

NEWELL BRANDS INC
Form DFAN14A
March 05, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Under Rule
14a-12

NEWELL BRANDS INC.
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

STARBOARD VALUE LP

STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY MASTER FUND LTD

STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY S LLC

STARBOARD VALUE AND OPPORTUNITY C LP

STARBOARD LEADERS QUEBEC LLC

STARBOARD LEADERS SELECT FUND LP

STARBOARD T FUND LP

STARBOARD VALUE R LP

STARBOARD VALUE R GP LLC

STARBOARD LEADERS FUND LP

STARBOARD VALUE A LP

STARBOARD VALUE A GP LLC

STARBOARD VALUE GP LLC

STARBOARD PRINCIPAL CO LP

STARBOARD PRINCIPAL CO GP LLC

JEFFREY C. SMITH

MARK R. MITCHELL

PETER A. FELD

MARIPOSA ASSOCIATES, LLC

IAN G.H. ASHKEN

MARTIN E. FRANKLIN

JAMES E. LILLIE

BRADLEY A. ALFORD

PAULINE J. BROWN

DOMENICO DE SOLE

GERARDO I. LOPEZ

BRIDGET RYAN BERMAN

CHARLES M. SONSTEBY

ROBERT A. STEELE

(Name of Persons(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:

Starboard Value LP, together with the other participants named herein (collectively, “Starboard”), intends to file a preliminary proxy statement and accompanying proxy card with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) to be used to solicit proxies for the election of its slate of director nominees at the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders of Newell Brands Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “Company”).

Item 1: On March 5, 2018, Starboard issued a public letter to the Company’s stockholders. The full text of the letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 2: On March 5, 2018, Starboard issued the following press release:

STARBOARD ISSUES LETTER TO NEWELL SHAREHOLDERS

Reiterates Serious Concerns Regarding Newell’s Deteriorating Operating Performance Under Current Leadership

Corporate Governance Concerns Escalating Following Another Incumbent’s Resignation from the Board

Announces Additional Nominations of Bridget Ryan Berman and Robert A. Steele in Response to Newell’s Unilateral Expansion of the Board

NEW YORK, NY - March 5, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Starboard Value LP (together with its affiliates, “Starboard”), a significant shareholder of Newell Brands Inc. (“Newell” or the “Company”) (NYSE:NWL), which together with the other participants in its solicitation beneficially owns approximately 4% of the Company’s outstanding shares, today announced that it has issued a public letter to the Company’s shareholders. In the letter, Starboard reiterated its serious concerns with the Company’s significant underperformance under the current leadership team, which concerns were exacerbated by the recent resignation of yet another Newell director. Starboard also announced that it has nominated two additional director candidates, Bridget Ryan Berman and Robert A. Steele, for election to the Board of Directors (the “Board”) at the Company’s 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders in response to Newell’s unilateral expansion of the Board.

The full text of Starboard’s letter to the Company’s shareholders can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.starboardvalue.com/wp-content/uploads/Starboard_Value_LP_Letter_to_NWL_Shareholders_03.05.2018.pdf

About Starboard Value LP

Starboard Value LP is a New York-based investment adviser with a focused and differentiated fundamental approach to investing primarily in publicly traded U.S. companies. Starboard invests in deeply undervalued companies and actively engages with management teams and boards of directors to identify and execute on opportunities to unlock value for the benefit of all shareholders.

Investor contacts:

Peter Feld, (212) 201-4878

Gavin Molinelli, (212) 201-4828

www.starboardvalue.com

CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPANTS

Starboard Value LP, together with the other participants named herein (collectively, "Starboard"), intends to file a preliminary proxy statement and accompanying proxy card with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") to be used to solicit votes for the election of its slate of director nominees at the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders of Newell Brands Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company").

STARBOARD STRONGLY ADVISES ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND OTHER PROXY MATERIALS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SUCH PROXY MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE ON THE SEC'S WEB SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.SEC.GOV](http://www.sec.gov). IN ADDITION, THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROXY SOLICITATION WILL PROVIDE COPIES OF THE PROXY STATEMENT WITHOUT CHARGE, WHEN AVAILABLE, UPON REQUEST. REQUESTS FOR COPIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS' PROXY SOLICITOR.

The participants in the proxy solicitation are anticipated to be Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund Ltd ("Starboard V&O Fund"), Starboard Value and Opportunity S LLC ("Starboard S LLC"), Starboard Value and Opportunity C LP ("Starboard C LP"), Starboard Leaders Quebec LLC ("Starboard Quebec LLC"), Starboard Leaders Select Fund LP ("Starboard Select LP"), Starboard T Fund LP ("Starboard T LP"), Starboard Leaders Fund LP ("Starboard Leaders Fund"), Starboard Value A LP ("Starboard A LP"), Starboard Value A GP LLC ("Starboard A GP"), Starboard Value LP, Starboard Value GP LLC ("Starboard Value GP"), Starboard Principal Co LP ("Principal Co"), Starboard Principal Co GP LLC ("Principal GP"), Starboard Value R LP ("Starboard R LP"), Starboard Value R GP LLC ("Starboard R GP"), Jeffrey C. Smith, Mark R. Mitchell, Peter A. Feld, Mariposa Associates, LLC ("Mariposa Associates"), Ian G.H. Ashken, Martin E. Franklin, James E. Lillie, Bradley A. Alford, Pauline J. Brown, Bridget Ryan Berman, Domenico De Sole, Gerardo I. Lopez, Charles M. Sonsteby and Robert A. Steele.

As of the date hereof, Starboard V&O Fund directly beneficially owns 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock, par value \$1.00 (the “Common Stock”), of the Company. As of the date hereof, Starboard S LLC directly beneficially owns 900,000 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Starboard C LP directly beneficially owns 510,000 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Starboard Quebec LLC directly beneficially owns 702,156 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Starboard Select LP directly beneficially owns 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Starboard T LP directly beneficially owns 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock were held in accounts managed by Starboard Value LP (the “Starboard Value LP Accounts”). Starboard R LP, as the general partner of Starboard C LP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP. Starboard R GP, as the general partner of Starboard R LP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP. Starboard Leaders Fund, as a member of Starboard Quebec LLC, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC. Starboard A LP, as the general partner of Starboard Leaders Fund, Starboard Select LP and Starboard T LP and the managing member of Starboard Quebec LLC, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (ii) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP and (iii) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP. Starboard A GP, as the general partner of Starboard A LP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (ii) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP and (iii) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP. Starboard Value LP, as the investment manager of Starboard V&O Fund, Starboard C LP, Starboard Quebec LLC, Starboard Select LP, Starboard T LP and the Starboard Value LP Accounts and the manager of Starboard S LLC, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard V&O Fund, (ii) 900,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard S LLC, (iii) 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP, (iv) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (v) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP, (vi) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP and (vii) 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock held in the Starboard Value LP Accounts. Starboard Value GP, as the general partner of Starboard Value LP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard V&O Fund, (ii) 900,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard S LLC, (iii) 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP, (iv) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (v) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP, (vi) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP and (vii) 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock held in the Starboard Value LP Accounts. Principal Co, as a member of Starboard Value GP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard V&O Fund, (ii) 900,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard S LLC, (iii) 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP, (iv) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (v) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP, (vi) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP and (vii) 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock held in the Starboard Value LP Accounts. Principal GP, as the general partner of Principal Co, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard V&O Fund, (ii) 900,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard S LLC, (iii) 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP, (iv) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (v) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP, (vi) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP and (vii) 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock held in the Starboard Value LP Accounts. Each of Messrs. Smith, Mitchell and Feld, as a member of Principal GP and as a member of each of the Management Committee of Starboard Value GP and the Management Committee of Principal GP, may be deemed the beneficial owner of the (i) 7,410,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard V&O Fund, (ii) 900,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard S LLC, (iii) 510,000 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard C LP, (iv) 702,156 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Quebec LLC, (v) 2,535,717 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard Select LP, (vi) 1,714,600 shares of Common Stock owned by Starboard T LP and (vii) 2,642,638 shares of Common Stock held in the Starboard Value LP Accounts.

As of the date hereof, Mr. Alford beneficially owns 13,400 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mr. Ashken beneficially owns 511,374 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mr. De Sole beneficially owns 66,464 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mr. Franklin beneficially owns 2,047,227 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mr. Lillie beneficially owns 97,836 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mr. Lopez beneficially owns 2,000 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Ms. Ryan Berman beneficially owns 1,444 shares of Common Stock, including 135 shares directly owned by her spouse. As of the date hereof, Mr. Sonstebly beneficially owns 7,000 shares of Common Stock. As of the date hereof, Mariposa Associates, Ms. Brown and Mr. Steele do not beneficially own any shares of Common Stock.