

MUELLER INDUSTRIES INC
Form DEF 14A
March 30, 2017
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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

MUELLER INDUSTRIES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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

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

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:

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MUELLER INDUSTRIES, INC.
8285 Tournament Drive, Suite 150
Memphis, Tennessee 38125
Telephone (901) 753-3200

**Notice of Annual Meeting of
Stockholders to be Held
May 4, 2017**

To the Stockholders of
Mueller Industries, Inc.

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Mueller Industries, Inc. (the “Company” or “Mueller”), will be held at the Company’s headquarters at 8285 Tournament Drive, Suite 150, Memphis, Tennessee 38125 on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. local time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors, each to serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders (tentatively scheduled for May 3, 2018) or until his successor is elected and qualified;
2. To consider and act upon a proposal to approve the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accountants, as auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2017;
3. To conduct an advisory vote on the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers;
4. To conduct an advisory vote on the frequency with which the Company should hold future advisory votes on the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers; and
5. To consider and transact such other business as may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting and any adjournment(s) thereof.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 17, 2017, will be entitled to notice of and vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof. A complete list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be prepared and maintained at the Company's corporate headquarters at 8285 Tournament Drive, Suite 150, Memphis, Tennessee 38125. This list will be available for inspection by stockholders of record during normal business hours for a period of at least 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR SHARES BE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF YOUR HOLDINGS. WHETHER OR NOT YOU INTEND TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING IN PERSON, WE URGE YOU TO MARK, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND RETURN IT IN THE ENCLOSED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, WHICH REQUIRES NO POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Christopher
J. Miritello
*Corporate
Secretary*

March 30, 2017

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MUELLER INDUSTRIES, INC.
8285 Tournament Drive, Suite 150
Memphis, Tennessee 38125
Telephone (901) 753-3200

PROXY STATEMENT

Annual Meeting of Stockholders
May 4, 2017

SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

The accompanying proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of Mueller Industries, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), for use at the annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held at the Company's headquarters at 8285 Tournament Drive, Suite 150, Memphis, Tennessee 38125, on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. local time, or at any adjournment(s) thereof.

This Proxy Statement, together with the Company's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, is first being mailed to stockholders on or about March 30, 2017. Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Company is providing access to its proxy materials over the Internet at <http://www.proxyvote.com>.

When a proxy card is returned properly signed, the shares represented thereby will be voted in accordance with the stockholder's directions appearing on the card. If the proxy card is signed and returned without directions, the shares will be voted for the nominees named herein and in accordance with the recommendations of the Company's Board of Directors as set forth herein. The discretion granted in the accompanying proxy card includes the authority to vote on all additional matters properly coming before the Annual Meeting as the persons named in the proxy deem appropriate. A stockholder giving a proxy may revoke it at any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting by giving written notice to the secretary of the Annual Meeting or by casting a ballot at the Annual Meeting. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Annual Meeting will be tabulated by election inspectors appointed for the Annual Meeting. The election inspectors will also determine whether a quorum is present. The holders of a majority of the shares of

common stock, \$.01 par value per share (“Common Stock”), outstanding and entitled to vote who are

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present either in person or represented by proxy will constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting. The election inspectors will treat abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum and for purposes of determining the approval of any matter submitted. If a broker indicates on a proxy that it does not have discretionary authority as to certain shares to vote on a particular matter (i.e., a “broker non-vote”), those shares will not be considered as present and entitled to vote with respect to that matter, but will be treated as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. A broker is entitled to vote shares held for a beneficial owner on routine matters, such as the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm, without instructions from the beneficial owner of those shares; on the other hand, a broker may not be entitled to vote shares held for a beneficial owner on certain non-routine items, such as the election of directors, the advisory vote on the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers, and the advisory vote on the frequency of the stockholder vote on the compensation of the Company’s named executive officers.

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition to solicitation by mail, directors, officers and employees of the Company may solicit proxies by telephone or otherwise. The Company will reimburse brokers or other persons holding stock in their names or in the names of their nominees for their charges and expenses in forwarding proxies and proxy material to the beneficial owners of such stock.

VOTING SECURITIES

The Company had 57,602,082 shares of Common Stock outstanding at the close of business on March 17, 2017, which are the only securities of the Company entitled to be voted at the Annual Meeting. The record holder of each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote on each matter that may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 17, 2017 will be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. The Company’s Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-laws (“Bylaws”) do not provide for cumulative voting for the election of directors.

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On March 9, 2017, the Company paid a special dividend (the “Special Dividend”) consisting of \$3.00 in cash and \$5.00 in principal amount of the Company’s 6% Subordinated Debentures due 2027 (the “Debentures”) for each share of Common Stock outstanding as of the close of business on February 28, 2017. In connection with the Special Dividend, in accordance with the Company’s outstanding stock option plans and agreements, the Company adjusted the shares subject to and the per share exercise price with respect to outstanding options. This adjustment resulted in an increase in the number of shares subject to each outstanding option and an adjustment to the option purchase price designed to maintain the option holders’ intrinsic value following issuance of the Special Dividend. References in this Proxy Statement to beneficial stock ownership or outstanding options for periods following March 9, 2017 reflect the equitable adjustment made to options outstanding on February 28, 2017, while historical information about options held or issued prior to February 28, 2017 has not been adjusted to reflect the subsequent equitable adjustment.

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As of March 17, 2017, the following parties were known by the Company to be the “beneficial owner” of more than five percent of the Common Stock:

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class
Blackrock, Inc. 55 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10055	6,750,536(1)	11.8%(2)
GAMCO Investors, Inc. One Corporate Center Rye, NY 10580	6,388,750(3)	11.2%(4)
FMR LLC 245 Summer Street Boston, MA 02210	5,303,585(5)	9.2%(2)
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	4,762,227(6)	8.3%(2)
Wellington Management Group, LLP 280 Congress Street Boston, MA 02210	3,861,510(7)	6.7%(2)

(1) This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed by BlackRock, Inc. (“BlackRock”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) on January 10, 2017. BlackRock filed this Schedule 13G/A on its own behalf and on behalf of certain of its subsidiaries. The Schedule 13G/A reported that BlackRock has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 6,612,282 and 6,750,536, respectively, of the shares shown. The Schedule 13G/A also reported that BlackRock Fund Advisors owned 5% or greater of the security class being reported on the Schedule 13G/A.

(2) The percent of class shown was based on the shares of Common Stock reported on the Schedule 13G/A and the total number of shares outstanding as of December 30, 2016. The difference in the total number of shares outstanding on December 30, 2016 and March 17, 2017 does not materially affect the percentage of ownership of the class.

(3) This information is based on a Schedule 13D/A filed by GAMCO Investors Inc. (“GBL”) and certain of its affiliates (collectively, the “Gabelli Reporters”). The Schedule 13D/A reported that GAMCO Asset Management, Inc. (“GAMCO”) beneficially owns 4,144,650 of the shares reported; Gabelli Funds, LLC (“Gabelli Funds”) beneficially owns 2,142,100 of the shares reported; GGCP, Inc. (“GGCP”) beneficially owns 15,000 of shares reported; Mario J. Gabelli (“Gabelli”) beneficially owns 73,500 of the shares reported; Gabelli Foundation, Inc. beneficially owns 8,000 of the shares reported; MJG Associates, Inc. (“MJG”) beneficially owns 1,000 of the shares reported; Associated Capital Group, Inc.

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(“Associated”) beneficially owns 4,000 of the shares reported; and Gabelli Securities, Inc. beneficially owns 500 of the shares reported. In addition, the Schedule 13D/A reported that each Gabelli Reporter (and certain executives, directors and other related persons as disclosed on the Schedule 13D/A) has the sole power to vote or direct the vote and sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of the Common Stock reported for it, either for its own benefit or for the benefit of its investment clients or its partners, as the case may be, except that (i) GAMCO does not have authority to vote 246,176 of the reported shares, (ii) Gabelli Funds, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GBL, has sole dispositive and voting power with respect to the shares of the Company held by certain funds (the “Funds”) for which it provides advisory services to, so long as the aggregate voting interest of all joint filers does not exceed 25% of their total voting interest in the Company and, in that event, the Proxy Voting Committee of each Fund shall respectively vote that Fund’s shares, (iii) at any time, the Proxy Voting Committee of each such Fund may take and exercise in its sole discretion the entire voting power with respect to the shares held by such fund under special circumstances such as regulatory considerations, and (iv) the power of Gabelli, Associated, GBL, and GGCP is indirect with respect to Common Stock beneficially owned directly by other Gabelli Reporters.

The percent of class shown was based on the shares of Common Stock reported on the Schedule 13D/A and the total number of shares outstanding as of July 2, 2016 (as reported in the Company’s Form 10-Q filed on July 28, (4)2016, the Company’s most recently filed Form 10-Q on which the Schedule 13D/A was based). The difference in the total number of shares outstanding on July 2, 2016 and March 17, 2017 does not materially affect the percentage of ownership of the class.

This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed by FMR LLC (“FMR”) and Abigail P. Johnson (together the “FMR Reporters”) on February 13, 2017 with the SEC. The Schedule 13G/A reported that FMR has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 785 and 5,303,585, respectively, of the shares shown. The Schedule 13G/A also reported that FMR CO., Inc. owned 5% or greater of the security class being reported on the Schedule 13G. Members of the Johnson family, including Abigail P. Johnson, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR. The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders’ voting agreement under which all (5) Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders’ voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Investment Company Act”), to form a controlling group with respect to FMR. None of the FMR Reporters have the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the various investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act (“Fidelity Funds”) advised by the Fidelity Management & Research Company (“FMR Co.”), a wholly owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, which power resides with the Fidelity Funds’ Boards of Trustees. FMR Co. carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Fidelity Funds’ Boards of Trustees.

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This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed by The Vanguard Group, Inc. (“VGI”) with the SEC on February 9, 2017. According to the Schedule 13G/A, VGI has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 99,696 and 4,658,431, respectively, of the shares shown. VGI also has shared voting power with respect to 6,800 of the shares shown, and shared dispositive power with respect to 103,796 of the shares shown. In addition, the (6) Schedule 13G/A reported that Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (“VFTC”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of VGI, is the beneficial owner of 96,996 of the shares shown as a result of its serving as investment manager of collective trust accounts. The Schedule 13G/A also reported that Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd. (“VIA”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of VGI, is the beneficial owner of 9,500 of the shares shown as a result of its serving as investment manager of Australian investment offerings.

This information is based on a Schedule 13G/A filing by Wellington Management Group, LLP (“Wellington”), in its capacity as an investment advisor on February 14, 2017. According to the Schedule 13G/A, Wellington has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to 2,963,618 and 3,861,510, respectively, of the shares shown. In (7) addition, the Schedule 13G/A reported that the securities as to which the Schedule 13G/A relates are owned of record by clients of one or more Wellington-affiliated investment advisers directly, or indirectly owned by Wellington. The Schedule 13G/A discloses that (i) those clients have the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of, dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities and (ii) no client is known to have such right or power with respect to more than five percent of this class of securities.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors proposes to elect the following seven persons, each as nominated by the Board of Directors, at the Annual Meeting to serve (subject to the Company’s Bylaws) as directors of the Company until the next Annual Meeting (tentatively scheduled for May 3, 2018), or until the election and qualification of their successors: Gregory L. Christopher, Paul J. Flaherty, Gennaro J. Fulvio, Gary S. Gladstein, Scott J. Goldman, John B. Hansen and Terry Hermanson (collectively, the “Nominees”). If any such person should be unwilling or unable to serve as a director of the Company, which is not anticipated, the persons named in the proxy will vote the proxy for substitute nominees selected by them unless the number of directors has been reduced to the number of nominees willing and able to serve.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast. “Plurality” means that the individuals who receive the greatest number of votes cast “For” are elected as directors up to the maximum number of directors to be chosen at the Annual Meeting. Consequently, any shares not voted “For” a particular director (whether as a result of a direction to withhold or a broker non-vote) will not be counted in such director’s favor.

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The Board of Directors has adopted a majority vote policy in uncontested elections. An uncontested election means any shareholders meeting called for purposes of electing any director(s) in which (i) the number of director nominees for election is equal to the number of positions on the Board of Directors to be filled through the election to be conducted at such meeting, and/or (ii) proxies are being solicited for the election of directors solely by the Company. The election of directors solicited by this Proxy Statement is an uncontested election. In the event that a nominee for election in an uncontested election receives a greater number of votes “withheld” for his or her election than votes “For” such election, such nominee will tender an irrevocable resignation to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which will decide whether to accept or reject the resignation and submit such recommendation for prompt consideration by the Board of Directors no later than ninety (90) days following the uncontested election.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE THEIR SHARES FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES.

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The following table sets forth, as of the close of business on March 17, 2017, information about the 1,606,288 shares of Common Stock (calculated based on 57,602,082 shares outstanding) beneficially owned by each of the Company's current directors, nominees for director, executive officers and named executive officers. The "named executive officers" are those individuals set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table for 2016" included herein. Unless otherwise indicated, all directors, nominees for director, executive officers and named executive officers have sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of Common Stock reported. The table and the accompanying footnotes set forth the foregoing persons' current positions with the Company, principal occupations and employment over the preceding five years, age and directorships held in certain other publicly-owned companies, as well as, with respect to directors, the experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that caused the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board of Directors to determine that the person should serve as a director of the Company in 2016.

Principal Occupation, Employment, etc.	Common Stock Beneficially Owned as of March 17, 2017	Percent of Class
Paul J. Flaherty Director of the Company since August 2, 2007; age 77 (1)	48,406	*
Gennaro J. Fulvio Director of the Company since May 9, 2002; age 60 (2)	56,333	*
Gary S. Gladstein Lead Independent Director since January 1, 2016; Director of the Company since July 1, 2000; age 72 (3)	113,296	*
Scott J. Goldman Director of the Company since January 1, 2008; age 64 (4)	32,444	*
John B. Hansen Director of the Company since August 4, 2014; age 70 (5)	75,385	*
Terry Hermanson Director of the Company since February 13, 2003; age 74 (6)	21,126	*

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Principal Occupation, Employment, etc.	Common Stock Beneficially Owned as of March 17, 2017	Percent of Class
Gregory L. Christopher Chairman of the Board of Directors since January 1, 2016; Chief Executive Officer of the Company since October 30, 2008; Director of the Company since October 28, 2010; age 55 (7)	502,542	*
Brian K. Barksdale Vice President – Marketing of the Company since November 10, 2013; age 41 (8)	40,105	*
Daniel R. Corbin Vice President – Corporate of the Company since May 7, 2015; age 59 (9)	50,352	*
Richard W. Corman Vice President – Financial Systems of the Company since May 7, 2015; age 60 (10)	80,170	*
Donald Glover President – Mueller Brass Company since January 1, 2017; age 52 (11)	5,000	*
Jeffrey A. Martin Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Company since February 14, 2013; age 50 (12)	119,860	*
Mark Millerchip Executive Director – European Operations of the Company since May 28, 2010; age 50 (13)	—	—
Christopher J. Miritello Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company since January 1, 2017; age 34 (14)	8,000	*
Nicholas W. Moss President – B&K LLC since May 7, 2015; age 60 (15)	153,281	*
Steffen Sigloch President – Piping Systems North America of the Company since May 5, 2016; age 48 (16)	114,866	*
Anthony J. Steinriede Vice President – Corporate Controller of the Company since April 23, 2015; age 40 (17)	15,707	*

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Principal Occupation, Employment, etc.	Common Stock Beneficially Owned as of March 17, 2017	Percent of Class
Gary C. Wilkerson Counsel to the Company since January 1, 2017; age 70 (18)	169,415	*
Executive Officers and Directors as a Group	1,606,288	2.79%

* Less than 1%

** Includes 224,543 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and 554,200 shares of non-vested restricted stock held by executive officers and directors of the Company.

Mr. Flaherty has been a member of the Advisory Board of Aon Risk Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Aon Corporation (“Aon”), the global insurance and risk management firm, since 2001. Prior to his tenure with Aon, Mr. Flaherty was associated with Burson-Marsteller-WPP, a global public affairs and public relations firm.

(1) Mr. Flaherty was nominated to serve as a director of the Company because of his years of experience counseling boards and senior management. In addition, his experience in insurance and risk management enable him to assist the Board of Directors in performing its risk oversight function. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Flaherty includes (i) 29,333 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(2) Mr. Fulvio has been a member of Fulvio & Associates, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, since 1987. Mr. Fulvio was nominated to serve as a director of the Company because of his strength in the area of accounting, his knowledge of and experience with tax matters, and his financial acumen. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Fulvio includes (i) 29,333 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 25,000 shares of Common Stock which are owned by Mr. Fulvio’s spouse and (iii) 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(3) Mr. Gladstein served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company from 2013 to 2015, and was previously a director of the Company from 1990 to 1994. Mr. Gladstein is currently an independent investor and consultant. From the beginning of 2000 to August 31, 2004, Mr. Gladstein was a Senior Consultant at Soros Fund Management. He was a partner and Chief Operating Officer at Soros Fund Management from 1985 until his retirement at the end of 1999. In the past five years, Mr. Gladstein also served as a director of Inversiones y Representaciones Sociedad Anónima, Darien Rowayton Bank and a number of private companies. Mr. Gladstein was nominated to serve as a director of the Company because of his financial and accounting expertise and his years of experience providing strategic advisory services to complex organizations. In addition, having been a member of the compensation, audit and other committees of public company boards, Mr. Gladstein is familiar with a full range of corporate and board functions. The number of shares of

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Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Gladstein includes (i) 29,333 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(4) Mr. Goldman is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of TextPower, Inc. The company provides software-integrated text messaging alerts to utilities, courts and universities and cybersecurity services using a patented technology that authenticates identities and stops hackers. He also speaks, writes and educates enterprises about cybersecurity issues and best practices. From 1999 through 2001 Mr. Goldman served as the Chief Executive Officer of the WAP Forum (now the Open Mobile Alliance), a global technology organization promoting standardized wireless and mobile Internet access. Prior to that, he founded and was principal of The Goldman Group, a consultancy that assisted Fortune 1000 companies in licensing, developing, building and operating wireless technologies and systems around the world. Mr. Goldman was nominated to serve as a director of the Company because of his extensive experience with cybersecurity, advanced technologies and global market strategies. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Goldman includes (i) 24,444 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(5) Mr. Hansen served as Executive Vice President of the Company from January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, when he retired. Prior to that time, he served as (i) President-Plumbing Business of the Company from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2013, (ii) President-Manufacturing Operations from May 18, 2009 until January 1, 2011 and (iii) Senior Vice President - Strategy and Industry Relations prior to May 18, 2009. Mr. Hansen was nominated to serve as a director because of his extensive industry experience and knowledge of the Company's business operations. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Hansen includes (i) 9,778 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 20,000 shares of Common Stock owned by a trust where his wife and children serve as beneficiaries and (iii) 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(6) Mr. Hermanson has been the principal and President of Mr. Christmas Incorporated, a wholesale merchandising company, for more than the last five years. Mr. Hermanson was nominated to serve as a director of the Company because he has extensive experience in management, strategic planning, as well as a thorough knowledge of wholesale merchandising and international business issues. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Hermanson includes 2,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(7) Prior to October 30, 2008, Mr. Christopher served as Chief Operating Officer. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Christopher includes (i) 210,400 shares of non-vested restricted stock, (ii) 1,800 shares of Common Stock owned jointly between Mr. Christopher and his spouse, (iii) 120,000 shares owned by a trust in which his wife is beneficiary, (iv) 80,000 shares owned by a trust in which he is beneficiary and (v) 6,800 shares of Common Stock which are owned by Mr. Christopher's children.

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(8) Mr. Barksdale served as Director – Wholesale Plumbing Sales of the Company from March 7, 2009 to November 10, 2013, and was a Local and Regional Territory Sales Representative from June 1, 2000 to March 7, 2009. He has been employed with the Company since September 1999. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Barksdale includes (i) 14,789 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 13,388 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(9) Mr. Corbin served as (i) Vice President – Corporate Manufacturing/Engineering of the Company from January 1, 2014 until May 7, 2015, (ii) Vice President – Copper Business from December 1, 2010 until December 31, 2013, and (iii) Vice President – Fittings and Distribution Business-Standard Products Division of the Company prior to December 1, 2010. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Corbin includes (i) 11,682 shares owned by a trust of which his children are beneficiaries and (ii) 38,670 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(10) Mr. Corman served as Vice President – Controller of the Company from October 28, 2004 until May 7, 2015. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Corman includes (i) 39,112 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options, and (ii) 5,023 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(11) Mr. Glover previously served as President – Industrial Metals of the Company from May 5, 2016 until January 1, 2017. He joined the Company in May 2013 as General Manager of Micro Gauge, Inc. and Mueller Impacts Company, Inc. Prior to that, he served as General Manager of Oak Adaptive, an ERP software development firm, and held a variety of positions with Masco Corporation. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Glover includes 5,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(12) Mr. Martin served (i) as Interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company from October 26, 2012 to February 13, 2013, (ii) as Vice President - Corporate Development of the Company from January 11, 2011 to October 26, 2012, (iii) as Vice President-Finance & Corporate Development from August 1, 2008 to January 11, 2011, and (iv) as Vice President-Operations, Standard Products Division prior to August 1, 2008. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Martin includes (i) 17,866 shares which are subject to currently exercisable stock options, (ii) 43,774 shares of Common Stock owned jointly between Mr. Martin and his wife and (iii) 58,220 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(13) Mr. Millerchip served as Managing Director – Mueller Primaflow Limited prior to May 28, 2010.

(14) Mr. Miritello served as Deputy General Counsel of the Company from September 15, 2015 to December 31, 2016. Prior to joining the Company, he was associated with the New York office of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. The number of shares of Common Stock owned by Mr. Miritello includes 8,000 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(15) Mr. Moss served as President – Global and Retail Business of the Company from March 6, 2007 until May 7, 2015. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Moss includes (i) 24,445 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 89,234 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

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(16) Mr. Sigloch served as (i) President – Extruded Products of the Company from January 1, 2013 to May 5, 2016, (ii) Corporate Vice President – Engineering and Manufacturing of the Company from January 1, 2012 to January 1, 2013 and (iii) Vice President – Engineering and Manufacturing of Mueller Europe, Ltd, from July 1, 2011 to January 1, 2012. Prior to joining the Company on July 1, 2011, Mr. Sigloch served as Chief Executive Officer of Wieland Copper Products, LLC. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Sigloch includes 91,196 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(17) Mr. Steinriede served as (i) Director of Finance at the Company from April 1, 2014 until April 23, 2015, (ii) Assistant Corporate Controller from September 1, 2010 until April 1, 2014, and (iii) Corporate Accounting Manager prior to September 1, 2010. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Steinriede includes (i) 6,110 shares of Common Stock which are subject to currently exercisable stock options and (ii) 3,869 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

(18) Mr. Wilkerson retired from his position as Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of the Company on December 31, 2016, and remains employed by the Company on a part-time basis. The number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Wilkerson includes (i) 150,215 shares of Common stock owned jointly between Mr. Wilkerson and his wife and (ii) 19,200 shares of non-vested restricted stock.

Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors

During 2016, the Board of Directors held four regularly scheduled meetings and two special meetings. The Board of Directors established a standing Audit Committee and a Compensation and Stock Option Committee at its organizational meeting on February 13, 1991. On May 13, 1991, the Board of Directors created two committees (the “Plan Committees”) to be responsible for administering the Company’s 1991 Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the Company’s 1991 Incentive Stock Option Plan. On November 16, 1993, the Board of Directors established a standing Nominating Committee. On May 12, 1994, the Board of Directors created two committees to be responsible for administering the Company’s 1994 Stock Option Plan and the Company’s 1994 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, on February 12, 1998 created a committee to be responsible for administering the Company’s 1998 Stock Option Plan and on February 12, 2002 created a committee to be responsible for administering the Company’s 2002 Stock Option Plan (collectively, the “Option Plan Committees”). On February 12, 2004, the Board of Directors changed the name of the Nominating Committee to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

The Audit Committee is currently composed of three directors who are not officers or employees of the Company: Gary S. Gladstein (Chairman), Gennaro J. Fulvio and Terry Hermanson. Each member of the Audit Committee has been

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determined by the Board of Directors to meet the standards for independence required of audit committee members by the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) and applicable SEC rules. For more information on the NYSE standards for independence, see “Corporate Governance-Director Independence” in this Proxy Statement. The Board of Directors has further determined that (i) all members of the Audit Committee are financially literate and (ii) Gary S. Gladstein and Gennaro J. Fulvio each possess accounting and related financial management expertise within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE, and are each audit committee financial experts within the meaning of applicable SEC rules. The Audit Committee (a) appoints the Company’s independent accountants, (b) reviews and approves any major change in the Company’s accounting policies, (c) reviews the scope and results of the independent audit, (d) reviews and considers the independence of the accountants, (e) reviews the effectiveness of the Company’s internal audit procedures and personnel, (f) reviews the Company’s policies and procedures for compliance with disclosure requirements concerning conflicts of interest and the prevention of unethical, questionable or illegal payments and (g) makes such reports and recommendations to the Board of Directors as it may deem appropriate. The Audit Committee held six formal meetings during the last fiscal year, all of which were attended by the Company’s independent auditors. At such meetings, the Audit Committee discussed the scope and results of the annual audit and issues of accounting policy and internal controls.

The Compensation and Stock Option Committee is currently composed of three directors who are not officers or employees of the Company: Gennaro J. Fulvio (Chairman), Paul J. Flaherty and Scott J. Goldman. Each member of the Compensation and Stock Option Committee has been determined by the Board of Directors to meet the NYSE’s standards for independence. The Compensation and Stock Option Committee (i) provides assistance to the Board of Directors in discharging the Board of Directors’ responsibilities relating to management organization, performance, compensation and succession and (ii) makes such recommendations to the Board of Directors as it deems appropriate. During fiscal year 2016, the Compensation and Stock Option Committee held three formal meetings.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is currently composed of three directors who are not officers or employees of the Company: Terry Hermanson (Chairman), Paul J. Flaherty and Scott J. Goldman. Each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has been determined by the

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Board of Directors to meet the NYSE's standards for independence. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the recommendation to the Board of Directors of director nominees for election to the Board of Directors. In addition, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for recommending committee assignments and responsibilities to the Board of Directors, overseeing the evaluation of Board of Directors and management effectiveness, developing and recommending to the Board of Directors corporate governance guidelines, and generally advising the Board of Directors on corporate governance and related matters. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held two formal meetings during fiscal year 2016.

The Board of Directors has currently implemented a leadership structure in which Mr. Christopher serves as both Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board. The Board has determined that having Mr. Christopher serve in this dual capacity is in the best interest of shareholders at this time. The Company believes that this structure currently allows ultimate leadership and accountability to reside in a single individual, who has both extensive knowledge of the Company's business and critical relationships with the Company's customer base.

In order to coordinate the activities of the independent and non-management members of the Board of Directors, and to liaise between such directors and the Chairman of the Board, the Company has currently designated Mr. Gladstein to serve as Lead Independent Director. The Lead Independent Director's responsibilities are set forth in a formal charter, which can be obtained free of charge from the Company's website at www.muellerindustries.com or may be requested in print by any shareholder.

The Board of Directors is actively involved in oversight of risks that could affect the Company. The full Board of Directors has retained the responsibility for general oversight of risks, but the Audit Committee primarily oversees those risks that may directly or indirectly impact the Company's financial statements. The Board of Directors receives reports directly from officers responsible for oversight of particular risks within the Company, as well as full reports by the chair of the Audit Committee regarding the Audit Committee's considerations and actions. The Board beli