2)(4) 667 Madison Avenue; 14th Floor New York, NY 10065	10,785,115	10.8	%
Howard M. Lorber(3)(4)(5)	4,769,905	4.7	%
Stanley S. Arkin(4)	17,850	(*)	
Henry C. Beinstein(4)(6)	90,098	(*)	
Jeffrey S. Podell(4)	84,177	(*)	
Jean E. Sharpe(4)	94,549	(*)	
Richard J. Lampen(5) (7) (8)	491,299	(*)	
J. Bryant Kirkland III(5) (9)	194,480	(*)	
Marc N. Bell (5) (9)	129,073	(*)	
Ronald J. Bernstein(4)(5)(10)(11)	274,197	(*)	
All directors and executive officers as a group (10 persons)	16,930,743	16.7	%

(*) The percentage of shares beneficially owned does not exceed 1% of the outstanding Common Stock.

Based upon a Form 4 filed by Dr. Frost on March 17, 2014, which reports ownership of 12,776,245 shares of Common Stock owned by Frost Gamma Investments Trust, a trust organized under Florida law, 2,121,479 shares held by by Frost Nevada Investments Trust, a trust organized under Nevada law and \$25,000,000 principal amount of the Company's 6.75% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Note due 2014 held by Frost Nevada Investments Trust. The note is convertible into 2,121,479 shares of Common Stock.

(1) Dr. Frost is the sole trustee of Frost Gamma Investments Trust, a trust organized under the laws of Florida, and Frost Nevada Investments Trust, a trust organized under the laws of Florida. As the sole trustee, Dr. Frost may be deemed the beneficial owner of all shares owned by the trusts, by virtue of his power to vote or direct the vote of such shares or to dispose or direct the disposition of such shares owned by the trusts. Includes 12,761 shares owned by Dr. Frost's spouse, as to which shares Dr. Frost disclaims beneficial ownership.

(2) Includes 1,475,958 shares held directly by Mr. LeBow, 5,699,391 shares of Common Stock held by LeBow Gamma Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, 3,245,115 shares of Common Stock held by LeBow Epsilon 2001 Limited Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership, and 364,651 shares of Common Stock held by LeBow Alpha LLLP, a Delaware limited liability limited partnership. LeBow 2011 Management Trust is the managing member of LeBow Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, which is the sole stockholder of LeBow Gamma, Inc., a Nevada corporation, which is the general partner of LeBow Gamma Limited Partnership. LeBow Holdings LLC is the general partner of LeBow Alpha LLLP, which is the controlling member of LeBow Epsilon 2001 LLC, which is the general partner of LeBow Epsilon 2001 Limited Partnership. Mr. LeBow is trustee of LeBow 2011 Management Trust, a director and officer of LeBow Gamma, Inc. and a manager of LeBow Epsilon 2001 LLC.

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

- Includes 807,773 shares of Common Stock held directly by Mr. Lorber, 2,740,531 shares held by Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership, a Nevada limited partnership, 249,177 shares held by Lorber Gamma Limited Partnership, a Nevada limited partnership, and 19 shares in an Individual Retirement Account. Mr. Lorber's beneficial ownership also includes 972,405 shares of Common Stock that may be acquired by him within 60 days upon exercise of options. There are 2,170,000 shares owned by Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership that are pledged to collateralize a bank line of credit. Mr. Lorber exercises sole voting power and sole dispositive power over the shares of Common Stock held by the partnerships and by himself. Lorber Alpha II, Inc., a Nevada corporation, is the general partner of Lorber Alpha II Limited Partnership. Lorber Gamma, Inc., a Nevada corporation, is the general partner of Lorber Gamma Limited Partnership. Mr. Lorber is a director, officer and controlling shareholder of each of Lorber Alpha II, Inc. and Lorber Gamma, Inc. Mr. Lorber disclaims beneficial ownership of 17,591 shares of Common Stock held by Lorber Charitable Fund, which are not included. Lorber Charitable Fund is a New York not-for-profit corporation, of which family members of Mr. Lorber serve as directors and executive officers.
- (3) The named individual is a director of the Company.
- (4) The named individual is an executive officer of the Company.
- (5) Includes 658 shares beneficially owned by Mr. Beinstein's spouse, as to which shares Mr. Beinstein disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (6) Includes 45,000 shares held by Mr. Lampen's spouse, as to which Mr. Lampen disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (7) Includes 194,481 shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options to purchase Common Stock exercisable within 60 days of the record date.
- (8) Includes 97,240 shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options to purchase Common Stock exercisable within 60 days of record date.
- (9) Includes 200,328 shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options to purchase Common Stock exercisable within 60 days of the record date.
- (10) The named individual is an executive officer of the Company's subsidiaries Liggett Vector Brands LLC and Liggett Group LLC.
- (11)

BOARD PROPOSAL 1 — NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The by-laws of the Company provide, among other things, that the board, from time to time, shall determine the number of directors of the Company. The size of the board is presently set at seven. The present term of office of all directors will expire at the 2014 annual meeting. Seven directors are to be elected at the 2014 annual meeting to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal.

It is intended that proxies received will be voted "FOR" election of the nominees named below unless marked to the contrary. In the event any such person is unable or unwilling to serve as a director, proxies may be voted for substitute nominees designated by the present board. The board has no reason to believe that any of the persons named below will be unable or unwilling to serve as a director if elected.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented at the annual meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors is required to elect each director.

The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote "FOR" election of the nominees named below.

Information with Respect to Nominees

The following table sets forth certain information, as of the record date, with respect to each of the nominees. Each nominee is a citizen of the United States.

Name and Address	Age	Principal Occupation
Bennett S. LeBow	76	Chairman of the Board; Private Investor
Howard M. Lorber	65	President and Chief Executive Officer
Ronald J. Bernstein	61	President and Chief Executive Officer, Liggett Group LLC and Liggett Vector Brands LLC

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

Stanley S. Arkin	76	Founding and Senior Partner, Arkin Solbakken LLP and Chairman of The Arkin Group LLC
Henry C. Beinstein	71	Partner, Gagnon Securities LLC
Jeffrey S. Podell	73	Private Investor
Jean E. Sharpe	67	Private Investor

Business Experience and Qualifications of Nominees

The Company believes that the combination of the various qualifications, skills and experiences of its directors contribute to an effective and well-functioning board and that individually and, as a whole, the directors possess the necessary qualifications to provide effective oversight of the business, and provide quality advice to the Company's management. Details regarding the experience and qualifications of the directors are set forth below.

Bennett S. LeBow is the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors and has been a director of the Company since October 1986. Mr. LeBow, currently a private investor, served as Executive Chairman from January 2006 until his retirement on December 30, 2008 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Borders Group Inc. from May 2010 until January 2012 and Chief Executive Officer of Borders Group Inc. from June 2010 until January 2012. In February 2011, Borders Group Inc. filed for protection under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. He served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company from June 1990 to December 2005. Mr. LeBow was Chairman of the Board of New Valley Corporation from January 1988 to December 2005 and served as its Chief Executive Officer from November 1994 to December 2005. New Valley Corporation was a majority-owned subsidiary of the Company until December 2005, when the Company acquired the remaining minority interest, engaged in the real estate business and seeking to acquire additional operating companies and real estate properties. Mr. LeBow's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include his decades of experience as an investor and the knowledge and experience in the cigarette industry he has attained through his service as the Company's Chief Executive Officer from 1990 to 2005 and as Chairman of the Board since 1990.

Howard M. Lorber has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since January 2006. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from January 2001 to December 2005 and has served as a director of the Company since January 2001. From November 1994 to December 2005, Mr. Lorber served as President and Chief Operating Officer of New Valley, where he also served as a director. Mr. Lorber was Chairman of the Board of Hallman & Lorber Assoc., Inc., consultants and actuaries of qualified pension and profit sharing plans, and various of its affiliates from 1975 to December 2004 and has been a consultant to these entities since January 2005. He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors since 1987 and Chief Executive Officer from November 1993 to December 2006 of Nathan's Famous, Inc., a chain of fast food restaurants; Chairman of the Board of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services from May 2001 to July 2006 and Vice Chairman since July 2006. Mr. Lorber was a Director of Borders Group Inc. from May 2010 until January 2012 and has been a director since 1991 of United Capital Corp., a real estate investment and diversified manufacturing company, which ceased to be a public reporting company in 2011. He is also a trustee of Long Island University.

Ronald J. Bernstein has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Group LLC since September 1, 2000 and of Liggett Vector Brands LLC since March 2002 and has been a director of the Company since March 2004. From July 1996 to December 1999, Mr. Bernstein served as General Director and, from December 1999 to September 2000, as Chairman of Liggett-Ducat Ltd., the Company's former Russian tobacco business sold in 2000. Prior to that time, Mr. Bernstein served in various positions with Liggett commencing in 1991, including Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Bernstein's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include the knowledge and experience in the cigarette industry he has attained through his employment by our tobacco and real estate subsidiaries since 1991.

Stanley S. Arkin has been a director since November 2011. Mr. Arkin is the founding member and the senior partner of the law firm of Arkin Solbakken LLP and is Chairman of The Arkin Group, a private intelligence agency. Mr. Arkin was a member of the Board of Directors of Authentic Fitness Corp from 1995 to 1998. He is a member of the

Council on Foreign Relations, and has served on or chaired numerous committees in other professional organizations, such as the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Judicial Conference of the State of New York, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, and the New York County Lawyers Association. Mr. Arkin's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include his managerial experience, financial literacy and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his career in the legal profession as well as his service as a director of a publicly-traded corporation.

Henry C. Beinstein has been a director of the Company since March 2004. Since January 2005, Mr. Beinstein has been a partner of Gagnon Securities LLC, a broker-dealer and FINRA member firm, and has been a money manager and registered representative at such firm since August 2002. He retired in August 2002 as the Executive Director of Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, a New York-based law firm, a position he had held since August 1997. Before that, Mr. Beinstein had served as the Managing Director of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP, a New York-based law firm, commencing November 1995. Mr. Beinstein was the Executive Director of Proskauer Rose LLP, a New York-based law firm, from April 1985 through October 1995. Mr. Beinstein is a certified public accountant in New York and New Jersey and prior to joining Proskauer was a partner and National Director of Finance and Administration at Coopers & Lybrand. Mr. Beinstein also serves as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. and Castle Brands Inc. Mr. Beinstein has been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the state of New York since 1968. Mr. Beinstein's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include financial literacy and expertise, managerial experience through his years at Coopers & Lybrand, Proskauer Rose LLP, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP and Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly-traded corporations.

Jeffrey S. Podell has been a director of the Company since November 1993 and is a private investor. Mr. Podell also serves as a director of Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. Mr. Podell was a member of the New York State Bar Association from 1965 until March 2010. Mr. Podell's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include managerial experience and the knowledge and experience he has attained through his service as a director of the Company and other publicly-traded corporations.

Jean E. Sharpe has been a director of the Company since May 1998. Ms. Sharpe is a private investor and has engaged in various philanthropic activities since her retirement in September 1993 as Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Company and as an officer of various of its subsidiaries. Ms. Sharpe previously served as a director of the Company from July 1990 until September 1993. Ms. Sharpe has been a member of the New York State Bar Association since 1979. Ms. Sharpe's pertinent experience, qualifications, attributes and skills include the knowledge and managerial experience she has attained as serving as our general counsel from 1988 until 1993 and her service as a director of the Company.

Board of Directors and Committees

The board of directors, which held nine meetings in 2013, currently has seven members. Each director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the board and of each committee on which the director served as a member, during such period. To ensure free and open discussion and communication among the independent directors of the board, the independent directors meet in executive sessions periodically, with no members of management present. The chair of the corporate governance and nominating committee presides at the executive sessions.

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that the board shall be free to choose its chair in any way it deems best for the Company at any time. The board believes that it is desirable to have the flexibility to decide whether the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer should be combined or separate in light of the Company's circumstances from time to time. The roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board are presently held by two different directors. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Company and the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Company, while the Chairman of the Board provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer, reviews the agenda for board meetings and presides over meetings of the full board.

The board of directors oversees the risks that could affect the Company through its committees and reports of officers responsible for particular risks within the Company.

The board of directors has four committees established in accordance with the Company's bylaws: an executive committee, an audit committee, a compensation committee, and a corporate governance and nominating committee.

The board has determined that the Company's non-employee directors (Stanley S. Arkin, Henry C. Beinstein, Bennett

S. LeBow, Jeffrey S. Podell and Jean E. Sharpe) have no material relationship with the Company and meet the New York Stock Exchange listing standards for independence. Each of the members of the audit committee, compensation committee, and corporate governance and nominating committee meets the New York Stock Exchange listing standards for independence.

The executive committee, whose members are presently Messrs. LeBow, chairman and Lorber, did not meet in 2013. The executive committee exercises, in the intervals between meetings of the board, all the powers of the board in the management and affairs of the Company, except for matters expressly reserved by law for board action.

The audit committee, whose members are presently Messrs. Beinstein, chairman, and Podell and Ms. Sharpe, met 10 times in 2013. The committee is governed by a written charter which requires that it discuss policies and guidelines to govern the process by which risk assessment and risk management are handled and that it meet periodically with management to review and assess the Company's major financial risk exposures and the manner in which such risks are being monitored and controlled. Accordingly, in addition to its other duties, the audit committee periodically reviews the Company's risk assessment and management, including in the areas of legal compliance, internal auditing and financial controls. In this role, the audit committee considers the nature of the material risks the Company faces, and the adequacy of the Company's policies and procedures designed to respond to and mitigate these risks and receives reports from management and other advisors. Although the board's primary risk oversight has been assigned to the audit committee, the full board also receives regular reports from members of senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, competitive and legal risks. In addition to an ongoing compliance program, the board encourages management to promote a corporate culture that understands risk management and incorporates it into the overall corporate strategy and day-to-day business operations. The Company's board of directors and its audit committee regularly discuss with management the Company's major risk exposures, their potential financial impact on the Company, and the steps (both short-term and long-term) the Company takes to manage them. The audit committee oversees the Company's financial statements, system of internal controls, and auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes and risks related thereto; the audit committee appoints, compensates, evaluates and, where appropriate, replaces the Company's independent accountants; reviews annually the audit committee charter; and reviews and pre-approves audit and permissible non-audit services. See "Audit Committee Report" on page 28. Each of the members of the audit committee is financially literate as required of audit committee members by the New York Stock Exchange and independent as defined by the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Beinstein is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The compensation committee, whose members are presently Messrs. Podell, chairman, and Beinstein, and Ms. Sharpe, met 12 times in 2013. The committee is governed by a written charter. The compensation committee is responsible for risks relating to employment policies and the Company's compensation and benefits systems. To aid the compensation committee with its responsibilities, the compensation committee retains an independent consultant, as necessary, to understand the implications of compensation decisions being made. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 9 for a discussion of the consulting services provided to the compensation committee by GK Partners. The compensation committee has assessed the independence of GK Partners pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission and New York Stock Exchange rules and concluded that GK Partners' work for the compensation committee does not raise any conflict of interest. The compensation committee reviews, approves and administers management compensation and executive compensation plans. The compensation committee also administers the Company's 1998 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the Amended and Restated 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "1999 Plan") and the Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Plan. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" on page 9. In March 2009, the compensation committee formed a Performance-Based Compensation Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee"), consisting of Messrs. Beinstein and Podell, and delegated to the Subcommittee the authority to grant compensation to executive officers that is intended to qualify as "performance-based compensation" exempt from the \$1,000,000 deduction limitation of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Subcommittee administers the participation of named executive officers in the Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Plan, the 1999 Plan and will administer participation of those executive officers in the 2014 Plan upon approval by stockholders.

The corporate governance and nominating committee, whose members are presently Ms. Sharpe, chair, and Messrs. Arkin and Beinstein, met two times in 2013. The committee is governed by a written charter. This committee

is responsible for the oversight of risks relating to the management and board succession planning. The committee assists the board of directors in identifying individuals qualified to become board members and recommends to the board the nominees for election as directors at the next annual meeting of stockholders, develops and recommends to the board the corporate governance guidelines applicable to the Company, and oversees the evaluation of the board and management. In recommending candidates for the board, the committee takes into consideration the following criteria established by the board in the Company's corporate governance guidelines:

- personal qualities and characteristics, accomplishments and reputation in the business community;
- current knowledge and contacts in the communities in which the Company does business and in the Company's industry or other industries relevant to the Company's business;
- ability and willingness to commit adequate time to board and committee matters;
- the fit of the individual's skills and personality with those of other directors and potential directors in building a board that is effective, collegial and responsive to the needs of the Company; and
- diversity of viewpoints, background, experience and other demographics.

The committee also considers such other factors as it deems appropriate, including judgment, skill, diversity, experience with businesses and other organizations of comparable size, the interplay of the candidate's experience with the experience of other board members, and the extent to which the candidate would be a desirable addition to the board and any committees of the board. The committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criteria is necessarily applicable to all nominees. The Company believes that the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide a significant composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will allow the board to fulfill its responsibilities. The committee will consider nominees recommended by stockholders, which nominations should be submitted by directing an appropriate letter and resume to Marc N. Bell, the secretary of the Company, 4400 Biscayne Boulevard, 10th Floor, Miami, Florida 33137. If the Company were to receive recommendations of candidates from the Company's stockholders, the committee would consider such recommendations in the same manner as all other candidates.

Corporate Governance Materials

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, Codes of Business Conduct and Ethics, Equity Retention and Hedging Policy, Stock Ownership Guidelines, Executive Compensation Clawback Policy and current copies of the charters of the Company's audit committee, compensation committee, and corporate governance and nominating committee are all available in the investor relations section of the Company's website (www.vectorgrouppltd.com/invest.asp) and are also available in print to any stockholder who requests them.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Compensation Objectives

The primary objectives of the compensation committee of the board of directors with respect to executive compensation are:

- to base management's pay, in part, on achievement of the Company's goals;
- to provide incentives to enhance stockholder value;
- to provide competitive levels of compensation;
- to recognize individual initiative and achievement; and
- to assist the Company in attracting talented executives to a challenging and demanding environment and to retain such executives for the benefit of the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Company attempts to achieve these objectives through its compensation plans that put a substantial portion of the executives' overall compensation at risk so that compensation is only paid if the Company's financial performance goals are met. While the compensation of the Company's executives is largely the result of negotiated agreements, which are reviewed annually, the Company's compensation philosophy is intended to reward its executives with competitive compensation, while rewarding outstanding performance with above-average total compensation.

The Company has recently taken measures to discourage excessive risk-taking by adopting a Clawback Policy and prohibition on hedging and has increased the long-term focus by adopting an Equity Retention Policy and Stock Ownership Guidelines as well as by awarding stock options with four-year cliff vesting as a substantial portion of

2013 and 2014 direct compensation. Under the 2014 Plan, the Company will be able to make vesting of equity awards contingent upon corporate performance.

Independent compensation consultants may be retained by the compensation committee from time to time for advice and guidance in assessing whether our compensation program is reasonable and competitive. The compensation committee engaged GK Partners to render advice as to the award of options in February 2013, restricted stock in October 2013 and options in February 2014. The compensation committee also engaged GK Partners to render advice related to the drafting of the Vector Group Ltd. Equity Retention and Hedging Policy, which was adopted in January 2013, the amendment of the terms of Mr. Bernstein's employment agreement in October 2013, the adoption of the 2014 Plan as well as the Executive Compensation Clawback Policy and Stock Ownership Guidelines adopted in March 2014. See "Base Salary" on page 10, "Equity Compensation" on page 11 and the policies described on Page 13. GK Partners only provides services to the compensation committee.

Most Recent Say on Pay Vote Results

At the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, the Company held its third stockholder advisory (say on pay) vote on the compensation of its named executive officers. The Company considered the results of the 2013 vote. The Company has recently undertaken several governance initiatives referred to above and believes that, as a result, its core compensation practices closely align pay and performance. See the discussion of this year's say on pay vote beginning on Page 31 for further discussion.

Compensation Components

The key components of the Company's executive compensation program consist of a base salary, an annual performance-based bonus pursuant to the Senior Executive Incentive Compensation Plan (the "Bonus Plan"), equity awards under the 1999 Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "1999 Plan") and various benefits, including the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan, the Liggett Vector Brands Inc. 401(k) plan and the use of corporate aircraft by the President and Chief Executive Officer. The employment agreements with the Company's named executive officers also provide for severance compensation in the event of termination other than for cause during the term of the agreement or, in certain cases, following a change in control of the Company during the term of the agreements.

Base Salary

Base salaries for the Company's named executive officers are established based on their overall business experience and managerial competence in their respective executive roles, as well as their personal contributions to the Company and are intended to provide a competitive level of fixed compensation. The compensation committee believes that executive base salaries should be targeted at competitive levels while rewarding long-term outstanding performance with above-average total compensation. Base salaries are reviewed annually, based on recommendations by the Company's Chief Executive Officer with respect to the salaries of executive officers other than himself, and may be increased from time to time based on review of Company and individual executive performance. Automatic cost of living adjustments to base salary are included under the terms of the employment agreements of Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein (until January 1, 2014).

On October 29, 2013, Mr. Bernstein's employment agreement was amended to increase his base salary to \$1,000,000 per annum and terminate the cost of living adjustment, effective January 1, 2014. Effective January 1, 2014, as a result of the cost of living provision, the base salary of Mr. Lorber was increased to \$3,100,398. The compensation committee did not adjust the salaries of the other named executive officers in 2014 as part of the annual compensation review process.

Annual Incentive Bonus Awards

The Company's executive officers are eligible to participate each year in the Bonus Plan which was adopted by the board of directors in January 2011, and approved by the Company's stockholders at the annual meeting in May 2011. Future awards will be made under the 2014 Plan which is subject to approval at the annual meeting of stockholders. The compensation committee has delegated to the Subcommittee, consisting of Messrs. Beinstein and Podell, the authority to grant compensation to executive officers under the Bonus Plan that is intended to qualify as "performance-based compensation" exempt from the \$1,000,000 deduction limitation of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Thus, with respect to these officers, the Subcommittee selects participants in the Bonus Plan, determines the amount of their award opportunities, selects the performance criteria and the performance goals for each year, determines whether the performance goals have been met and administers and interprets the Bonus Plan.

An eligible executive may (but need not) be selected to participate in the Bonus Plan each year.

In 2013, each of the Company's named executive officers participated in the Bonus Plan. The Bonus Plan performance criteria for 2013 varied among the participants depending upon the entity that employed the participant. For Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, as in 2012, the criteria for 2013 were based on: 37.5% on adjusted earnings before interest and taxes, or Adjusted EBIT, of Liggett; 37.5% on distributions to stockholders of the Company; and 25% on adjusted earnings before interest, taxes and amortization, or Adjusted EBITA, of Douglas Elliman Realty, LLC. For Mr. Bernstein, 100% is based on Liggett Adjusted EBIT. These measures were chosen because Adjusted EBIT is commonly used as a measure of performance in the tobacco industry and Adjusted EBITA is commonly used to measure performance in the real estate brokerage industry and are, in each case, the drivers of the business and stockholder value in those industries.

Under the terms of their respective employment agreements, for 2013, Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein were eligible to receive a target bonus of 100%, 50%, 25%, 25% and 100% of their respective base salaries. Depending on the level of achievement of the performance criteria, the actual amounts of incentive bonuses could also exceed the target bonus amounts (see "Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2013" on page 17). The Subcommittee may exercise negative discretion with respect to any award to reduce any amount that would otherwise be payable under the Bonus Plan.

The 2013 performance necessary for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein to receive bonuses at the target level were set at levels which were believed to be reasonably achievable based on internal corporate plans. For Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, the performance necessary to achieve the minimum, target or maximum bonus in 2013 was as follows:

percentages of target bonus based on Liggett Adjusted EBIT were \$156,000,000 (50%), \$184,000,000 (100%), and \$192,000,000 and above (125%); the actual Liggett Adjusted EBIT for 2013 were \$192,829,000; percentages of target bonus based on cash dividends per share of the Company were \$1.40 (50%), \$1.60 (100%), and \$1.80 and above (125%); the actual cash dividends paid in 2013 were \$1.60 per share; and, percentages of target bonus based on Douglas Elliman Adjusted EBITA were \$36,000,000 (50%), \$41,000,000 (100%), and \$46,000,000 and above (125%); the actual Douglas Elliman Adjusted EBITA for 2013 were \$51,007,000.

Based on the actual results of 2013 compared to the established performance criteria, bonuses equal to 115.625% of target bonus amounts were achieved for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, and they were awarded bonuses of 115.625% of their respective target bonus amounts.

For Mr. Bernstein, the performance necessary to achieve the minimum target or maximum bonus in 2013 were as follows:

percentages of target bonus based on Liggett Adjusted EBIT were \$184,000,000 (50%) and \$194,000,000 and above (100%); the actual Liggett Adjusted EBIT for 2013 were \$192,829,000.

Based on the actual results of 2013 compared to the established performance criteria, 94.1451% of Mr. Bernstein's target bonus was achieved, and he was awarded a bonus equal to 94.1451% of his base salary.

Bonus amounts for achieving performance criteria in between the amounts listed above are determined by linear interpolation between the higher and lower amounts. The actual performance-based bonus payments made to the selected participants for the years ended December 31, 2011, 2012 and 2013 are set forth in the column labeled "Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation" in the Summary Compensation Table on page 15. Performance bonus awards earned by named executive officers after February 26, 2014 will be subject to the Company's Executive Compensation Clawback Policy described on Page 13.

Long-Term Incentive Award

In January 2011, a long-term incentive award for the five-year period ending December 31, 2015 was made under the Bonus Plan to seven key members of Liggett's management, including Mr. Bernstein, to provide significant incentive to achieve Liggett's five-year plan. The total pool will range from \$10,000,000 (if the minimum Liggett Adjusted EBIT performance goal as defined in the long-term incentive award (\$1.125 billion for the five-year period ending December 31, 2015) is achieved) to \$20,000,000 (if the maximum Liggett Adjusted EBIT performance goal as defined in the long-term incentive award (\$1.225 billion for the five-year period ending December 31, 2015) is

achieved. Mr. Bernstein is eligible to be paid 50% of the amount earned by the selected group of Liggett executives under this long-term incentive award opportunity. Payments between the minimum and maximum Liggett Adjusted EBIT goals will be determined by linear interpolation. Awards will be paid in cash by March 15, 2016 provided that, at the option of the Subcommittee, up to 50% of the awards may be paid in shares of the Company's Common Stock valued at the average closing price for the 10 trading days preceding the payment date. GK Partners has provided its opinion that the long-term award was reasonable and appropriate in the context of current market practices.

Equity Compensation

Long-term equity compensation is intended to provide a variable pay opportunity that rewards long-term performance by the Company as a whole and serves as a significant incentive to remain with the Company. The compensation committee obtains an opinion of GK Partners as to the reasonableness and competitiveness of each award to a named executive officer.

On February 26, 2014, the Subcommittee granted options to Messrs. Lorber (250,000 shares), Lampen (62,500 shares), Kirkland (37,500 shares) and Bell (37,500 shares) to recognize past and current performance and to serve as a means of incentivizing and retaining these key employees. The options are non-qualified options with a ten-year term with cliff vesting on the fourth anniversary of grant and have an exercise price equal to the market price on the date of grant (\$19.34). The options have dividend equivalent rights. GK Partners has reviewed the Company's dividend equivalent policy and has provided its opinion that equity grants with the terms that include dividend equivalents are a means of management compensation that are appropriate and consistent with the Company's strategy with respect to dividend policy (and the critical importance thereof). If the Company's stockholders do not approve the 2014 Plan, the options will be canceled and the executives who received options in February 2014 have agreed to return any dividends or distributions paid prior to the Company's 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders plus interest computed at Citibank N.A.'s prime interest rate. Shares received upon exercise of the February 26, 2014 option grants will be subject to the Company's Equity Retention and Hedging Policy. See "Equity Retention Policy" on page 13.

On February 26, 2013, the Subcommittee granted options to Messrs. Lorber (525,000 shares), Lampen (131,250 shares), Kirkland (78,750 shares) and Bell (52,500 shares) to recognize past and current performance and to serve as a means of incentivizing and retaining key employees. Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell had not been granted options since 2009 and no new options had been granted to Mr. Lorber since 2011. The options are non-qualified options with a ten-year term with cliff vesting on the fourth anniversary of grant and have an exercise price equal to the market price on the date of grant (\$15.36). The options have dividend equivalent rights. GK Partners has reviewed the Company's dividend equivalent policy and has provided its opinion that equity grants with the terms that include dividend equivalents are a means of management compensation that are appropriate and consistent with the Company's strategy with respect to dividend policy (and the critical importance thereof). Shares received upon exercise of the February 26, 2013 option grants will be subject to the Company's Equity Retention and Hedging Policy. See "Equity Retention Policy" on page 13.

On October 28, 2013, the Subcommittee granted 27,500 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Bernstein to recognize past and current performance and to serve as a means of incentivizing Mr. Bernstein to continue to serve as Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands. The restricted stock vests on the earlier of March 15, 2019, if Liggett's adjusted EBIT for the five years ended December 31, 2018 is more than \$1.5 billion, or October 31, 2020, if the performance-based targets are not achieved. The restricted stock has dividend equivalent rights. Shares received upon vesting of the restricted stock grant will be subject to the Company's Equity Retention and Hedging Policy. See "Equity Retention Policy" on page 13.

Dividend Equivalents

Under the terms of various equity awards made to the Company's named executive officers under the Company's stock plans, dividend equivalent payments and distributions are made to the executive officers with respect to the shares of Common Stock underlying the unexercised portion of the options and the terms of equity awards are adjusted to reflect stock dividends. These payments and distributions are made at the same rate as dividends and other distributions paid on the Company's issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock. GK Partners has reviewed the Company's dividend equivalent policy and has provided its opinion that equity grants with the terms that include dividend equivalents are a means of management compensation that are appropriate and consistent with the Company's strategy with respect to dividend policy (and the critical importance thereof). In 2013, named executive officers earned cash dividend equivalent payments on options as follows: Mr. Lorber — \$3,024,702;

Mr. Lampen —\$502,556; Mr. Kirkland — \$271,528; Mr. Bell — \$231,028; and Mr. Bernstein - \$11,000. In accordance with the disclosure rules of the SEC, these amounts have not been separately reported in the Summary Compensation Table because the value of the dividend equivalent rights was included in the initial grant date fair value of the underlying options grants which is reported in the table.

Supplemental Retirement Plan

Retirement benefits are designed to reward continuous service by providing post-employment security and are an essential component of a competitive compensation package.

The Company's named executive officers and certain other management employees are eligible to participate in the Supplemental Retirement Plan, which was adopted by the board of directors in January 2002 to promote retention of key executives and to provide them with financial security following retirement. As described more fully and quantified in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19, the Supplemental Retirement Plan provides for the payment to a participant at his normal retirement date of a lump sum amount that is the actuarial equivalent of a single life annuity commencing on that date. The single life annuity amounts for the named executives were determined by the Company's board of directors giving consideration to a variety of pertinent factors including (but not limited to) the executive's level of annual compensation.

Other Benefits

The Company's executive officers are eligible to participate in all of its employee benefit plans, such as medical, dental, vision, group life, disability and accidental death and dismemberment insurance and Liggett Vector Brands 401(k) plan. These benefits are designed to provide a safety net of protection against the financial catastrophes that can result from illness, disability or death. The Company also provides vacation and other paid holidays to its executive officers, as well as certain other perquisites further described below and in the Summary Compensation Table on page 15.

Perquisites

The Company provides the perquisites or personal benefits to its named executive officers discussed below. The Company's corporate aircraft are made available for the personal use of Mr. Lorber and other executive officers at Mr. Lorber's discretion. The Company's corporate aircraft policy permits personal use of corporate aircraft by executives, subject to an annual limit of \$200,000 for personal use by Mr. Lorber. For purposes of determining the amounts allowable under the policy, the value of the personal usage is calculated using the applicable standard industry fare level formula established by the Internal Revenue Service (as distinguished from the aggregate incremental cost approach used for determining the value included in the Summary Compensation Table), and Mr. Lorber and any other executive officers pay income tax on such value. In addition, Mr. Lorber is entitled to a car and driver provided by the Company, a \$7,500 per month allowance for lodging and related business expenses and two club memberships. See the Summary Compensation Table for details regarding the value of perquisites received by the named executive officers.

Change in Control Provisions

The employment agreement entered into between the Company and Mr. Lorber contains change in control provisions. In the event of a change in control that results in a termination of employment without cause (a "double trigger"), Mr. Lorber will receive severance benefits. The purpose of these provisions is to avoid the distraction and loss of key management personnel that may occur in connection with rumored or actual corporate transactions and/or other fundamental corporate changes and to provide adequate protection to key management personnel in the event that their employment is terminated following a change of control. A change in control provision protects stockholder interests by enhancing employee focus during rumored or actual change in control activity through incentives to remain with the Company despite uncertainties while a transaction is under consideration or pending and assurance of severance and benefits for terminated executives. A detailed summary of these provisions is set forth under the heading "Payments Made Upon a Change in Control" on page 21.

Inter-Relationship of Elements of Compensation Packages

The various elements of the compensation packages for the Company's executive officers are not directly inter-related. For example, if it does not appear as though the target bonus will be achieved, the number of options that will be granted is not affected. There is no significant interplay of the various elements of total compensation between each other. If options that are granted in one year become underwater due to a decrease in the Company's stock price, the amount of the bonus amount or compensation to be paid the executive officer for the next year is not impacted.

Similarly, if options become extremely valuable due to a rising stock price, the amount of compensation or bonus to be awarded for the next year is not affected. However, the compensation committee does evaluate the total value of executive remuneration when making decisions with respect to any particular element thereof.

Prohibition on Hedging

Under the Company's Equity Retention and Hedging Policy, adopted in January 2013, our executive officers are prohibited from hedging ownership of shares of Common Stock acquired under an incentive equity or option award granted after January 1, 2013 (the "Equity Award Shares"), including by trading in publicly traded options, puts, calls or other derivative instruments related to the Company's Common Stock.

Equity Retention Policy

Under its Equity Retention and Hedging Policy, the Company formalized its long-standing practice of significant share retention by senior management. Until normal retirement age as defined in the the Company's Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, each executive officer is required to retain at least 25% (after taxes and exercise costs) of Equity Award Shares.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

In March 2014, the Company formalized its long-standing practice of significant share ownership by senior management by adopting Stock Ownership Guidelines. These guidelines are applicable to all named executive officers and each non-employee member of the Board. Under the guidelines, which are phased in within the later of five years after the adoption of the guidelines or the date that a covered person first obtains a position, the following ownership requirements exist.

Title	Value of Shares Owned		
Chief Executive Officer	3.0	X	Base Salary
Executive Vice Presidents	1.5	X	Base Salary
Other named executive officers	1.0	X	Base Salary
Non-employee directors	2.0	X	Annual Retainer

The valuation of shares includes all shares held beneficially or directly by any covered person or the person's family members or trust but excludes pledged shares. Compliance is tested on the last day of each quarter.

Executive Compensation Clawback Policy

In March 2014, the Company adopted an Executive Compensation Clawback Policy, which states as a condition to receiving a bonus and incentive-based compensation from the Company, each named executive officer shall enter into an agreement with the Company providing that any performance-based compensation awarded, paid or payable by the Company or any of its subsidiaries subsequent to the date of adoption of the Policy shall be subject to recovery or "clawback" by the Company. Under the Clawback Policy, if the Company's financial results are restated, the result of which is that any performance-based compensation would have been lower had it been calculated based on such restated results, the compensation committee shall review the performance-based compensation received by the named executive officers. If the compensation committee determines that the performance-based compensation would have been lower and that a named executive officer who received such compensation engaged in fraud, material financial or ethical misconduct or recklessness in the performance of the named executive officer's duties or intentional illegal conduct which materially contributed to the restatement, then the compensation committee may seek to recover the after-tax portion of the performance-based compensation. Under the policy, the compensation committee has the discretion to determine to seek recovery of the performance-based compensation after notice and an opportunity to be heard is provided to the named executive officer.

Tax and Accounting Implications

Deductibility of Executive Compensation

The compensation committee and Subcommittee review and consider the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), which generally provides that no publicly-held company may deduct compensation in excess of \$1,000,000 paid in any taxable year to its chief executive officer or any of its three other highest compensated officers (other than the Chief Financial Officer) at year-end unless the compensation qualifies as "performance-based."

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

Determinations with respect to compensation intended to be deductible under Section 162(m) are made by the Subcommittee, which consists of Messrs. Podell and Beinstein, who qualify as “outside directors” under Section 162(m). In certain situations, the compensation committee or the Subcommittee has in the past and may in the future approve compensation that will not meet these deductibility requirements in order to ensure appropriate and competitive levels of total compensation for the Company’s executive officers. In this regard, compensation paid to Messrs. Lorber and Lampen in excess of \$1,000,000 from base salary and dividend equivalent rights in 2013 was not deductible for federal income tax purposes under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation

Beginning on January 1, 2006, the Company began accounting for stock-based payments including stock option and restricted stock awards under the Plans in accordance with the requirements of Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (“FASB ASC Topic 718”).

Compensation Committee Report

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth above with management and, based on such review and discussion, has recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Jeffrey S. Podell, Chairman
Henry C. Beinstein
Jean E. Sharpe

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE FOR YEARS 2011 — 2013

The following table summarizes the compensation of the named executive officers for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011. The named executive officers are the Company’s Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and the three other most highly compensated executive officers ranked by their total compensation in the table below (not taking into account the amount in the Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings column).

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)(1)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(4)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(5)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Howard M. Lorber President and Chief Executive Officer	2013	\$3,055,482	\$0	\$0	\$1,358,307	(3) \$3,532,901	\$1,142,443	\$355,675	(6) \$9,444,808
	2012	\$2,992,344	\$0	\$288,456	(2) \$0	\$3,459,898	\$2,764,549	\$336,402	\$9,841,649
	2011	\$2,914,810	\$0	\$0	\$1,523,951	(3) \$3,271,523	\$2,966,790	\$248,173	\$10,925,247
Richard J. Lampen Executive Vice President	2013	\$900,000	\$0	\$0	\$597,821	(3) \$520,313	\$323,844	\$7,650	(7) \$2,349,628
	2012	\$900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$520,313	\$326,207	\$7,500	\$1,754,020
	2011	\$800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$299,301	\$319,740	\$7,350	\$1,426,391
	2013	\$425,000	\$0	\$0	\$434,956	(3) \$122,852	\$86,931	\$7,650	(7) \$1,077,389

J. Bryant Kirkland III Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	2012	\$425,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$122,852	\$77,214	\$7,500	\$632,566
Marc N. Bell Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	2011	\$375,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,223	\$63,708	\$7,350	\$551,281
Marc N. Bell Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	2013	\$425,000	\$0	\$0	\$289,970	(3) \$122,852	\$126,694	\$7,650	(7) \$972,166
Ronald J. Bernstein President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands and Liggett	2012	\$425,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$122,852	\$118,636	\$7,500	\$673,988
Ronald J. Bernstein President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands and Liggett	2011	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$112,238	\$105,168	\$7,350	\$624,756
Ronald J. Bernstein President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands and Liggett	2013	\$908,719	\$0	\$458,425	(3) \$0	\$855,514	\$482,574	\$7,650	(7) \$2,712,882
Ronald J. Bernstein President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands and Liggett	2012	\$892,241	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$809,307	\$511,226	\$7,500	\$2,220,274
Ronald J. Bernstein President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett Vector Brands and Liggett	2011	\$867,011	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$627,326	\$507,697	\$7,350	\$2,009,384

(1) Reflects actual base salary amounts paid for 2013, 2012 and 2011.

Reflects amount related to the modified requisite service period as a result of the acceleration of vesting of 255,254 shares of restricted stock in December 2012. The shares were originally granted in 2009 and were scheduled to vest

(2) in equal installments in September 2013 and September 2014. See note 11 to the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 28, 2013.

Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock or stock options granted under the 1999 Plan for the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2011 as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, rather than an amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Assumptions used in the calculation of such

(3) amount are included in note 13 and note 11 to the Company's audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2011, respectively, included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 3, 2014 and February 24, 2012, respectively. The FASB ASC Topic 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized by the named executive officer.

These amounts reflect performance-based cash awards under the Bonus Plan paid during 2014, 2013 and 2012 in respect of service performed in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. This plan is discussed in further detail on page 10 under the heading "Annual Incentive Bonus Awards".

(5) Amounts shown are solely an estimate of the increase in actuarial present value of the named executive officer's accrued benefit at the later of age 60 during active service or the completion of eight years of full-time continuous service under the Company's pension plans. Assumptions are further described in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19. The amounts reflect the actuarial increase in the present value of the named executive officer's benefits under the Supplemental Retirement Plan determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in the Company's financial statements. No amount is payable from this plan before a participant attains the later of age 60 during active service or the completion of eight years of full-time continuous service (except in the case of death, disability or termination without cause). There can be no assurance that the amounts shown will ever be realized by the named executive officers. For Mr. Bernstein, the reported amount also includes \$7,397 in 2011 in connection with Liggett Group Inc. Retirement Plan for Salaried

Non-Bargaining Unit Employees.

Represents perquisites consisting of \$258,025 for personal use of corporate aircraft in 2013 and a \$90,000 allowance paid for lodging and related business expenses in 2013. Also includes \$7,650 for 401(k) plan matching contributions in 2013. For purposes of determining the value of corporate aircraft use, the personal use is calculated based on the aggregate incremental cost to the Company. For flights on corporate aircraft, aggregate incremental cost for purposes of this table is calculated based on a cost-per-flight-mile charge developed from internal Company data. The charge reflects the direct operating cost of the aircraft, including fuel, additives and lubricants, airport fees and catering. In addition, the charge also reflects an allocable allowance for maintenance and engine restorations.

(6) Represents 401(k) plan matching contributions.

Employment Agreements and Severance Arrangements

Compensation arrangements, as reflected in the employment agreements with the Company's executive officers, are usually negotiated on an individual basis between the Chief Executive Officer and each of the other executives. While the compensation committee has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the responsibility of negotiating these employment agreements and his input is given significant consideration by the compensation committee, the compensation committee and the board have final authority over all compensation matters.

On January 27, 2006, the Company and Howard M. Lorber entered into an amended and restated employment agreement (the "Amended Lorber Agreement"), which replaced his prior employment agreements with the Company and with New Valley Corporation. The Amended Lorber Agreement had an initial term of three years effective as of January 1, 2006, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within 60 days before this date. Mr. Lorber's salary is subject to an annual cost of living adjustment. As of January 1, 2014, Mr. Lorber's annual base salary was \$3,100,398. In addition, the Company's board must periodically review his base salary and may increase but not decrease it from time to time in its sole discretion. Mr. Lorber is eligible on an annual basis to receive a target bonus of 100% of his base salary under the Company's Bonus Plan. During the period of his employment, Mr. Lorber is entitled to various benefits, including a Company-provided car and driver, a \$7,500 per month allowance for lodging and related business expenses, two club memberships and dues, and use of corporate aircraft in accordance with the Company's Corporate Aircraft Policy. Following termination of his employment by the Company without cause (as defined in the Amended Lorber Agreement), termination of his employment by him for certain reasons specified in the Amended Lorber Agreement or upon death or disability, he (or his beneficiary in the case of death) would continue to receive for a period of 36 months following the termination date his base salary and the bonus amount earned by him for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 100% of base salary). In addition, all of Mr. Lorber's outstanding equity awards would be vested and any stock options granted after January 27, 2006 would continue to be exercisable for no less than two years or the remainder of the original term if shorter. Following termination of his employment for any of the reasons described above (other than death or disability) within two years of a change in control (as defined in the Amended Lorber Agreement), he would receive a lump sum payment equal to 2.99 times the sum of his then current base salary and the bonus amount earned by him for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 100% of base salary). In addition, Mr. Lorber will be indemnified in the event that excise taxes are imposed on change-of-control payments under Section 4999 of the Code. In the event Mr. Lorber's employment terminates prior to September 14, 2014 for any reason other than death, disability or change of control, he will be required to return to the Company 127,627 shares of restricted stock received on December 11, 2012 and all dividends relating to such shares.

On January 27, 2006, the Company entered into employment agreements (the "Other Executive Agreements") with Richard J. Lampen, the Company's Executive Vice President, J. Bryant Kirkland III, the Company's Vice President and, effective April 1, 2006, Chief Financial Officer, and Marc N. Bell, the Company's Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. The Other Executive Agreements replaced prior employment agreements with the Company or New Valley Corporation. The Other Executive Agreements had an initial term of two years effective as of January 1, 2006, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within 60 days before this date. As of January 1, 2014, the annual base salaries provided for in these Other Executive Agreements were \$900,000 for Mr. Lampen, \$425,000 for Mr. Kirkland and \$425,000 for Mr. Bell. In addition, the board must periodically review these base salaries and may increase but not decrease them from time to time in its sole discretion. These executives are eligible to receive a target bonus of 50% for Mr. Lampen,

and 25% for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell, of their base salaries under the Company's non-equity incentive bonus plan. Following termination of their employment by the Company without cause (as defined in the Other Executive Agreements), termination of their employment by the executives for certain reasons specified in the Other Executive Agreements or upon death or disability, they (or their beneficiaries in the case of death) would continue to receive for a period of 24 months following the termination date their base salary and the bonus amount earned by them for the prior year (with such bonus amount limited to 50% of base salary for Mr. Lampen and 25% of base salary for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell).

On November 11, 2005, Liggett, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, and Ronald J. Bernstein entered into an employment agreement (the "Bernstein Employment Agreement"), pursuant to which Mr. Bernstein serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett and affiliated companies. The Bernstein Employment Agreement had an initial term expiring December 31, 2008, with an automatic one-year extension on each anniversary of the effective date unless notice of non-extension is given by either party within six months before this date. Prior to January 1, 2014, Mr. Bernstein's salary was subject to an annual cost of living adjustment. Under the terms of the Bernstein Employment Agreement, Mr. Bernstein is eligible on an annual basis to receive a target bonus of up to 100% of his base salary under the Company's non-equity incentive bonus plan if Liggett meets certain pre-established operating goals. Following termination of his employment without cause, he would continue to receive his base salary for a period of 24 months. On October 29, 2013, Mr. Bernstein's Employment Agreement was amended to increase Mr. Bernstein's base salary, effective January 1, 2014, to \$1,000,000 per annum and terminate a provision in Mr. Bernstein's contract which granted him the automatic annual increase in base salary based on a cost-of-living adjustment. As of January 1, 2014, Mr. Bernstein's annual base salary was \$1,000,000.

Restricted Stock and Option Awards

GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS IN 2013

The table below provides information with respect to incentive compensation granted to each of the named executive officers for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Underlying Stock (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities (#)	Exercise Price of Option Awards (\$)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)(2)
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum				
Howard M. Lorber	2/25/2013	\$0	\$3,055,482	\$3,819,353	—	—	—	—	—	\$—	\$—
	2/26/2013	\$0	\$—	\$—	—	—	—	—	525,000	\$15.36	\$1,358,307
Richard J. Lampen	2/25/2013	\$0	\$450,000	\$562,500	—	—	—	—	—	\$—	\$—
	2/26/2013	\$0	\$—	\$—	—	—	—	—	131,250	\$15.36	\$597,821
J. Bryant Kirkland III	2/25/2013	\$0	\$106,250	\$132,813	—	—	—	—	—	\$—	\$—
	2/26/2013	\$0	\$—	\$—	—	—	—	—	78,750	\$15.36	\$434,956
Marc N. Bell	2/25/2013	\$0	\$106,250	\$132,813	—	—	—	—	—	\$—	\$—

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

	2/26/2013	\$0	\$—	\$—	—	—	—	—	52,500	\$15.36	\$289,970
Ronald J. Bernstein	2/25/2013	\$0	\$908,719	\$908,719	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$—
	10/28/2013	\$0	\$—	\$—	—	—	—	27,500	—	—	\$458,425

The amounts shown include the awards made under the Bonus Plan on February 25, 2013. Target levels are equal to 100% of base salary for Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein, 50% of base salary for Mr. Lampen and 25% of base salary for Messrs. Kirkland and Bell. The maximum amount is 125% of the target amount for Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell and 100% of the target amount for Mr. Bernstein. There is no minimum amount. The Subcommittee approved the performance criteria for determining the award opportunities for each named executive officer under the Bonus Plan. The actual bonus amounts earned for 2013 have been determined and paid in 2014 and are reflected in the “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” column in the Summary Compensation Table on page 15.

Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of stock or stock options granted under the 1999 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2013 as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, rather than an amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Assumptions used in the calculation of such amount are included in note 13 to the Company’s audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 3, 2014 . The FASB ASC Topic 718 amounts from these grants may never be realized by the named executive officer.

Table of Contents

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2013

The table below provides information with respect to the outstanding equity awards of the named executive officers as of December 31, 2013.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards				
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised	Option Exercise	Option Expiration	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Rights That Have Not
	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Options (#)	Price (\$)	Date	Vested (#)	Vested (\$)	Vested (#)	Vested (\$)
Howard M. Lorber	972,405	—	—	\$11.60	12/3/2019	—	—	—	—
	—	463,050	(1)	\$14.91	1/14/2021	—	—	—	—
	—	525,000	(2)	\$15.36	2/26/2023	—	—	—	—
Richard J. Lampen	194,481	—	—	\$11.60	12/3/2019	—	—	—	—
	—	131,250	(2)	\$15.36	2/26/2023	—	—	—	—
J. Bryant Kirkland III	97,240	—	—	\$11.60	12/3/2019	—	—	—	—
	—	78,750	—	\$15.36	2/26/2023	—	—	—	—
Marc N. Bell	97,240	—	—	\$11.60	12/3/2019	—	—	—	—
	—	52,500	(2)	\$15.36	2/26/2023	—	—	—	—
Ronald J. Bernstein	288,328	—	—	\$12.01	8/16/2016	27,500	(3)	—	\$458,425

(1) This option grant vests on January 14, 2015.

(2) These option grants vest on February 26, 2017.

This restricted stock award will vest upon the earlier of March 15, 2019, if Liggett's adjusted EBIT for the five (3) years ended December 31, 2018, is more than \$1.5 billion, or October 31, 2020 if the performance target is not achieved.

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED IN YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

The table below provides information with respect to the number shares of restricted stock granted under the 1999 Plan to the named executive officers in previous years that were exercised or vested during 2013, as well as, the market value of the stock on the vesting date.

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 (\$)

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

Howard M. Lorber	—	\$—	—	\$—
Richard J. Lampen	—	—	—	—
J. Bryant Kirkland III	—	—	—	—
Marc N. Bell	—	—	—	—
Ronald J. Bernstein	—	—	—	—

Table of Contents

Retirement Benefits

PENSION BENEFITS AT 2013 FISCAL YEAR END

The table below quantifies the benefits expected to be paid from the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan and, in the case of Mr. Bernstein, also from Liggett's Qualified Plan. The terms of the plans are described below the table.

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years of Credited Service (#)(1)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)(2),(3)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
Howard M. Lorber	Supplemental Retirement Plan	12	\$26,335,396	\$0
Richard J. Lampen	Supplemental Retirement Plan	10	\$3,251,105	\$0
J. Bryant Kirkland III	Supplemental Retirement Plan	10	\$677,939	\$0
Marc N. Bell	Supplemental Retirement Plan	10	\$1,004,512	\$0
Ronald J. Bernstein	Supplemental Retirement Plan	12	\$5,705,690	\$0
	Qualified Plan	2	\$48,660	\$0

Equals number of years of credited service as of December 31, 2013. Credited service under the Supplemental (1) Retirement Plan is based on a named executive officer's period of full time continuous covered employment after commencing participation in the Supplemental Retirement Plan.

Represents actuarial present value in accordance with the same assumptions outlined in note 11 to the Company's (2) audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 3, 2014.

(3) Includes amounts which the named executive officer is not currently entitled to receive because such amounts are not vested.

Supplemental Retirement Plan

The Supplemental Retirement Plan provides for the payment to a participant at his normal retirement date of a lump sum amount that is the actuarial equivalent of a single life annuity commencing on that date. The "normal retirement date" under the Supplemental Retirement Plan is defined as the January 1st following attainment by a participant of the later of age 60 or the completion of eight years of employment following January 1, 2002 (in the case of Messrs. Lorber and Bernstein) or January 1, 2004 (in the case of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell).

The following table sets forth for each named executive officer his hypothetical single life annuity, his normal retirement date and his projected lump sum payment at his normal retirement date.

Name	Hypothetical Single Life Annuity	Normal Retirement Date	Lump-Sum Equivalent
Howard M. Lorber	\$1,051,875	January 1, 2010	\$10,855,666
Richard J. Lampen	\$735,682	January 1, 2013	\$7,121,988
J. Bryant Kirkland III	\$250,000	January 1, 2014	\$2,625,275
Marc N. Bell	\$202,500	January 1, 2026	\$2,126,473
Ronald J. Bernstein	\$200,000	January 1, 2021	\$2,100,220
	\$438,750	January 1, 2014	\$4,607,358

No benefits are payable under the Supplemental Retirement Plan if a named executive officer resigns without good reason before attaining his normal retirement date. In the case of a participant who becomes disabled prior to his normal retirement date

6

Table of Contents

or whose service is terminated without cause, the participant's benefit consists of a pro-rata portion of the full projected retirement benefit to which he would have been entitled had he remained employed through his normal retirement date, as actuarially discounted back to the date of payment. The beneficiary of a participant who dies while working for the Company or a subsidiary (and before becoming disabled or attaining his normal retirement date) will be paid an actuarially discounted equivalent of his projected retirement benefit; conversely, a participant who retires beyond his normal retirement date will receive an actuarially increased lump sum payment to reflect the delay in payment using a post-retirement interest rate of 7.5%. The lump sum amount under the Supplemental Retirement Plan is paid six months following the named executive officer's retirement on or after his normal retirement date or termination of employment without cause, along with interest at the prime lending rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the lump sum amount for this six-month period.

In April 2008, after consulting with GK Partners, the compensation committee of the board approved an amendment to the Supplemental Retirement Plan to provide Mr. Lorber with an additional benefit under the Supplemental Retirement Plan equal to a \$735,682 lifetime annuity to provide an incentive for Mr. Lorber to remain with the Company past his then current retirement date under the Supplemental Retirement Plan, which was January 1, 2010. As a result of the additional benefit granted to him, Mr. Lorber was eligible to receive a total lump sum retirement benefit of \$20,607,948 if he retired in 2013, an increase of \$7,121,988 over the benefit he would have been entitled to receive under the Supplemental Retirement Plan prior to the amendment. As Mr. Lorber did not retire on January 1, 2013, his additional benefit will be increased by 7.5% per annum for each year he continues to be an employee of the Company thereafter.

In January 2006, the Company amended and restated the Supplemental Retirement Plan. The amendments to the Supplemental Retirement Plan were intended, among other things, to cause the plan to meet the applicable requirements of the "deferred compensation" provisions of Section 409A of the Code. The Supplemental Retirement Plan is intended to be unfunded for tax purposes, and payments under the Supplemental Retirement Plan will be made out of the Company's general assets.

Qualified Plan

Liggett's salaried employees are entitled to benefits payable under its Qualified Plan based on a formula that yields an annual amount payable over the participant's life beginning at age 65. Liggett discontinued providing additional benefits under the Qualified Plan for service on and after January 1, 1994. As of December 31, 2013, none of the named executive officers was eligible to receive any benefits under the Qualified Plan, except for Mr. Bernstein who is entitled to a monthly benefit of \$372 beginning at age 65.

Potential Termination and Change in Control Payments

The compensation payable to named executive officers upon voluntary termination, involuntary termination without cause, termination for cause, termination following a change in control and in the event of disability or death of the executive is described below.

Payments Made Upon Termination

Regardless of the manner in which a named executive officer's employment terminates, unless terminated for cause, he or she may be entitled to receive amounts earned during his or her term of employment. Such amounts include:

- unpaid base salary through the date of termination;
- any accrued and unused vacation pay;
- any unpaid award under the Plans or bonus under the Bonus Plan with respect to a completed performance period;
- all accrued and vested benefits under the Company's compensation and benefit programs, including the pension plan and the Supplemental Retirement Plan; and
- with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, payment by the Company of a tax gross-up for any excise taxes and related income taxes on gross-ups for benefits received upon termination of employment.

In the event Mr. Lorber's employment terminates for any reason other than death, disability or change of control prior to September 15, 2014, he will be required to return to the Company 127,627 shares of restricted stock together with all dividends paid on such shares as a result of accelerated vesting of such shares on December 11, 2012. See "Equity Compensation" on page 11.

Table of Contents

Payments Made Upon Involuntary Termination of Employment without Cause or for Good Reason, Death or Disability

In the event of the termination of a named executive officer by the Company without cause or by the named executive officer for good reason, or upon the death or disability of a named executive officer, in addition to the benefits listed under the heading "Payments Made Upon Termination", the named executive officer or his designated beneficiary upon his death will receive the following benefits:

with respect to the named executive officers, payments for a specified period of either 24 or 36 months (the "Severance Period") equal to 100% of the executive's then-current base salary and (except for Mr. Bernstein) the most recent bonus paid to the executive (up to the amount of the executive's target bonus under his employment agreement);

with respect to the named executive officers, continued participation, at the Company's expense, during the Severance Period in all employee welfare and health benefit plans, including life insurance, health, medical, dental and disability plans which cover the executive and the executive's eligible dependents (or, if such plans do not permit the executive and his eligible dependents to participate after his termination, the Company is required to pay an amount each quarter (not to exceed \$35,000 per year in the case of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland and Bell) to keep them in the same economic position on an after-tax basis as if they had continued in such plans);

with respect solely to Mr. Bernstein, a pro rata amount of any award under the Bonus Plan for which the performance period has not been completed based upon 100% of the target bonus amount for such period to the extent that Mr. Bernstein is terminated on or after July 1 of the applicable year and bonuses are otherwise paid to the management of Liggett for that year;

acceleration of the vesting of his restricted shares upon death or disability; and

in the event Mr. Lorber's employment terminates for any reason other than death, disability or change of control prior to September 15, 2014, he will be required to return to the Company 127,627 shares of restricted stock together with all dividends paid on such shares as a result of accelerated vesting of such shares on December 11, 2012. See "Equity Compensation" on page 11.

Payments Made Upon a Change in Control

Howard M. Lorber

Mr. Lorber's employment agreement has a double-trigger change in control provision: if his employment is terminated without cause or by the executive for good reason within two years of a change in control Mr. Lorber would be entitled to receive the following severance benefits:

a lump-sum cash payment equal to 2.99 times the sum of his base salary plus the last annual bonus earned by him up to 100% of base salary (including any deferred amount) for the performance period immediately preceding the date of termination;

participation by Mr. Lorber and his eligible dependents in all welfare benefit plans in which they were participating on the date of termination until the earlier of (x) the end of the employment period under his employment agreement and (y) the date that he receives equivalent coverage and benefit under the plans and programs of a subsequent employer;

continued participation at the Company's expense for 36 months in life, disability, accident, health and medical insurance benefits substantially similar to those received by Mr. Lorber and his eligible dependents prior to such termination, subject to reduction if comparable benefits are actually received from a subsequent employer;

full vesting of his outstanding equity awards;

termination of certain restrictive covenants in his employment agreement, including covenants not to compete and non-solicitation covenants; and

termination of clawback agreement with respect to shares received on December 11, 2012 and related dividends.

Richard J. Lampen, J. Bryant Kirkland III, Marc N. Bell and Ronald J. Bernstein

While their respective employment agreements do not contain any change of control provisions, in the event of the termination of Messrs. Lampen, Kirkland, Bell and Bernstein by the Company without cause or by the named executive officer for good reason upon a change of control, such named executive officers would receive pursuant to their employment agreements the same severance benefits described in the section titled "Payments Made Upon Termination" on Page 20.

Table of Contents

Definition of Change in Control

Pursuant to the employment agreement between the Company and Mr. Lorber, a “change in control” is deemed to occur if:

- a person unaffiliated with the Company acquires more than 40 percent control over its voting securities;
- the individuals who, as of January 1, 2006, are members of the Company’s board of directors (the “Incumbent Board”), cease to constitute at least two-thirds of the Incumbent Board; however, a newly-elected board member that was elected or nominated by two-thirds of the Incumbent Board shall be considered a member of the Incumbent Board;
- the Company’s stockholders approve a merger, consolidation or reorganization with an unrelated entity, unless the Company’s stockholders would own at least 51 percent of the voting power of the surviving entity; the individuals who were members of the Incumbent Board constitute at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the surviving entity; and no person (other than one of the Company’s affiliates) has beneficial ownership of 40 percent or more of the combined voting power of the surviving entity’s then outstanding voting securities;
- the Company’s stockholders approve a plan of complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company; or
- the Company’s stockholders approve the sale or disposition of all or substantially all of the Company’s assets.

Definition of Termination for Cause

Under each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, termination by the Company for “cause” is defined as:

- the executive being convicted of or entering a plea of nolo contendere with respect to a criminal offense constituting a felony;
- the executive committing in the performance of his duties under his employment agreement one or more acts or omissions constituting fraud, dishonesty or willful injury to the Company which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company;
- the executive committing one or more acts constituting gross neglect or willful misconduct which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company;
- the executive exposing the Company to criminal liability substantially and knowingly caused by the executive which results in a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the Company; or
- the executive failing to substantially perform his duties under his employment agreement (excluding any failure to meet any performance targets or to raise capital or any failure as a result of an approved absence or any mental or physical impairment that could reasonably be expected to result in a disability), after written warning from the board specifying in reasonable detail the breach(es) complained of.

Under the employment agreement between Liggett and Mr. Bernstein, “cause” is defined as:

- a material breach by Mr. Bernstein of his duties and obligations under his employment agreement which breach is not remedied to the satisfaction of the board of directors of Liggett (“Liggett Board”), within 30 days after receipt by Mr. Bernstein of written notice of such breach from the Liggett Board;
- Mr. Bernstein’s conviction or indictment for a felony;
- an act or acts of personal dishonesty by Mr. Bernstein intended to result in personal enrichment of Mr. Bernstein at the expense of the Company or any of its affiliates or any other material breach or violation of Mr. Bernstein’s fiduciary duty owed to the Company or any of its affiliates;
- material violation of any Company or Liggett policy or the Company’s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; or
- any grossly negligent act or omission or any willful and deliberate misconduct by Mr. Bernstein that results, or is likely to result, in material economic, or other harm, to the Company or any of its affiliates (other than any act or omission by Mr. Bernstein if it was taken or omitted to be done by Mr. Bernstein in good faith and with a reasonable belief that such action or omission was in the best interests of the Company).

Definition of Termination for Good Reason

Under each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell, termination by the executive for “good reason” is defined as:

Table of Contents

a material diminution of the executive's duties and responsibilities provided in his employment agreement, including, without limitation, the failure to elect or re-elect the executive to his position (including with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, his position as a member of the board) or the removal of the executive from any such position; a reduction of the executive's base salary or target bonus opportunity as a percentage of base salary or any other material breach of any material provision of his employment agreement by the Company; relocation of the executive's office from the Miami (or with respect solely to Mr. Lorber, Miami or New York City) metropolitan areas; the change in the executive's reporting relationship from direct reporting to the board, in the case of Mr. Lorber, to the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer, in the case of Mr. Lampen, or to the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer or the Executive Vice President, in the case of Messrs. Kirkland and Bell; or the failure of a successor to all or substantially all of the Company's business or assets to promptly assume and continue his employment agreement obligations whether contractually or as a matter of law, within 15 days of such transaction.

Under the employment agreement with Mr. Bernstein, "good reason" exists if, without the prior written consent of Mr. Bernstein:

- the Liggett board removes Mr. Bernstein as President and Chief Executive Officer of Liggett, other than in connection with the termination of his employment;
- Mr. Bernstein is not appointed as a member of the Liggett board;
- the Liggett board reduces Mr. Bernstein's rate of salary or bonus opportunity or materially reduces Mr. Bernstein's welfare, perquisites or other benefits described in his employment agreement;
- Mr. Bernstein's duties and responsibilities at Liggett are significantly diminished or there are assigned to him duties and responsibilities materially inconsistent with his position;
- Liggett fails to obtain a written agreement reasonably satisfactory to Mr. Bernstein from any successor of the Company to assume and perform his employment agreement; or
- there occurs a change of control and Mr. Bernstein is required to relocate more than 50 miles from Mr. Bernstein's current work location.

Assumptions Regarding Post-Termination Payment Tables

The following tables were prepared as though each named executive officer's employment was terminated on December 31, 2013 (the last business day of 2013) using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock as of that day (\$16.37). The amounts under the columns which reflect a Change in Control assume that a change in control occurred on December 31, 2013. However, the executives' employment was not terminated on December 31, 2013 and a change in control did not occur on that date. There can be no assurance that a termination of employment, a change in control or both would produce the same or similar results as those described if either or both of them occur on any other date or at any other price, or if any assumption is not correct in fact.

Tax Gross-Up Assumptions

Mr. Lorber was assumed to be subject to the maximum federal and state income and other payroll taxes, including excise taxes, aggregating to a net combined effective tax of approximately 62%, when calculating whether he would have been entitled to excise tax gross-up.

Calculations for any tax gross-up are based on Mr. Lorber's taxable wages (Form W-2, Box 1) for the years 2008 through 2012.

No other named executive officer is entitled to an excise tax gross-up under the terms of his employment agreement.

Equity-Based Assumptions

Stock options held by Messrs. Lorber, Lampen, Kirkland and Bell and restricted stock held by Mr. Bernstein would have vested on December 31, 2013 with respect to a change in control or termination by him on death or disability.

No other named executive officer held unvested options at that date.

Stock options that become vested due to a change in control are valued based on their "spread" (i.e., the difference between the stock's fair market value and the exercise price).

Table of Contents

It is possible that IRS rules would require these items to be valued using a valuation method such as the Black-Scholes model if they continued after a change in control. Using a Black-Scholes value in lieu of the “spread” would cause higher value for excise taxes and the related tax gross-up payment.

Mr. Lorber would not be required to return to the Company the 127,627 shares of common stock and related dividends received on December 11, 2012 as a result of acceleration of vesting in the event of a change of control, or death or disability.

Incentive Plan Assumptions

All amounts under the Bonus Plan were deemed to have been earned for 2013 in full based on actual performance and are not treated as subject to the excise tax upon a change in control.

Retirement Benefit Assumptions

All benefits were assumed to be payable in a single lump sum at the participant’s earliest retirement-eligible date.

Howard M. Lorber

	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason	Disability	Death	Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control
Cash Severance	\$18,143,478 (1),(6)	\$18,143,478 (1)	\$18,143,478 (1)	—	(6)\$18,083,000 (2)
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target	—	—	—	—	—
Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity (3)	\$—	\$1,206,303	\$1,206,303	—	\$1,206,303
Benefits Continuation(4)	\$117,817	\$117,817	\$51,521	—	\$117,817
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(5)	\$22,087,382	\$22,087,382	\$22,087,382	—	\$22,087,382
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lorber’s 2013 base salary (\$3,055,482) and last paid bonus limited to 100% of base salary (\$2,992,344) paid over a period of 36 months after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lorber’s 2013 base salary (\$3,055,482) and last paid bonus limited to 100% of base salary (\$2,992,344) for a period of 2.99 years paid in a lump-sum payment commencing after termination.

(3) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that would have vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company’s Common Stock on December 31, 2013 (\$16.37). See “Outstanding Equity Awards on page 18.

(4) Reflects the value of premium payments for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 36 months at the Company’s cost, based on 2013 premiums.

(5) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2013, which are disclosed in “Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End” on page 19.

(6) Under the terms of the clawback agreement entered to at the time that the Company agreed to accelerate the vesting of 127,627 shares of restricted stock, Mr. Lorber agreed to return such shares, \$855,150 of dividends paid

at the time and any subsequent dividends paid with respect to such shares in the event that his employment with the Company terminates prior to September 15, 2014 for any reason other than death, disability or change of control.

Table of Contents

Richard J. Lampen

	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason	Disability	Death	Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control
Cash Severance(1)	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	—	\$2,700,000
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target	—	—	—	—	—
Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	\$—	\$132,563	\$132,563	\$—	\$132,563
Benefits Continuation(3)	\$73,198	\$73,198	\$50,229	—	\$73,198
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4)	\$2,619,784	\$2,619,784	\$2,619,784	—	\$2,619,784
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Lampen's 2013 base salary (\$900,000) and last paid bonus limited to 50% of base salary (\$450,000) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that would have vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2013 (\$16.37). See "Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2013" on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2013 premiums.

(4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2013, which are disclosed in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19.

J. Bryant Kirkland III

	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason	Disability	Death	Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control
Cash Severance(1)	\$1,062,500	\$1,062,500	\$1,062,500	—	\$1,062,500
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target	—	—	—	—	—
Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	\$—	\$79,538	\$79,538	—	\$79,538

Edgar Filing: VECTOR GROUP LTD - Form PRE 14A

Benefits Continuation(3)	\$21,610	\$21,610	\$—	—	\$21,610
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4)	\$402,107	\$402,107	\$884,635	—	\$402,107
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Kirkland's 2013 base salary (\$425,000) and last paid bonus limited to 25% of base salary (\$106,250) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that would have vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2013 (\$16.37). See "Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2013" on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2013 premiums.

(4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2013, which are disclosed in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19.

Table of Contents

Marc N. Bell

	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason	Disability	Death	Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control
Cash Severance(1)	\$1,062,500	\$1,062,500	\$1,062,500	—	\$1,062,500
Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants at Target	—	—	—	—	—
Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	\$—	\$53,025	\$53,025	\$—	\$53,025
Benefits Continuation(3)	\$56,058	\$56,058	\$50,229	—	\$56,058
Value of Supplemental Retirement Plan(4)	\$744,132	\$744,132	\$1,265,024	—	\$744,132
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Bell's 2013 base salary (\$425,000) and last paid bonus limited to 25% of base salary (\$106,250) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that would have vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2013 (\$16.37). See "Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2013" on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2013 premiums.

(4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplemental Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2013, which are disclosed in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19.

Ronald J. Bernstein

	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason	Disability	Death	Termination by Company for Cause or Voluntary Termination by Named Executive Officer Without Good Reason	Termination by Company without Cause or by Named Executive Officer with Good Reason upon a Change in Control
Cash Severance(1)	\$1,784,482	\$1,784,482	\$1,784,482	—	\$1,784,482
	—	—	—	—	—

Acceleration of Long Term Incentive Grants
at Target

Value of Accelerated Unvested Equity(2)	—	—	—	—	—
Benefits Continuation(3)	\$44,362	\$44,362	\$32,338	—	\$44,362
Value of Retirement Benefits(4)	\$4,551,864	\$4,551,864	\$4,551,864	—	\$4,551,864
Excise Tax and Gross-Up	—	—	—	—	—

(1) Reflects the value of the sum of Mr. Bernstein's 2013 base salary (\$908,719) paid over a period of 24 months commencing after termination.

(2) Reflects the value of any unvested stock options or restricted stock and related dividends that would have vested upon the event using the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on December 31, 2013 (\$16.37) and related dividends. Mr. Bernstein had only vested but unexercised stock options on that date. See "Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2013" on page 18.

(3) Reflects the value of premium payments for life insurance, medical, dental and disability plans for 24 months at the Company's cost, based on 2013 premiums.

(4) This amount includes amounts that the named executive officer accrued under the Supplement Retirement Plan as of December 31, 2013, which are disclosed in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19. The amount does not include the value of Mr. Bernstein's monthly payment of \$372 at age 65 under the Qualified Plan, which is disclosed in "Pension Benefits at 2013 Fiscal Year End" on page 19 because lump sum payments are not generally available to participants in the Qualified Plan. If the lump sum option had been available to Mr. Bernstein in the Qualified Plan, the amounts shown would have been increased by approximately \$48,660.

Table of Contents

Compensation of Directors

The compensation of the non-employee directors is designed to be simple and easy for stockholders to understand and to be fair based on the amount of work required of directors of the Company. Each of the non-employee directors receives:

- annual cash retainer fee of \$50,000;
- \$2,500 per annum for each committee membership (\$5,000 for the committee chairman);
- \$1,000 per meeting for each board meeting attended in person or by telephone;
- \$500 per meeting for each committee meeting attended in person or by telephone;
- periodic grants of restricted shares;
- reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in serving on the Company's board; and
- access to the Company's health, dental and life insurance coverage.

No stock options to purchase Common Stock of Common Stock were granted to the non-employee directors in 2013. During the second quarter of 2013, the Company granted 10,500 restricted shares of Common Stock under the 1999 Plan to each of its non-employee directors in order to align the director's interests with the long-term interests of the stockholders. The stock grant vests in three equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the date of grant based on continued service as a director, subject to earlier vesting upon death, disability or the occurrence of a change in control.

The table below summarizes the compensation the Company paid to the non-employee directors for the year ended December 31, 2013.

NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2013

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Changes in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation	Total
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Stanley S. Arkin (4)	\$61,500	\$163,050	—	—	—	\$ 3,312	(1) \$227,862
Henry C. Beinstein (4)	\$81,000	\$163,050	—	—	—	\$ 2,497	(1) \$246,547
Bennett S. LeBow (4)	\$61,500	\$163,050	—	—	—	\$ 67,036	(2) \$291,586
Jeffrey S. Podell (4)	\$77,000	\$163,050	—	—	—	\$ 2,447	(1) \$242,497
Jean E. Sharpe (4)	\$81,000	\$163,050	—	—	—	\$ 15,039	(3) \$259,089

(1) Represents life insurance premiums paid by the Company.

(2) Represents health and life insurance premiums of \$10,917 and \$20,691, respectively, paid by the Company and imputed value of personal use of the Company's aircraft of \$35,428. See Note 6 to the Summary Compensation Table on page 15 for a description of how personal use of the Company's aircraft is valued for purposes of this disclosure.

(3) Represents health and life insurance premiums paid by the Company.

(4) Held 10,500 shares of unvested Restricted Stock at December 31, 2013.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

No member of the Company's compensation committee is, or has been, an employee or officer of the Company other than Ms. Sharpe who joined the compensation committee in March 2009. Ms. Sharpe retired as an officer of the Company in 1993. During 2013, (i) no member of the Company's compensation committee had any relationship with the Company requiring disclosure

Table of Contents

under Item 404 of Regulation S-K; and (ii) none of the Company's executive officers served on the compensation committee (or equivalent) or board of directors of another entity whose executive officer(s) served on the Company's compensation committee or board of directors.

Audit Committee Report

The audit committee report shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this proxy statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such Acts.

Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and the financial reporting process, including its financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Company's independent registered certified public accounting firm, issues opinions on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The audit committee reviews these processes on behalf of the board of directors. In this context, the committee has reviewed and discussed with management and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and the evaluation by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

The audit committee has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, which includes, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the audit of the Company's financial statements. The audit committee also has received written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP its independence from the Company. The audit committee has also considered whether the provision of the services described under the caption "Audit Fees and Non-Audit Fees" is compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent auditors.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This report is submitted by the audit committee of the Company.

Henry C. Beinstein, Chairman
Jeffrey S. Podell
Jean E. Sharpe

Table of Contents**Audit and Non-Audit Fees**

The audit committee reviews and approves audit and permissible non-audit services performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as the fees charged by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for such services. In accordance with Section 10A(i) of the Securities Exchange Act, before PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is engaged to render audit or non-audit services, the engagement is approved by the audit committee. All of the services provided and fees charged by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in 2013 and 2012 were pre-approved by the audit committee.

Audit Fees. The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services for the audit of the annual financial statements of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, audit of effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting under Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404, audits of subsidiary financial statements, reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, comfort letters, consents and review of documents filed with the SEC were \$2,241,586 for 2013 and \$1,923,529 for 2012.

Audit-Related Fees. No fees were billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for audit-related professional services in 2013 and 2012.

Tax Fees. The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for professional services for tax services were \$86,114 in 2013 and \$12,590 in 2012. The services were primarily for federal and state tax advice.

All Other Fees. The aggregate fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for other services were \$3,600 in 2013 and \$3,600 in 2012. The amounts consisted of licensing of accounting research software.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The audit committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax and other services performed by the independent registered certified public accounting firm. The policy provides for pre-approval by the audit committee of specifically defined audit and non-audit services. Unless the specific service has been previously pre-approved with respect to that year, the audit committee must approve the permitted service before the independent registered certified public accounting firm is engaged to perform it. The audit committee approved all services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table summarizes information about the options, warrants and rights and other equity compensation under the Company's equity plans as of December 31, 2013.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders ⁽¹⁾	3,147,234	\$13.21	—
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	3,147,234	\$13.21	—

(1) Includes options to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock under the following stockholder-approved plans: 1998 Long-Term Incentive Plan and Amended and Restated 1999 Long-Term Incentive Plan.

Table of Contents

Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions

The board of directors has adopted a written policy for the review and approval of transactions between the Company and its directors, director nominees, executive officers, greater than five percent beneficial owners and their immediate family members. The policy covers any related party transaction that meets the minimum threshold for disclosure in the Company's proxy statement under the relevant Securities and Exchange Commission rules. The audit committee is responsible for reviewing and, if appropriate, approving or ratifying any related party transactions. In determining whether to approve, disapprove or ratify a related party transaction, the audit committee will take into account, among other factors it deems appropriate, (i) whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable to the Company than terms that would have been reached with an unrelated third party, (ii) the extent of the interest of the related party in the transaction and (iii) the purpose and the potential benefits to the Company of the transaction.

The related party transactions described in this proxy statement entered into before this policy was adopted were approved by the board of directors or the audit committee.

The Company beneficially owns 8.4% of the LTS shares and various executive officers and directors of the Company serve as officers and members of the Board of Directors of LTS. Since September 2006, the Company has had an agreement with Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services Inc. (NYSE MKT: LTS), as subsequently amended, pursuant to which the Company agreed to make available to LTS the services of Mr. Lampen to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of LTS and to provide certain other financial, accounting and tax services, including assistance with complying with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. LTS paid the Company \$750,000 for 2013 under the agreement will pay the Company at a rate of \$850,000 per year in 2014. The agreement is terminable by either party upon 30 days' prior written notice. LTS paid compensation of \$1,250,000 in 2013 to each of Messrs. Lorber, who serves as Vice Chairman of LTS, and Mr. Lampen, who serves as President, Chief Executive Officer and as a director of LTS. Mr. Lampen is being reimbursed by LTS, on an after-tax basis, for various automobile expenses and health and dental insurance premiums. The total amount for 2013 was \$31,454. The arrangement has been continued in 2014.

On November 4, 2011, the Company was part of a consortium, which included Dr. Phillip Frost, who is a beneficial owner of approximately 16.7% of the Company's common stock and Mr. Lampen, the Company's Executive Vice President, that entered into a loan agreement with LTS. Vector's portion of the loan was \$15,000,000. Interest on the loan is payable quarterly at 11% per annum and commenced on December 31, 2011. The Company recorded interest income of approximately \$1,834,103 for the year ended December 31, 2013. At December 31, 2013, the balance of the Company's portion of the loan was \$4,653,080 as LTS repaid \$10,346,920 of the loan in 2013.

In June 2013, the Company acquired in a public offering 240,000 shares of LTS Preferred Stock for \$6,000,000 and received dividends of \$286,686 from LTS Preferred Stock in 2013. On August 15, 2013, the Company acquired in the open market an additional 300,000 common shares of LTS for \$501,000. After the purchase, the Company and its affiliates, beneficially own 14,191,205 LTS shares or 8.4% of the LTS common shares.

The Company beneficially owns an approximate 11% interest in Castle Brands Inc. ("Castle") (NYSE MKT: ROX), a publicly traded developer and importer of premium branded spirits. Mr. Lampen serves as Castle's President and Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Beinstein serves as a director. In October 2008, the Company entered into an agreement with Castle where the Company agreed to make available the services of its Executive Vice President as well as other financial, accounting and tax services. The Company recognized management fees of \$100,000 in 2013 under the agreement. Castle will pay the Company at a rate of \$100,000 per year in 2014. In October 2013, Vector purchased \$200,000 of Castle convertible debt, which bears interest at 5% per annum, due in 2018. The notes are convertible into Castle shares at \$0.90 per share.

In addition to its interests in LTS and Castle, the Company has investments in other entities where Dr. Frost has a relationship. These include: (i) three investments in 2006, 2008 and 2009 totaling approximately \$11,000,000 in common stock of OPKO Inc. (NYSE MKT: OPK) and another \$1,787,000 investment in OPKO Inc. in 2011 and another \$5.0 in OPKO in 2013 (in OPKO convertible bonds through the Company's Accommodations Acquisition Corp subsidiary; (ii) a \$500,000 investment in 2008 for 2,259,796 shares in Tiger X Medical Inc. (formerly known as Cardo Medical Inc. (OTC BB: CDOM)); and (iii) a \$250,000 investment in 2008 in Cocystal Discovery Inc.

Dr. Frost is a director, executive officer and/or more than 10% stockholder of OPKO and other of these entities in which the Company has invested as well as of LTS and Castle. Additional investments in entities where Dr. Frost has a relationship may be made in the future.

In September 2012, the Company entered into an office lease with Frost Real Estate Holdings, LLC ("FREH"), an entity affiliated with Dr. Frost. The lease is for 12,390 square feet of space in an office building in Miami, Florida. The initial term of the lease is five years, subject to two optional five-year term extensions. Payments under the lease commenced in May 2013. The lease provides for payments of \$30,975 per month in the first year increasing to \$35,202 per month in the fifth year, plus applicable sales tax. The rent includes operating expenses, property taxes and parking. A \$220,000 tenant improvement allowance will be credited to the rent pro-rata over the initial five-year term. In connection with the execution of the lease, the Company received

Table of Contents

the advice and opinion of a commercial real estate firm that the lease terms were fair and that the Company received terms favorable in the market. The Company recorded rent expense associated with the lease of \$335,152. In May 2009, the Company issued in a private placement a 6.75% Variable Interest Senior Convertible Note due 2014 in the principal amount of \$50,000,000 to an entity affiliated with Dr. Frost. The purchase price was paid in cash (\$38,224,650) and by tendering \$11,005,000 principal amount of the Company's 5% Notes due 2011, valued at 107% of principal amount. The Company recognized cash interest expense of \$8,381,789 in 2013 related to notes owned by the entity affiliated with Dr. Frost.

Entities affiliated with Mr. LeBow have participated for a number of years as employers under the health insurance program maintained by the Company. All costs related to these entities' participation in the program (approximately \$652,929 in 2013) are paid directly by Mr. LeBow, and the Company believes that there is no incremental cost to the Company and its subsidiaries as a result of this arrangement. This arrangement has continued in 2014.

Mr. Lorber serves as a consultant and a 50% owner of Open Acq LLC. During 2013, Mr. Lorber and Open Acq LLC and its affiliates received ordinary and customary insurance commissions aggregating approximately \$250,000 on various insurance policies issued for the Company and its subsidiaries and investees. Open Acq LLC and its affiliates have continued to provide services to the Company in 2014.

BOARD PROPOSAL 2 — ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (THE SAY ON PAY VOTE)
Pursuant to Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Company is seeking a non-binding advisory vote from its stockholders regarding the compensation of its named executive officers as described in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 9 and the Summary Compensation Table beginning on page 15. This proposal is also referred to as the say on pay vote.

The Company has designed its compensation programs to reward employees for producing sustainable growth and profitability, to attract and retain high caliber talent and to align compensation with the long-term interests of its stockholders. The Company believes that its compensation policies and procedures are centered on a pay-for-performance philosophy. In deciding how to vote on this proposal, the board urges you to consider the following factors, which are more fully discussed in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 9:

A substantial portion of direct compensation shown in the Summary Compensation Table is variable (and therefore at risk) depending on performance (in 2013: 44.3 % in the case of Mr. Lorber, 25.7% in the case of Mr. Lampen, 12.5% in the case of Mr. Kirkland, 14.6% in the case of Mr. Bell and 37.9% in the case of Mr. Bernstein.)

The Company mitigates the risks associated with incentive compensation by using multiple performance targets, caps on potential incentive payments and a clawback policy.

In 2013, the Company increased its focus on long-term incentives by awarding options with four-year cliff vesting and long-term performance based restricted stock. As a result, long-term equity compensation accounted for a significant portion of direct compensation shown in the Summary Compensation Table (17.4% in the case of Mr. Lorber, 29.6% in the case of Mr. Lampen, 44% in the case of Mr. Kirkland, 34.6% in the case of Mr. Bell and 20.8% on the case of Mr. Bernstein).

In addition to promoting retention of equity by vesting equity over time, the Company requires executives to retain 25% of equity awards under its Equity Retention Policy and encourages the accumulation of equity through its Equity Ownership Guidelines, all of which works to align the interests of executives with those of stockholders.

The Company's quarterly dividend (resulting in quarterly dividends of \$0.40 per share in 2013) paid to all stockholders is contingent on strong financial performance achieved by the named executive officers, as well as the Company's ability to receive dividends from its subsidiaries and investees.

Further, the compensation of the named executive officers is directly tied to the amount of dividends paid to stockholders: 37.5% of the performance criteria for earning the annual incentive bonus is based on distributions to stockholders.

Executives are prohibited from hedging their company securities.

The Company does not reprice options or change performance targets in midyear.

The Company requires both a change in control and a termination of employment (a "double trigger") before cash severance payments will be made as a result of a change in control.

The compensation committee relies on the advice of an independent compensation consultant in making compensation determinations.

Table of Contents

The Board recommends that stockholders vote FOR the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers, as disclosed in the April 12, 2013 proxy statement, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the executive compensation tables, and the related narrative.”

Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon the board of directors of the Company, meaning that prior compensation determinations of the board will not be invalidated and the board will not be required to adjust executive compensation programs or policies as a result of the outcome of the vote. However, the board values stockholders’ opinions and the compensation committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements and corporate governance measures.

Approval of the say on pay resolution requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote on the matter.

The Company currently submits an advisory vote on executive compensation to stockholders annually. The next say-on-pay vote will occur at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders.

The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote

“FOR”

advisory approval of the Company's executive compensation.

PROPOSAL 3
APPROVAL OF 2014 MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE PLAN

On February 26, 2014, the Vector Group Ltd. 2014 Management Incentive Plan, was adopted subject to the approval of our stockholders. A copy of the 2014 Plan is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement. If stockholders approve this proposal, the 2014 Plan will be used for equity and non-equity grants made after the date of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The 2014 Plan replaces the 1999 Plan. Regardless of whether stockholders approve this proposal, no further grants will be made to executive officers under the 1999 Plan.

Like the 1999 Plan, the 2014 Plan provides for the Company to grant stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock. Unlike the 1999 Plan, the 2014 Plan provides for cash incentives to be awarded based on a multi-year performance period and for annual short-term cash incentives based on a twelve-month performance period.

The Board believes that the 2014 Plan will be an important part of the Company's overall compensation program. The 2014 Plan will enable the Company to provide competitive levels of equity and non-equity compensation needed to attract and retain high-quality executives, managers, employees, and non-employee directors, and to strengthen the alignment between these individuals and our stockholders.

The 2014 Plan incorporates the following features:

- It offers the ability to grant stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units and cash-based awards;
- The 2014 Plan will not allow a participant to transfer for value any outstanding awards to any other person;
- It prohibits reloads, repricing and awards of stock options issued at a discount to fair market value;
- It prohibits "liberal" share counting provisions, such as counting only the net shares issued upon exercise of a stock option or stock appreciation right, or adding back shares withheld to satisfy taxes on exercise of a stock option or stock appreciation right; and,
- It limits the 2014 Plan term to 10 years.

In February 2014, the Subcommittee granted options to purchase 387,500 shares of Common Stock under the 2014 Plan conditioned upon stockholder approval of the 2014 Plan. If the Company's stockholders do not approve the 2014 Plan, the options will be canceled and the executives who received options in February 2014 have agreed to return any dividends or distributions paid prior to the Company's 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders plus interest computed at Citibank N.A.'s prime interest rate.

The Company intends to register the issuance of shares under the 2014 Plan by filing a Registration Statement on Form S-8 after stockholder approval of the 2014 Plan.

Description of the 2014 Plan

The 2014 Plan provides the Company with the ability to use cash and equity-based awards to attract, retain and motivate its employees. These awards are designed to help align employees with the Company's financial success and to encourage them to devote their best efforts to our business over the long term. As a result, we believe these awards help advance the interests of the Company and our stockholders.

The 2014 Plan will terminate ten years from inception unless terminated sooner.

A summary of the material features of the 2014 Plan is provided below, but does not replace or modify the terms of the 2014 Plan document which is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

2014 Plan Share Limits

The available share reserve under the 2014 Plan is 10,000,000 shares. The Company may satisfy its obligations under any award granted under the 2014 plan by issuing new shares or Treasury shares. Awards previously granted under the 1999 Plan will remain outstanding in accordance with their terms.

Shares subject to an equity award are counted only to the extent they are actually issued. Thus, awards which terminate by expiration, forfeiture, cancellation, or otherwise are settled in cash in lieu of shares, or exchanged for awards not involving shares, shall again be available for grant under the 2014 Plan.

Assuming that the 2014 Plan is approved by stockholders, the equity overhang, or the percentage of outstanding shares represented by all currently outstanding stock awards plus the shares that could be issued pursuant to the 2014 Plan would be 11.9% of the shares that would then be outstanding (calculated as all shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options and vesting of outstanding restricted stock awards plus shares available for future award under the 2014 Plan divided by (a) the Common Stock currently outstanding plus (b) the shares in the numerator.

Participant Award Limits

The maximum annual Common Stock amounts are subject to adjustment and are subject to the 2014 Plan maximum. No individual Participant may receive in any calendar year Awards of Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights exceeding 2,000,000 underlying shares of Common Stock. In addition, during the Term of the Plan, each individual Participant may not receive equity Awards exceeding one-half of the maximum number of shares of Common Stock in respect of which Awards may be granted or paid out under the Plan.

The maximum aggregate amount awarded or credited with respect to a cash-based Award to any Covered Employee in any calendar year that is subject to a performance cycle that is 12 months or longer may not exceed \$5,000,000.

The number of shares that may be issued or subject to outstanding awards, the option price or grant price applicable to outstanding awards, the annual per-participant award limits, and other value determinations are subject to adjustment by the Subcommittee and compensation committee of the Board to reflect stock dividends, stock splits, reverse stock splits, spin-offs, and other corporate events or transactions, including without limitation distributions of stock or property other than normal cash dividends.

Administration

The compensation committee is responsible for administering the 2014 Plan and has the discretionary power to interpret the terms and intent of the 2014 Plan and any related documentation, to determine eligibility for awards and the terms and conditions of awards, and to adopt rules, regulations, forms, instruments, and guidelines. The compensation committee may delegate administrative duties and powers to one or more of its members or to one or more officers, agents, or advisers. The compensation committee has delegated its powers with respect to awards intended to be deductible under Section 162(m) of the Code to the Subcommittee; all references to the compensation committee with respect to such awards in this description of the 2014 Plan shall mean the Subcommittee. The compensation committee may also delegate to one or more officers the power to designate other employees (other than officers subject to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) to be recipients of awards.

Eligibility

Employees, non-employee Directors and consultants of the Company and its affiliates and/or subsidiaries who are selected by the compensation committee are eligible to participate in the 2014 Plan.

Types of Awards

The 2014 Plan provides that the compensation committee may grant awards of various types. A description of each of the types of awards follows.

Stock Options. The compensation committee may grant both incentive stock options (“ISOs”) and nonqualified stock options (“NQSOs”) under the 2014 Plan. Eligibility for ISOs is limited to employees of of the Company and its subsidiaries. The exercise price for options cannot be less than the fair market value of the Company's Common Stock as of the date of grant. The latest expiration date cannot be later than the tenth anniversary of the date of grant. Fair market value under the 2014 Plan may be determined by reference to market prices on a particular trading day or on an average of trading days. The exercise price may be paid by means approved by the compensation committee, which may include cash or check, the tendering of previously acquired Common Stock, a reduction in shares issuable upon exercise which have a value at the time of exercise that is equal to the option price (a “net exercise”), to the extent permitted by applicable law, the proceeds of sale from a broker-assisted cashless exercise or

any other legal consideration that the compensation committee may deem appropriate on such basis as the compensation committee may determine in accordance with the Plan.

Stock Appreciation Rights. The compensation committee may grant stock appreciation rights (“SARs”) under the 2014 Plan either alone or in tandem with stock options. The grant price of an SAR cannot be less than the fair market value of the Company's Common Stock as of the date of grant.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. The compensation committee may award restricted Common Stock and restricted stock units. Restricted stock awards consist of shares of stock that are transferred to the participant subject to restrictions that may result in forfeiture if specified conditions are not satisfied. Restricted stock unit awards result in the transfer of shares of stock to the participant only after specified conditions are satisfied. A holder of restricted stock is treated as a current stockholder and is entitled to dividend and voting rights, whereas the holder of a restricted stock unit award may be entitled to dividend equivalents but otherwise is only treated as a stockholder with respect to the award when the shares of Common Stock are delivered in the future. The compensation committee will determine the restrictions and conditions applicable to each award of restricted stock or restricted stock units.

Performance Share and Performance Unit Awards. Performance share and performance unit awards may be granted under the 2014 Plan. Performance shares will have an initial value that is based on the fair market value of the stock as of the date of grant. Performance unit awards will have an initial value that is determined by the compensation committee. Such awards will be earned only if performance goals over performance periods established by or under the direction of the compensation committee are met. The performance goals may vary from participant to participant, group to group, and period to period. The performance goals for performance share and performance unit awards and any other awards granted under the 2014 Plan that are intended to constitute “qualified performance-based compensation” will be based upon one or more of the following metrics achieved by either the Company or one of the Company's subsidiaries, business segments or investees:

Financial Metrics:

- net sales or revenue;
- unit sales;
- return measures (including, but not limited to, return on invested capital, assets, net assets, capital, equity and sales);
- gross or net profit margin;
- operating expense ratios;
- operating expense targets;
- productivity ratios;
- operating income or earnings;
- gross or operating margins;
- adjusted earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation and/or amortization;
- net earnings or net income (before or after taxes);
- earnings per share;
- cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on equity, and cash flow return on investment);
- funds from operations or similar measures, capital expenditures;
- share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total stockholder return);
- appreciation in the fair market value or book value of Common Stock;
- cash dividends declared per share;