

Edgar Filing: AETNA INC /PA/ - Form DEFA14A

AETNA INC /PA/  
Form DEFA14A  
April 08, 2003

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

AETNA INC.

-----  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

-----  
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than 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:

Edgar Filing: AETNA INC /PA/ - Form DEFA14A

- [ ] 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:

-----

Aetna Inc. issued the following press release today:

151 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, Conn. 06156

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Fred Laberge  
(860) 273-4788  
Labergear@aetna.com

INVESTOR CONTACT:  
Dennis Oakes  
(860) 273-6184  
OakesD@aetna.com

AETNA EARNS HIGH RANKING ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

COMPANY RATED IN TOP TIER BY INSTITUTIONAL SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

HARTFORD, CONN., APRIL 7, 2003 -- Aetna (NYSE: AET) announced today that it has earned high ratings for its corporate governance practices from Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), an independent provider of proxy voting and corporate governance services.

According to ISS' proxy analysis, Aetna's governance outperformed 96.2 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 and 99.7 percent of the companies in the Health Care Equipment and Services group.

"We are gratified to have earned this recognition," said John W. Rowe, M.D., chairman and chief executive officer of Aetna. "It reinforces the importance that Aetna places on sound corporate governance and emphasizes our efforts to properly align our corporate governance practices with shareholder interests."

Over the past year, Aetna has made a number of changes in its corporate governance practices, including termination of its shareholder rights plan.

Aetna's Board of Directors also voted to recommend the following changes to the company's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, which will be voted upon by shareholders at its 2003 Annual Meeting on April 25:

Edgar Filing: AETNA INC /PA/ - Form DEFA14A

Aetna/2

- Reducing the vote required for shareholders to approve mergers, consolidations and similar transactions from two-thirds of outstanding shares to a simple majority of outstanding shares.
- Granting shareholders the right to call a special meeting with the support of two-thirds of the outstanding shares.
- Reducing the vote required for shareholders to amend certain portions of the Company's By-Laws from 80 percent of outstanding shares to two-thirds of outstanding shares, consistent with the level of shareholder support necessary to call a special meeting.

Aetna early this year also announced that the company has begun making its key corporate governance documents publicly available on Aetna's Web site. The site, which can be accessed from the home page of [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com), contains key information about Aetna's corporate governance policies in one simple, clear and easy-to-navigate location.

Aetna is one of the nation's leading providers of health care, dental, pharmacy, group life, disability and long-term care products, serving approximately 13.7 million medical members, 11.8 million dental members and 11.7 million group insurance customers, as of December 31, 2002. The company has expansive nationwide networks of more than 552,000 health care services providers, including over 332,000 primary care and specialist physicians and 3,373 hospitals. For more information about Aetna, please visit the company's Web site at [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com).

Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. is the world's leading provider of proxy voting and corporate governance services. ISS serves more than 950 institutional and corporate clients throughout North America and Europe with its core business -- analyzing proxies and issuing informed research and objective vote recommendations for more than 10,000 U.S. and 12,000 non-U.S. shareholder meetings each year.

# # #