

STEIN MART INC
Form DEF 14A
May 09, 2018
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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

STEIN MART, 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.

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- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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- (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):
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Stein Mart, Inc.

NOTICE AND PROXY STATEMENT

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD JUNE 19, 2018

TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the annual meeting of shareholders of Stein Mart, Inc. (Stein Mart, or our) will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 2:00 P.M., local time, at our Corporate Headquarters, 5th Floor, 1200 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

The meeting will be held for the following purposes:

1. To elect the ten (10) director nominees named in the attached proxy statement to serve as directors of Stein Mart for the ensuing year and until their successors have been elected and qualified;
2. To approve an advisory resolution approving executive compensation for fiscal year 2017;
3. To approve the Stein Mart 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan to replace our existing 2001 Omnibus Plan, as amended and restated;
4. To approve the Stein Mart Employee Stock Purchase Plan to replace our existing Employee Stock Purchase Plan;
5. To ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 2, 2019; and
6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The shareholders of record at the close of business on April 13, 2018, will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

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It is hoped you will be able to attend the meeting, but in any event, please vote according to the instructions on the enclosed proxy as promptly as possible. If you are able to be present at the meeting, you may revoke your proxy and vote in person.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be Held on June 19, 2018: The 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K and proxy statement of Stein Mart, Inc. are available online at www.proxyvote.com.

For directions to the annual meeting, please contact Ms. Linda Tasseff, Director, Investor Relations, at ltasseff@steinmart.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Gregory W. Kleffner
Secretary

Dated: May 11, 2018

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**Proxy Statement for the
Annual Meeting of Shareholders of
STEIN MART, INC.
To Be Held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018
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Stein Mart, Inc.

1200 Riverplace Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207

PROXY STATEMENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD JUNE 19, 2018

This proxy statement and the enclosed form of proxy are being sent to shareholders of Stein Mart, Inc. (Stein Mart, or we, our or us) on or about May 11, 2018, in connection with the solicitation by our Board of Directors of proxies to be used at our annual meeting of shareholders. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 2:00 P.M., local time, at our Corporate Headquarters, 5th floor, 1200 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

The Board of Directors has designated D. Hunt Hawkins and Richard L. Sisisky, and each or either of them, as proxies to vote the shares of common stock solicited on its behalf.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Why did I receive these materials?

Our Board of Directors is soliciting proxies for our 2018 annual meeting of shareholders. You are receiving a proxy statement because you owned shares of our common stock on the record date, April 13, 2018, and that entitles you to vote at our meeting of shareholders. By use of a proxy, you can vote whether or not you attend the meeting. This proxy statement describes the matters on which we would like you to vote and provides information on those matters so that you can make an informed decision.

What information is contained in this proxy statement?

The information in this proxy statement relates to the proposals to be voted on at the annual meeting, the voting process, our Board and Board committees, the compensation of directors and executive officers and other information that the Securities and Exchange Commission requires us to provide annually to our shareholders.

Who is entitled to vote at the meeting?

Holders of common stock as of the close of business on the record date, April 13, 2018, will receive notice of, and be eligible to vote at, our annual meeting of shareholders and at any adjournment or postponement of such meeting. At the close of business on the record date, we had 47,913,163 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote.

How many votes do I have?

Each outstanding share of our common stock you owned as of the record date will be entitled to one vote on each matter considered at the meeting. There is no cumulative voting.

Who can attend the meeting?

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Only persons with evidence of stock ownership as of the record date or who are our invited guests may attend and be admitted to the annual meeting of shareholders. Shareholders with evidence of stock ownership as of the record date may be accompanied by one guest. Photo identification will be required (e.g., a valid driver's license, state identification or passport). If a shareholder's shares are registered in the name of a broker, trust, bank or another nominee, the shareholder must bring a proxy or a letter from that broker, trust, bank or other nominee or their most recent brokerage account statement that confirms that the shareholder was a beneficial owner of our shares as of the record date. Since seating is limited, admission to the meeting will be on a first come, first served basis.

Cameras (including cell phones with photographic capabilities), recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted to be used at the meeting.

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What constitutes a quorum?

The presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the aggregate voting power of the common stock outstanding on the record date will constitute a quorum, permitting the conduct of business at the meeting. Proxies received but marked as abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will be included in the calculation of the number of votes considered to be present at the meeting for the purposes of a quorum.

How do I vote?

If you are a holder of record (that is, your shares are registered in your own name with our transfer agent), you can vote either in person at the annual meeting or by proxy without attending the annual meeting. We urge you to vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the annual meeting so that we will know as soon as possible that enough votes will be present for us to hold the meeting. If you attend the meeting in person, you may vote at the meeting and your proxy will not be counted.

Each shareholder electing to receive shareholder materials by mail may vote by proxy by using the accompanying proxy card. When you return a proxy card that is properly signed and completed, the shares represented by your proxy will be voted as you specify on the proxy card. Holders of record may also vote by calling the toll-free telephone number on the proxy card or by following the instructions on the proxy card to vote online. Please have the proxy card handy when you call or access the website for Internet voting. If you vote by telephone or on the Internet, you do not have to return your proxy card.

If you hold your shares in street name, you must either direct the bank, broker or another record holder of your shares as to how to vote your shares or obtain a proxy from the bank, broker or another record holder to vote at the meeting. Please refer to the voter instruction cards used by your bank, broker or another record holder for specific instructions on methods of voting, including by telephone or using the Internet.

Your shares will be voted as you indicate. If you return the proxy card but you do not indicate your voting preferences, then your proxy card will be deemed to direct the individuals designated as proxies to vote your shares in accordance with the Board's recommendations. At this time, the Board and management do not intend to present any matters at the annual meeting other than those outlined in the notice of the annual meeting. Should any other matter requiring a vote of shareholders arise, shareholders returning the proxy card or voting via the telephone or on the Internet confer upon the individuals designated as proxies discretionary authority to vote the shares represented by such proxy on any such other matter in accordance with their best judgment.

Can I change my vote?

Yes. If you are a shareholder of record, you may revoke or change your vote at any time before the proxy is exercised by filing a notice of revocation with our secretary, by mailing a proxy bearing a later date, by submitting new voting instructions by telephone or on the Internet or by attending the annual meeting and voting in person. For shares you hold beneficially in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the meeting and voting in person. In either case, the powers of the proxy holders will be suspended if you attend the meeting in person and are the shareholder of record (or, if your shares are held in street name you have a legal proxy as described above) and so request, although attendance at the meeting will not by itself revoke a previously granted proxy.

How are we soliciting this proxy?

We are soliciting this proxy on behalf of our Board of Directors and will pay all expenses associated with this solicitation. In addition to mailing these proxy materials, certain of our officers and other employees may, without compensation other than their regular compensation, solicit proxies through further mailing or personal conversations, or by telephone, e-mail or other electronic means. We will also, upon request, reimburse brokers and other persons holding stock in their names, or in the names of nominees, for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy materials to the beneficial owners of our stock and to obtain proxies.

Will shareholders be asked to vote on any other matters?

To our knowledge, shareholders will vote only on the matters described in this proxy statement. However, if any other matters properly come before the meeting, the persons designated as proxies will vote on those matters in the manner they consider appropriate.

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What vote is required to approve each item?

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting, which means that the ten (10) nominees who receive the highest number of properly executed votes will be elected as directors, even if those nominees do not receive a majority of the votes cast. A properly executed proxy marked **For All Except** with respect to the election of one or more directors will not be voted with respect to the director or directors indicated, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. However, pursuant to a majority voting policy adopted by our Board, any nominee who receives more **withheld** than **for** votes must submit his or her resignation to the Corporate Governance Committee even if he or she received a plurality of votes. The Board of Directors shall then consider the Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation as to whether or not to accept such resignation and will publicly disclose its decision, the process in reaching its decision and the underlying reasons for its decision.

The advisory resolution on executive compensation commonly referred to as a **say-on-pay** resolution, is not binding on the Board of Directors. Although the vote is non-binding, the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee will review the voting results in connection with their ongoing evaluation of our compensation program. The advisory resolution on executive compensation will be approved if the votes cast **FOR** the proposal exceed the votes cast **AGAINST** the proposal.

The approval of the Stein Mart 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan and the Stein Mart Employee Stock Purchase Plan will be approved if the votes cast **FOR** the proposal exceed the votes cast **AGAINST** the proposal.

The ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP to serve as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 2, 2019, will be approved if the votes cast **FOR** the proposal exceed the votes cast **AGAINST** the proposal.

How are votes counted?

In the election of directors, you may vote **FOR ALL** of the nominees or for none of the nominees (**WITHHOLD ALL**) or your vote may be **FOR ALL EXCEPT** with respect to one or more of the nominees.

For the advisory resolution on executive compensation, the approval of the Stein Mart 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan, the approval of the Stein Mart Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP to serve as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending February 2, 2019, you may vote **FOR**, **AGAINST** or **ABSTAIN**. Abstentions are considered to be present and entitled to vote at the meeting but will have no effect on the advisory resolution on executive compensation, the approval of the Stein Mart 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan, the approval of the Stein Mart Employee Stock Purchase Plan or the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered certified public accounting firm.

If you hold your shares in **street name**, we have supplied copies of our proxy materials for our 2018 annual meeting of shareholders to the broker, bank or other nominee holding your shares of record and they have the responsibility to send these proxy materials to you. Your broker, bank or other nominee is permitted to vote your shares on the appointment of our independent registered certified public accounting firm without receiving voting instructions from you. In contrast, all other proposals are **non-discretionary** items. This means brokerage firms that have not received voting instructions from their clients on these proposals may not vote on them. These so-called **broker non-votes** will be included in the calculation of the number of votes considered to be present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum, but will not be considered in determining the number of votes necessary for approval and will have no effect on the outcome of the proposals.

What should I do if I receive more than one set of voting materials?

You may receive more than one set of voting materials, including multiple copies of this proxy statement, proxy cards or voting instruction cards. For example, if you hold your shares in more than one brokerage account, you may receive a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold shares. If you are a shareholder of record and your shares are registered in more than one name, you will receive more than one proxy card. Please vote your shares applicable to each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive.

Where can I find the voting results of the annual meeting?

We intend to announce the preliminary voting results at the annual meeting and publish the final results in a Form 8-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) within four business days following the annual meeting.

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP****Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners**

As of December 31, 2017, there were no persons known to us, other than Jay Stein, who is shown in the table below, to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent (5%) of our outstanding common stock based on shares of common stock outstanding on such date. Mr. Stein's beneficial ownership includes shares of common stock held by the Berry Hattie Stein Grantor Retained Annuity Trust and the Jay Meredith Stein Grantor Retained Annuity Trust.

Security Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to beneficial ownership of our common stock as of April 13, 2018 by: (i) each director; (ii) each director nominee; (iii) each current executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table and (iv) all directors, director nominees and executive officers as a group. The address for all persons listed below is Stein Mart Corporate Headquarters, 1200 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

Name	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class^(*)
Jay Stein ⁽²⁾	15,306,322	31.9%
Irwin Cohen ⁽³⁾	51,955	*
Thomas L. Cole	10,152	*
Timothy Cost	10,152	*
Lisa Galanti	10,152	*
D. Hunt Hawkins ⁽³⁾	594,762	1.2%
Gregory W. Kleffner ⁽³⁾	483,314	1.0%
Mitchell W. Legler ⁽³⁾	308,708	*
MaryAnne Morin ⁽³⁾	142,530	*
Richard L. Sisisky ⁽³⁾	135,351	*
Burton M. Tansky ⁽³⁾	19,039	*
John H. Williams, Jr. ⁽⁴⁾	150,000	*
All directors, director nominees and executive officers		
as a group (13 persons) ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	17,527,869	36.6%

(*) Amount is less than one percent (1%) of total outstanding common stock.

(1) All shares of common stock included in the table are subject to the sole investment and voting power of the respective directors and executive officers, except as otherwise set forth in the footnotes below.

(2) Shares consist of 2,468,826 shares owned by Stein Ventures Limited Partnership, the general partner of which is Cary Ventures, Inc., 133,709 shares owned by Cary Ventures, Inc., a corporation wholly-owned by Mr. Stein, and 12,028,988 shares owned by trusts for the benefit of Mr. Stein's family members.

(3) Includes the following shares which are not currently outstanding but which the named shareholders are entitled to receive upon exercise of options that are currently exercisable or that become exercisable within sixty (60) days of April 13, 2018:

D. Hunt Hawkins	289,189
MaryAnne Morin	100,000
Gregory W. Kleffner	210,396
All directors, director nominees and executive	

officers as a group (13 persons)	709,104
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Includes the following shares of restricted stock which are currently outstanding and will be delivered to each individual upon vesting:

Irwin Cohen	7,482
Thomas L. Cole	5,922
Timothy Cost	5,922
Lisa Galanti	5,922
D. Hunt Hawkins	70,430
Gregory W. Kleffner	48,010
Mitchell W. Legler	27,092
MaryAnne Morin	42,530
Richard L. Sisisky	7,482
Burton W. Tansky	7,482
All directors, director nominees and executive officers	

as a group (13 persons)	273,104
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(4) Includes 150,000 shares owned jointly by Mr. Williams and his wife.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires our directors and executive officers, and persons owning more than ten percent (10%) of our common stock to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of common stock and other equity securities and to furnish us with copies of all such reports. To our knowledge, based solely on our review of copies of such reports furnished to us during 2017, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our directors, officers and greater than ten percent (10%) beneficial owners have been complied with on a timely basis, with the exception of the following: Ms. E. Chantelle Quick, Mr. Gary Pierce, Ms. MaryAnne Morin, Ms. Roseann McLean, Mr. Mitchell Legler, Mr. Gregory Kleffner and Mr. D. Hunt Hawkins each had a late Form 4 dated May 31, 2017, with respect to the grant of restricted stock; Mr. Mitchell Legler had a late Form 4 dated May 31, 2017, with respect to the purchase of common stock; and Mr. Irwin Cohen had a late Form 4 dated July 3, 2017, with respect to the withholding of shares for payment of taxes.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL NO. 1 -****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

At the meeting, ten (10) directors will be elected to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders and the election and qualification of their successors or a decrease in the number of directors. Each nominee is presently available for election. We have one (1) new director nominee this year: MaryAnne Morin. Ms. Morin has not previously served on the Board. Ms. Morin is standing for election to John H. Williams, Jr.'s board seat as Mr. Williams notified us of his retirement from the Board effective at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on June 19, 2018. Ms. Morin's appointment to the Board was due to her broad depth of experience in the retail industry. The Corporate Governance Committee carefully reviewed the experience and qualifications of Ms. Morin and considered her expertise in light of areas of the Board which would benefit from such expertise and caused the candidate to be fully vetted. As a result, the Corporate Governance Committee recommended Ms. Morin to the full Board. There are no family relationships between any of our directors, director nominees or executive officers. While our directors are elected by a plurality vote, our majority voting policy requires that any director who receives more withheld votes than for votes must tender his or her resignation and the full Board must determine whether or not to accept those resignations. We will file a Form 8-K that discloses the Board's decision and the reasons for its actions.

We believe that each nominee possesses the characteristics that are expected of all directors, namely, independence, integrity, sound business judgment and a willingness to represent the long-term interests of all shareholders. The following paragraphs provide biographies of each of our nominees and descriptions of the experiences, qualifications and skills that caused the Corporate Governance Committee and the Board to determine that these nominees should serve as our directors. These biographies contain information regarding each nominee's service as a director, business experience, director positions held currently or at any time during the last five (5) years and information regarding involvement in certain legal or administrative proceedings, if applicable.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES.

Name	Positions with Stein Mart;	Year First
Age	Principal Occupations and Other Directorships	Became Director
	During Past Five (5) Years; Special Experiences,	of Stein Mart
	Qualifications and Skills	
Jay Stein (72)	Chairman of the Board of Stein Mart since 1989; Chief Executive Officer of Stein Mart from June 2013 to March 2016, interim Chief Executive Officer of Stein Mart from September 2011 to June 2013 and Chief Executive Officer of Stein Mart from 1990 to September 2001. Mr. Stein brings extensive knowledge of the retail environment and outstanding merchandising skills to the Board, as well as extensive historical and operational knowledge based on many years of experience with Stein Mart.	1968

Irwin Cohen 卅 (77)	Director of Stein Mart; Senior Advisor with the Peter J. Solomon Company, an investment banking firm, from June 2003 to retirement in October 2013; Global Managing Partner of the Retail and Consumer Products Practice of Deloitte & Touche LLP from 1998 to May 2003; director of Supervalu, Inc. since June 2003. Mr. Cohen adds extensive financial and accounting experience and expertise in evaluating financial controls as well as extensive experience within the retail segment.	2008
Thomas L. Cole 卹 (69)	Director of Stein Mart; Chief Administrative Officer of Macy's, Inc., from February 2009 to retirement in June 2013; Vice Chair of Federated Department Stores from February 2003 to February 2009; various executive positions with Federated Department Stores from 1980 to 2003; and various positions with divisions of the former Allied Stores, from 1972 to 1980. Mr. Cole serves as a Director of Bealls Department Stores (since January 2015), and on the Fashion Advisory Board at Kent State University. Mr. Cole greatly broadens the Board's retail and apparel experience and offers invaluable advice as to Stein Mart's administrative policies and procedures including, but not limited to, logistics, supply chain management and information technology.	2016
Timothy Cost 卹 (58)	Director of Stein Mart; President of Jacksonville University since February 2013; Executive Vice President, Global Corporate Affairs, of PepsiCo, Inc. from December 2010 to January 2013; Chairman of Global Health Care of APCO Worldwide, a public affairs and communications firm, from June to November 2010; Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs for Wyeth, a healthcare company, from February 2008 until December 2009; Executive Vice President of ARAMARK from 2003 to early 2008; and, in prior years, service in investor relations and communications roles with Pharmacia Corporation, Eastman Kodak Company and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Mr. Cost has served on the Board of Web.com since December 2014, as well as serving on various civic, cultural and educational boards in the Jacksonville, Florida area. Mr. Cost's strong background in corporate affairs and communications will add invaluable expertise to Stein Mart's shareholder engagement process.	2016

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Lisa Galanti ¥ (62)	Director of Stein Mart; co-founder of Fitzgerald & Co. in 1983 and Managing Director from 1987 until her retirement in 2015. Fitzgerald & Co is a leading marketing communications and advertising agency and an Interpublic Group agency since 1998. Ms. Galanti brings invaluable expertise in marketing and communications to the Board.	2016
D. Hunt Hawkins (59)	Director of Stein Mart; Named Chief Executive Officer of Stein Mart in January 2017; promoted to Interim Chief Executive Officer and Director of Stein Mart in September 2016; President and Chief Operating Officer of Stein Mart in April 2014; Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Stein Mart in December 2011; Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Stein Mart in October 2007; Executive Vice President of Operations of Stein Mart in September 2006; Senior Vice President, Human Resources of Stein Mart, February 1994. As a long-time executive of Stein Mart, Mr. Hawkins brings extensive operational knowledge to the Board.	2016
MaryAnne Morin (55)	President of Stein Mart since February 2017; Chief Merchant, Executive Vice President of Lord & Taylor and Hudson's Bay from 2015 to January 2017; Executive Vice President, Merchandising and Senior Vice President, General Merchandising Manager of Lord & Taylor and Hudson's Bay from 2009 through 2015; Merchandise Manager/Product Director for Macy's Merchandising Group from 2007 through 2009; Managing Director for Echo Design Group/Monsac from 2002 through 2006.	Director nominee in 2018
Mitchell W. Legler (75)	Director of Stein Mart; majority shareholder of the law firm Kirschner & Legler, P.A. since April 2001; sole shareholder of the law firm Mitchell W. Legler, P.A. from August 1995 to April 2001; general counsel to Stein Mart since 1991; Chairman of the Board of OneWater Marine Holding, LLC since 2015. Mr. Legler's substantial experience with financial companies and his general legal knowledge is beneficial to the Board's understanding of risks faced by Stein Mart and assists in guiding the Board in understanding its responsibilities.	1991
Richard L. Sisisky ß¥x (63)	Director of Stein Mart; President of The Shircliff & Sisisky Company, a management consulting company, since 2003; Partner, SilverSolutions Consulting, LLC, a transportation and logistics consulting firm since 2018; President and Chief Operating Officer and director of ParkerVision, Inc. from 1998 to 2003. Mr. Sisisky's material knowledge of the general business	2003

environment and management skills are invaluable to the Board's strategic insight and analysis.

	Member of the Audit Committee
	Member of the Compensation Committee
β	Member of the Corporate Governance Committee
×	Lead Director
¥	Independent Director in accordance with applicable NASDAQ rules

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Our executive officers are:

Name (Age)	Position
D. Hunt Hawkins (59)	Chief Executive Officer
MaryAnne Morin (55)	President
Gregory W. Kleffner (63)	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Hawkins joined us in February 1994 as Senior Vice President, Human Resources. He was promoted to Executive Vice President of Operations in September 2006, to Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer in October 2007, to Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer in December 2011, to President and Chief Operating Officer in April 2014, to interim Chief Executive Officer in September 2016 and to Chief Executive Officer in January 2017.

Ms. Morin joined us in February 2017 as President. Prior to joining us, Ms. Morin was the Chief Merchant, Executive Vice President of Lord & Taylor and Hudson's Bay from 2015 to January 2017. Before that, she held several leadership positions within Lord & Taylor and Hudson's Bay from 2009 through 2015 including Executive Vice President, Merchandising and Senior Vice President, General Merchandising Manager. From 2007 through 2009 Ms. Morin was Merchandise Manager/Product Director for Macy's Merchandising Group. From 2002 through 2006 she was Managing Director for Echo Design Group/Monsac.

Mr. Kleffner joined us in August 2009 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He was promoted to Executive Vice President in February 2010. Prior to joining us, Mr. Kleffner spent six (6) years with Kellwood Company, an apparel manufacturer. While at Kellwood Company, he served as Vice President, Controller from 2002 to 2005, Vice President Finance and Controller from 2005 to 2006, Senior Vice President Finance and Controller from 2006 to 2007 and Chief Financial Officer from 2007 to 2008.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

We are structured with a Board of Directors (the "Board") as our highest governing body. The Board, in turn, has a Chairman who helps set the agenda with management and who chairs the meetings of the Board. Mr. Jay Stein has served as Chairman of the Board since 1989. He is Stein Mart's largest shareholder and the principal architect of our growth, so the Board and management believe he is uniquely suited to seek to maximize shareholder value. Mr. Stein served as Chief Executive Officer of Stein Mart from 1990 to September 2001, interim Chief Executive Officer from September 2011 to June 2013, and Chief Executive Officer from June 2013 to March 2016. During such times, the Board determined that it was in the best interest of Stein Mart to combine the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer while both offices were held by Mr. Stein. Mr. D. Hunt Hawkins was appointed as our Interim Chief Executive Officer in September 2016 and named Chief Executive Officer in January 2017. The Board and management currently believe that it is in our best interest to separate the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

The Board elects a lead director (the "Lead Director"), who also serves as Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee. The Lead Director is an independent director with substantial management experience who works with the Board's Chairman and management to set the agenda for Board meetings, serves as a liaison between the Board and management to facilitate communications, acts as a moderator of executive sessions made up solely of

independent directors and assures that an independent director is involved in setting agendas for the Board and Corporate Governance Committee meetings. Our Lead Director is currently Mr. Sisisky, a position he has held since 2012.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines require that a majority of our directors qualify as independent directors. The Board determines independence on the basis of the standards specified by NASDAQ, the additional standards referenced in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, and other facts the Board considers relevant. The Board has reviewed relevant relationships between us and each non-employee director, as well as any other facts that might impair a director's independence. Based on that review, the Board has determined that all current directors are independent except for D. Hunt Hawkins, Mitchell Legler, Jay Stein, and John Williams who are not independent, as they are employees of Stein Mart, and except for our director nominee, MaryAnne Morin, who will not be independent if elected to fill Mr. Williams' seat of the Board, as she is also an employee of Stein Mart. In determining the independence of each director, the matters described under Related Party Transactions were considered.

The Board meets at least quarterly and provides supervision of Stein Mart between meetings through a number of standing committees. The Board recognizes its responsibility for oversight of our risk management and periodically addresses strategic risks such as changes in the retail environment. The Board believes that its focus on risk management discourages inappropriate risk-taking by management and results in appropriate controls. The Board has delegated to various committees

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responsibility for specific areas of risk management. For example, one (1) meeting each year of the Audit Committee is heavily focused on operational risk management dealing with areas of primary concern to us such as inventory control and shrinkage, technology/data breach risk, insurance coverage, financial controls, adequacy of reserves, financing and liquidity, operating and capital budgets and third-party claims. Management annually identifies and prioritizes current risks to the business and reviews those risks and actions to minimize such risks with our Audit Committee.

The Compensation Committee seeks to establish an executive compensation program that creates a balance between rewarding performance and avoiding inappropriate risk-taking by management. Our incentive compensation program for executives is reviewed annually, and adjusted if needed, in order to focus management on our performance but also to reduce inappropriate risks. In order to further reduce our risk profile with respect to our executive compensation program, the Board adopted the Stein Mart, Inc. Clawback Policy (the "Clawback Policy") on September 27, 2016. The Clawback Policy provides that, with respect to incentive compensation for our executives that is granted, earned or vested based wholly or in part on the attainment of a financial reporting measure, the amount of an individual's award depends on our performance and is subject to recoupment in the event we are required to prepare an accounting restatement of our financial statements due to material noncompliance with financial reporting requirements under the securities laws, which reduces the ability of and incentive for an individual to take undue risks at the expense of our performance in an effort to increase the amount of his or her award. With respect to employees below the executive level, management is encouraged to design the incentive compensation program and set specific performance criteria which similarly are intended to maximize opportunities and control risks at all levels of our operations. See the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement for more information on our executive compensation program.

Shareholders who wish to communicate with the Board of Directors, or any particular director, may send a letter to our Secretary at the address set forth on the first page of this proxy statement. The mailing envelope should contain a clear notation on the outside that the enclosed letter is a "Shareholder-Board Communication" or a "Shareholder-Director Communication." All such letters should identify the author as a shareholder, state the name in which the shares of such author are held, and clearly state whether the intended recipients are all members of the Board or only certain specified individual directors. The Secretary will make copies of such letters and circulate them to the appropriate director or directors.

The Board adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist the Board in the exercise of its responsibilities. The Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on our website, www.steinmart.com.

MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

During 2017, the Board held a total of seven (7) regular meetings. All directors attended at least seventy-five percent (75%) of all meetings of the Board and Board committees on which they served during 2017. We do not have a formal policy requiring directors to attend annual meetings of shareholders. However, the annual meeting is generally held on the same day as a regularly scheduled Board meeting and we expect that all of our directors will attend the annual meeting of shareholders. All directors attended the last annual meeting.

The Board of Directors has established four (4) standing committees: an Executive Committee, an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Corporate Governance Committee. Each standing committee operates pursuant to a charter adopted by the full Board which is available on our website, www.steinmart.com. The Committees are more fully described below. Members of the standing committees are appointed annually at the regular Board meeting held in conjunction with the annual shareholders' meeting, with changes in committee assignments being made during the year as the Board of Directors deems appropriate. In addition, the Board occasionally designates ad hoc committees

for special purposes.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of any two (2) directors who are independent directors under NASDAQ rules and one (1) additional director who is our Chief Executive Officer. Subject to the limitations specified by the Florida Business Corporation Act, the Executive Committee is authorized by our bylaws to exercise all of the powers of the Board of Directors when the Board of Directors is not in session. There were no Executive Committee meetings held during 2017.

Audit Committee. During 2017, the Audit Committee was comprised of Mr. Cohen (Chairman), Mr. Cole and Mr. Tansky, each of whom is an independent director under NASDAQ rules applicable to Audit Committee members. During 2017, the Audit Committee held 12 meetings. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of our financial statements, (2) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements relating to our accounting and financial reporting processes and controls, and (3) the independence and performance of our internal auditors and independent registered certified public accounting firm. Our internal auditors, as well as our independent registered certified public accounting firm, report directly to the Audit Committee. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Cohen qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC. Mr. Tansky also has significant financial expertise due to his service as a

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chief executive officer with chief financial officers reporting to him during his career, and Mr. Cole's service as a chief administrative officer of a national department store also gives him deep insight into the financial aspects of our business.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is comprised of Messrs. Tansky (Chairman), Sisisky and Cost and Ms. Galanti, each of whom is an independent director under NASDAQ rules. During 2017, the Compensation Committee held three (3) meetings. This Committee has the responsibility for approving and evaluating the compensation arrangements for our directors and officers, including the short-term and long-term incentive compensation programs. It also recommends to the Board of Directors adoption of any compensation plans in which our officers and directors are eligible to participate. The Compensation Committee also serves as the Option Committee and makes grants of stock options, restricted stock and performance shares under our 2001 Omnibus Plan. The Compensation Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees. Please refer to our Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 13 for additional discussion of the role our Compensation Committee plays in setting executive and director compensation.

Corporate Governance Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of Mr. Sisisky (as the Lead Director and Chairman), Mr. Cohen (as the Chairman of the Audit Committee), and Mr. Tansky (as the Chairman of the Compensation Committee), each of whom is an independent director under NASDAQ rules. The Committee is responsible for the search and selection of our future directors and recommends to the full Board the slate of directors to be proposed to our shareholders for election at our annual meeting of shareholders. The Committee also reviews, from time to time, the roles of the other standing committees, recommends committee assignments and evaluates, on a periodic basis, the performance of the Board and each of its committees, as well as the relationship between the Board and our management. During 2017, the Corporate Governance Committee held two (2) meetings. The Lead Director, among other things, assists in setting agendas for meetings of the Board, acts as a moderator of executive sessions made up solely of our independent directors and serves as a liaison to increase the flow of information between Board members and our management.

The Corporate Governance Committee will consider nominees for director recommended by our shareholders. Any shareholder wishing to make such a recommendation to the Corporate Governance Committee should submit the recommendation, in writing, with such supporting information as the shareholder believes appropriate, as well as any other information required to be disclosed about the candidate under the SEC's proxy rules, to the Corporate Governance Committee in care of our Lead Director at our headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. Shareholder nominations for director must be received by the Lead Director on or before January 11, 2019, in order to be considered timely for our 2019 annual meeting. Shareholders desiring to make a director nomination must comply with the procedures outlined in Section 3.18 of our Bylaws.

The Corporate Governance Committee reviews a broad range of criteria when considering all possible candidates for the Board, including experience, education, ability to read and understand financial statements, ethics, business reputation and other factors that the Committee believes relevant in determining whether a candidate would add to the Board's ability to guide Stein Mart. In recommending director nominees, the Committee seeks to achieve a diversity of business experience and to enhance the Board's ability to address challenges facing us and better understand our ability to take advantage of opportunities in the overall business landscape. The Committee informally evaluates incumbent directors to determine whether they should be nominated to stand for re-election based on such factors, as well as their contributions to the Board during their current terms. When a vacancy develops, the Committee will solicit input regarding potential new candidates from a variety of sources, including existing directors and senior management. If the Committee deems it appropriate, the Committee may engage a third-party search firm. The Committee will evaluate all potential candidates, including any candidates recommended by shareholders, based on their biographical information and qualifications, information available through public records and their independence, and, if a potential

candidate appears to be a good choice, will arrange personal interviews of qualified candidates by one (1) or more Committee members, other Board members and senior management, as the Committee believes appropriate.

Special Ad Hoc Committee. The Special Ad Hoc Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors and is comprised of Mr. Sisisky (as the Lead Director and Chairman) and Messrs. Cohen and Cole. The Committee is responsible for oversight of (1) our turn-around strategy and initiatives to maximize enterprise value, (2) our financial and operational performance improvement initiatives, (3) our cash management initiatives (including cash flow forecasting, working capital and vendor management), (4) our investigation of potential sources of additional capital, and (5) our contingency planning. During 2017, the Special Ad Hoc Committee met 7 times.

COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

Our Compensation Committee's philosophy is to target non-employee director compensation at levels consistent with companies in our industry. The Board elected to maintain its annual retainer at \$36,000 for 2017.

In addition to annual retainers, non-employee directors continue to be compensated through attendance fees and receipt of equity-based compensation. For fiscal year 2017, each non-employee director received attendance fees of \$2,000 for attending meetings of the Board and \$2,000 for attending committee meetings whether in person or by conference call. Each non-employee director received approximately \$40,000 in value of our shares which, based on the price of our stock on the respective grant dates in fiscal 2015 and 2016, equaled 6,240 and 10,152 Restricted Shares. There were no grants made in fiscal 2017. These Restricted Shares vest monthly over a three-year period, with immediate vesting in the event of death, disability, retirement at age 72 or a change in control of Stein Mart.

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In fiscal 2017, to compensate certain directors with additional responsibilities, (i) our Lead Director received an additional annual retainer of \$40,000, (ii) the Chairperson of our Audit Committee received an additional annual retainer of \$25,000, and (iii) the Chairperson of the Compensation Committee received an additional annual retainer of \$25,000.

Under our 2001 Omnibus Plan, each non-employee director also received a one-time grant of 4,000 stock options upon becoming a director. Our 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan, described in Proposal No. 3, does not provide for automatic stock option grants for new directors.

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	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation	Total
Name⁽¹⁾	(\$)	(\$)⁽²⁾	(\$)⁽²⁾	(\$)⁽³⁾	(\$)	(\$)⁽⁴⁾	(\$)
Jay Stein	24	-	-	-	-	-	24
Irwin Cohen	99,000	-	-	-	-	6,079	105,079
Thomas L. Cole	66,000	-	-	-	-	233	66,233
Timothy Cost	50,000	-	-	-	-	233	50,233
Lisa Galanti	79,000	-	-	-	-	233	79,233
Mitchell W. Legler ⁽⁵⁾	80,000	17,472	-	-	-	22,170	119,642
Richard L. Sisisky	100,000	-	-	-	-	6,079	106,079
Burton M. Tansky	97,000	-	-	-	-	5,079	102,709
John H. Williams, Jr. ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	-	-	-	68,488	68,488

- (1) The compensation received by Hunt Hawkins, our Chief Executive Officer and director, is shown in the Summary Compensation Table. Mr. Hawkins received no additional compensation for his services as a director.
- (2) Reflects the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with ASC Topic 718 of stock and option awards made during the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018. Forfeiture estimates have been disregarded in determining the amounts indicated. During fiscal year 2017, there were no grants made to our non-employee directors named above. Mr. Legler received 9,600 stock awards with a grant date fair value of \$1.82 per stock award and 14,400 performance units with a grant date fair value of \$0.80 as a result of being a participant in our Long-Term Incentive Program. At February 3, 2018, our directors had the following stock and option awards outstanding from prior years:
 - (a) Mr. Stein: none.
 - (b) Mr. Cohen: 7,482 restricted shares and no options.
 - (c) Mr. Cole: 5,922 restricted shares and 4,000 options.
 - (d) Mr. Cost: 5,922 restricted shares and 4,000 options.
 - (e) Ms. Galanti: 5,922 restricted shares and 4,000 options.
 - (f) Mr. Sisisky: 7,482 restricted shares and no options.
 - (g) Mr. Tansky: 7,482 restricted shares and no options.
 - (h) Mr. Williams: no restricted shares or options.
- (3) Reflects the amount earned under our Short-Term Incentive Plan of which Mr. Legler is a participant.
- (4) Includes, for all directors, amounts paid as dividends on unvested restricted stock awards that vested during the year. Also includes, for Messrs. Legler and Williams, \$16,091 and \$27,674 for medical benefits not provided to non-executive employees, respectively.
- (5) Mr. Legler is the majority shareholder of Kirschner & Legler, P.A., general counsel to Stein Mart since April 2001. For a description of the arrangement with Kirschner & Legler, P.A. for Mr. Legler's service as our general counsel, including fees paid pursuant to this arrangement, see the section entitled Related Party Transactions elsewhere in this proxy statement.
- (6) Mr. John H. Williams, Jr., a former executive officer of Stein Mart, remains an employee of Stein Mart and does not receive additional compensation for his services as a director. Other compensation for Mr. Williams includes \$40,014 salary; \$27,674 in medical benefit payments not provided to non-executive employees (which includes excess medical, dental and vision payments); \$800 in company contributions to his 401(k) plan.

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COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides information regarding our compensation programs and policies for our executives who are listed in our Summary Compensation Table. This includes Hunt Hawkins, our Chief Executive Officer, MaryAnne Morin, our President, and Gregory Kleffner, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Collectively, we refer to these executives as our Named Executive Officers.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

Our compensation program is designed to meet the following goals:

attract the best possible candidates;

retain our key officers;

align the interests of our officers with those of our shareholders; and

provide our officers with incentive pay directly associated with performance.

To achieve these objectives, we use a mix of compensation elements, including:

base salary;

short-term incentives (annual cash);

long-term incentives (equity), with a mixture of performance-based and time-based vesting;

employee benefits and perquisites; and

employment agreements.

In determining the amount and form of these compensation elements, we may consider a number of factors in any given year. For 2017, as in prior years, our Compensation Committee granted long-term equity compensation in Target amounts equal to a range of 90%-140% of our Named Executive Officers' base salary. As discussed in more detail herein, a majority of such Target long-term equity incentives are performance-based, reflecting the Compensation Committee's belief that our Named Executive Officers should receive higher benefits when our stock performs well in comparison to our peers. Our Compensation Committee has utilized the following best practice

compensation policies in designing our compensation structure to align compensation of our Named Executive Officers with our performance while still providing incentives to retain our talented management team:

Our Compensation Practices Include:

Short-term cash incentive based on objective standards
 Long-term incentives 100% equity-based
 Majority of 2017 long-term incentives performance-based
 Performance-based long-term incentives measured against Total Shareholder return for the Standard & Poor's (S&P) Apparel Retail Index
 Adoption of Clawback Policy for incentive compensation
 Stock ownership guidelines for executive officers and directors
 Annual Say on Pay vote

Our Compensation Practices Do NOT Include:

X Excise tax gross-up on Change in Control payments
 X Repricing or backdating of awards
 X Repurchase of underwater stock options
 X Hedging of our common stock by executive officers and directors
 X Pledging of our common stock by executive officers and directors

Other factors that the Compensation Committee may consider in determining compensation include the following:

Compensation levels paid by companies in our peer group and as reflected in published survey data. We believe this approach helps us to compete in hiring and retaining the best possible talent while at the same time maintaining a reasonable and responsible cost structure;

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Corporate and individual performance, as we believe this encourages our Named Executive Officers to focus on achieving our business objectives;

The experiences and individual knowledge of the members of our Board regarding compensation programs generally and at other companies on whose boards they may serve;

The recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer and our Compensation Committee's compensation consultant;

Broader economic conditions, to ensure that our pay strategies are effective yet responsible, particularly in the face of any unanticipated consequences of the broader economy on our business; and

Individual negotiations with Named Executive Officers, particularly in connection with their initial compensation package, as these executives may be leaving meaningful compensation opportunities at their prior employer to come work for us, or foregoing other compensation opportunities with other prospective employers to continue to work for us, as well as negotiations upon their departures, as we recognize the benefit to our shareholders of seamless transitions.

Although the Compensation Committee reviews from time to time the values of vested equity awards held by, and equity award profits realized by, executives, the increases or decreases in the value of equity awards that were previously granted have no significant impact in the determination of cash or equity-based compensation for the current fiscal year.

Say on Pay

The Compensation Committee considered the results of the shareholder advisory vote on executive compensation for fiscal year 2016 as support for the compensation policies and practices in place for fiscal 2017. At the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, more than 99% of the votes cast on the shareholder advisory vote on executive compensation were in favor of our executive compensation program. Our Board of Directors and our Compensation Committee value the opinions of our shareholders and are committed to ongoing engagement with our shareholders on executive compensation practices. Our Board of Directors has recommended that our shareholders should have the opportunity to vote on our executive compensation practices each year in connection with the say when on pay proposal in this proxy statement. Our shareholders last approved an annual say-when-on-pay proposal at our 2017 annual meeting of shareholders.

Clawback Policy

On September 27, 2016, our Board approved and adopted a Clawback Policy for recovery of incentive compensation from our current and former executive officers under certain circumstances. Our Clawback Policy is designed to comply with Section 10D of the Exchange Act and proposed Rule 10D-1. The Clawback Policy provides that, in the event we are required to restate financial results due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws, the Board will require reimbursement or forfeiture of any excess incentive compensation received by a covered executive officer during the three (3) completed fiscal years immediately preceding the date we are required to prepare an accounting restatement. Similarly, in the event the Board determines

a covered executive officer has engaged in fraudulent or intentional misconduct which results in a material inaccuracy in our financial statements or in financial reporting measures which affect such executive's incentive compensation, our Board may require reimbursement, or forfeiture, of any excess incentive compensation. The Clawback Policy applies when the Compensation Committee has determined that the incentive compensation approved, awarded or granted was predicated upon the achievement of certain financial results that were the subject of the restatement or fraud/intentional misconduct, as applicable, and that a lesser amount of incentive compensation would have been approved, awarded or granted to the executive officer based upon the actual financial results. In each such instance, we will seek to recoup the amounts by which an executive officer's incentive compensation that was awarded, vested or paid during the three-year period referenced above for restatements, or for the applicable period for fraud/intentional misconduct, exceeded the amounts that would have been awarded, vested or paid based on the actual financial results.

Stock Ownership Policy

In 2012, the Board established share ownership guidelines for our directors and Named Executive Officers. Directors are expected to own five times (5X) their annual retainer fee value, our Chief Executive Officer is expected to own three times (3X) base salary and the remaining executive officers are expected to own one and one-half times (1.5X) base salary. Each individual has five (5) years to accumulate the desired ownership level beginning from the later of January 1, 2012, or their appointment as an executive officer or director. Once attained, each individual will be considered to have met this requirement with the number of shares they owned, regardless of the effect of future share price changes. As of the record date, each of our directors (other than Mr. Tansky, who joined the Board in 2014, and Ms. Galanti, Mr. Cole and Mr. Cost, who each joined the Board in 2016) and our Named Executive Officers (except for Ms. Morin, who became a named executive officer in 2017) has

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met this requirement. Our policy also prohibits our directors, officers and employees from engaging in hedging transactions as well as pledging or margin arrangements.

Compensation Oversight

Our executive compensation policies are established by the Compensation Committee, which is composed entirely of independent directors as defined by applicable NASDAQ rules. The Compensation Committee provides governance and oversight to our executive compensation programs, benefit plans and policies, and administers our 2001 Omnibus Plan, including a review of all equity grants under the 2001 Omnibus Plan. The Compensation Committee makes all compensation decisions relating to our Chief Executive Officer. The Compensation Committee reviews and approves, after considering the evaluation and recommendation of our Chief Executive Officer, all compensation decisions relating to our other Named Executive Officers.

During 2017, the Compensation Committee retained Mercer (US), Inc. (Mercer), a compensation consulting firm, to support the Compensation Committee in its work. Mercer provides recommendations as well as information as to the compensation levels and practices of the various companies which are considered to be in our peer group. The companies comprising our peer group for fiscal 2017 are listed below. Mercer also provides the Compensation Committee with information as to current trends and best practices in executive compensation and informs them of pertinent regulatory and stock exchange rules impacting executive compensation matters. In addition, Mercer provides advice to management with regard to special compensation issues that may arise. Mercer provided no other services to us during 2017.

To ensure independence, the Compensation Committee is required to pre-approve all other work unrelated to compensation advice to the Committee proposed to be provided by Mercer if any such work were ever to be proposed. The Compensation Committee considered the following factors in determining that Mercer has no conflict of interest in providing advice to the Compensation Committee: the provision of any work unrelated to compensation advice to the Committee to Stein Mart by Mercer; the amount of fees paid by us as a percentage of Mercer's total revenue, Mercer's policies and procedures that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest; ownership of our stock by representatives of Mercer; and the existence of any business or personal relationships between Mercer personnel and the members of the Compensation Committee and/or our executive officers.

The Compensation Committee assesses the competitiveness of our compensation program periodically by comparing the compensation paid to our officers to the compensation paid by other companies in our peer group. Our peer group consists of a group of similarly sized apparel retail companies.

The composition of the peer group for 2017 compensation purposes consisted of the following companies:

American Eagle Outfitters	DSW
Bon Ton Stores, Inc.	Express, Inc.
Buckle, Inc.	Genesco
The Cato Corporation	The Men's Wearhouse, Inc.
Chico's FAS Inc.	New York & Company, Inc.
Children's Place Retail Stores	Shoe Carnival
Citi Trends	Stage Stores, Inc.
Destination Maternity	Zumiez

For purposes of measuring performance under our Long-Term Incentive Plan, we use the S&P Apparel Retail Index.

Chief Executive Officer

D. Hunt Hawkins was named interim CEO effective September 27, 2016, and, as noted above, the Board removed the interim designation from his title effective January 24, 2017. Mr. Hawkins base salary for fiscal 2017 was \$563,500. Hawkins did not receive additional equity grants upon being promoted to CEO.

Elements of Compensation

Base Salary

We seek to set base salaries for our officers in amounts sufficient to attract and retain key officers. While we try to stay abreast of base salaries paid to our peer group, we have not, in recent years, sought to benchmark base salary levels based on our peer group. In 2017, we believe the base salaries paid to Messrs. Hawkins and Kleffner and Ms. Morin were reasonable

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when compared with similar positions in our industry. In 2017, our Compensation Committee established a total merit pool equivalent to 3.0% of total base compensation for all employees, excluding our senior leadership, which includes our Named Executive Officers. When setting base salaries or considering merit increases, our Compensation Committee does not focus on amounts allocated to individual elements of compensation. Instead, the Compensation Committee looks at the total compensation package and places heavier emphasis on short-term and long-term incentives versus base salary.

Incentive Plans

We use short-term and long-term incentive plans to meet our compensation goals of motivating our officers and aligning their interests with those of our shareholders by measuring performance using an objective standard. As noted above, our Compensation Committee believes short-term and long-term incentives should comprise a majority of the total compensation of the Named Executive Officers, as calculated at the grant date of such incentive compensation. The Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors annually approve a business plan (the *Business Plan*) that establishes financial goals for the current year. The Business Plan, which is intended to be ambitious, but realistic, drives the formula for determining success under our Short-Term Incentive Plan, while Total Shareholder Return (*TSR*) drives the formula under the Long-Term Incentive Plan. Awards under our Long-Term Incentive Plan are made pursuant to the terms of our 2001 Omnibus Plan.

Short-Term Incentives

We have an annual incentive plan which is intended to provide short-term incentives to our officers to achieve excellent performance in the current financial period. Annual bonuses are driven by formulas tied to our achieving various levels of success compared with our Business Plan for the current year. Generally, the Short-Term Incentive Plan pays cash bonuses upon achieving the prescribed levels of success.

Long-Term Incentives

In addition to the annual incentive plan, our compensation plan includes a long-term incentive component. Since the interests of our shareholders are long-term as well as short-term, we align the interests of our officers with those of our shareholders by granting various combinations of stock options (*Options*), shares of our stock with the vesting of such shares dependent upon the appreciation of our stock as compared to the S&P Apparel Retail Index, as well as meeting continued employment requirements (although service conditions may be waived in certain circumstances following a change in control) (*Performance Shares*), and shares of our stock, the vesting of which is dependent only on remaining employed by us for a certain period of time (*Restricted Shares*). The Target award mix for Long-Term Incentive compensation for our Named Executive Officers for 2017 consisted of 60% Performance Shares and 40% Restricted Shares. Service periods for both Performance Share awards and Restricted Share awards for fiscal 2017 were three (3) years. The Target award mix periodically changes based on our desired objectives. For 2017, as in prior years, our Compensation Committee placed heavier emphasis on long-term performance-based compensation, in line with our objective of increasing TSR as compared with our peer group.

The Compensation Committee has generally placed an aggregate cap on all Target equity-based compensation awarded under our Long-Term Incentive Plan each year between two and one-half percent (2.5%) and three and one-half percent (3.5%) of our common shares outstanding (the *Aggregate Equity-Based Run Rate Cap*) to limit the overhang of unvested equity-based compensation shares outstanding. The Committee, however, reserves the right to adjust the Aggregate Equity-Based Run Rate Cap, as may be necessary from time-to-time, to preserve the value in those awards in the event of certain circumstances including special dividends, stock splits, and other capital transactions. The Aggregate Equity-Based Run Rate Cap under our Long-Term Incentive Plan for 2017 was less than

2.5%.

We believe that the retail industry is subject to substantial swings in performance results based on factors which are unrelated to management's performance. For example, our overall performance may be heavily impacted by the state of the economy, unusual events such as terrorist attacks, and catastrophic weather events such as hurricanes. The retail industry as a whole had a challenging 2017 in terms of performance, and we think consideration of the current retail environment is important when awarding long-term incentives. Accordingly, we believe that proper measurement of the performance of management over a multi-year period should also take into consideration our performance compared to the performance of other retailers during the same period. For our Long-Term Incentive Plan, the Compensation Committee compares our relative performance to the S&P Apparel Retail Index.

Performance Levels for Incentive Plans

Awards under the Short-Term Incentive Plan and Performance Share awards under the Long-Term Incentive Plan are based on our achieving performance levels established by the Compensation Committee for the year(s) in question. The Compensation Committee seeks to set performance levels which it believes are both challenging and realistic. Typically, the

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Compensation Committee establishes multiple performance goals in order to create challenging performance levels but avoids establishing performance levels which are so unlikely to be achieved as to discourage performance by our officers. Thus, the Compensation Committee uses the levels of performance described below for our Named Executive Officers. Individual performance was not taken into account with respect to setting 2017 performance goals. Performance goals for lower levels of management are tailored to more specific areas over which such personnel have more influence based on their respective areas of responsibility and include such factors as sales, gross margin, operating income at the store or district level and inventory shrinkage. For 2017, the Compensation Committee used the following performance levels:

Threshold , which is generally the minimum performance level which must be achieved for any Short-Term and Long-Term performance-based incentive compensation to be paid, is established at the level which the Compensation Committee believes we have an 80% probability of achieving the level at which minimal bonuses will be paid under our Short-Term and Long-Term Incentive Plans;

Target , which is our intended performance level based on our Business Plan, is established at the level which the Compensation Committee believes we have a 60% probability of achieving;

Superior , which is intended to reward performance above our expected achievement or Target achievement level, is established at the level which the Compensation Committee believes we have a 20% or less probability of achieving; and

Outstanding , which is intended to reward outstanding performance above our expected achievement, is established at the level which the Compensation Committee believes we have a 10% or less probability of achieving.

Awards under the Short-Term Incentive and the Long-Term Incentive Plans are then paid or granted based on interpolations between the various performance levels. Normally, no incentive compensation is paid to Named Executive Officers if the Threshold level of performance is not achieved. The Compensation Committee has the discretion to increase both Short-Term and Long-Term Incentive Plan awards if performance levels are not met but have never exercised such discretion.

2017 Short-Term Incentive Plan (Annual Cash Bonuses)

For 2017, the Committee determined that the Short-Term Incentive Plan performance levels would be based on achieving planned levels of Operating Income (income generated from operations for the current fiscal year, excluding income taxes, bonuses and non-recurring items of income or expense) and Comparable Store Sales goals. The Compensation Committee believes that using the combination of Operating Income and Comparable Store Sales helps us achieve our goal of growing our business profitability.

The following table shows the performance levels based on the 2017 performance goals at each performance level for the Short-Term Incentive Plan and the percentage of base compensation that would be earned by our Named Executive Officers for achieving such performance levels:

2017 Performance Level	Adjusted Operating Income	Comparable Store	Range of Percentage of
	Required to Achieve	Sales Growth	Base Compensation
Threshold	\$60.3M	1.5%	20-25%

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Target	\$69.0M	3.0%	40-50%
Superior	\$78.2M	4.5%	60-75%
Outstanding	\$86.5M	6.0%	80-100%

We did not meet our Threshold level of performance for Operating Income or Comparable Store Sales for 2017 and therefore no cash bonuses were paid to the Named Executive Officers. Mr. Kleffner was provided with a key employee retention bonus payment of \$150,000 as disclosed in his revised employment agreement signed on August 1, 2017. Ms. Morin received a one-time guaranteed threshold level bonus payment of \$181,250 as per her employment agreement. Operating (Loss), as adjusted, was equal to \$(24.3) million, while Comparable Store Sales decreased by 6.2% during fiscal 2017. Adjusted Operating Income is a Non-GAAP (GAAP refers to generally accepted accounting principles as applied in the United States) financial measure that excludes income taxes, bonuses and certain non-recurring items of income or expense. The Committee believes that excluding the impact of these non-recurring items of income or expense is appropriate in evaluating our performance for purposes of the Short-Term Incentive Plan.

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Adjusted Operating Income for fiscal 2017 can be calculated as follows:

Adjusted Operating Income (\$ in millions)	Year Ended 02/3/18
Operating (Loss) (GAAP)	\$(31.2)
Bonus and share-based compensation expense	0.9
Legal settlements	0.1
Pre-opening expenses	2.2
Asset impairment	3.8
Adjusted Operating (Loss) (Non-GAAP)	\$ (24.3)

2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan (Equity-Based Compensation)

For the 2017 – 2019 performance period, the Compensation Committee determined that Performance Share awards under the Long-Term Incentive Plan would be based on TSR relative to the performance of the S&P Apparel Retail Index. The Compensation Committee believes this performance metric closely ties the economic benefits to the Named Executive Officers to our long-term goal of increasing shareholder value. Performance Share awards under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan for our Named Executive Officers are based on achieving various relative TSR performance levels. The following table shows the performance levels based on the 2017-2019 performance goals at each performance level for the Long-Term Incentive Plan and the percent of base compensation that would be earned by our Named Executive Officers for achieving such performance levels:

2017 Performance Level	Relative Total Shareholder Return Percentile Required to Achieve from 2017 to 2019	Percent of Target Payout
Threshold	33 rd Percentile	33%
Target	51 st Percentile	100%
Superior	75 th Percentile	150%

The number of Performance Shares awarded to a participant varies as a function of the performance level achieved and the management level of the participant. The number of Performance Shares awarded to any individual participant at the Target level of performance is calculated by applying the appropriate percent to the participant's base compensation and dividing the resulting amount by the closing price of our shares on the grant date and then providing a pro-rata reduction, if necessary, for the Aggregate Equity-Based Run Rate Cap.

All Performance Shares awarded under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan vest 100% on the date earned. However, a participant who fails to remain employed due to death, disability, normal retirement following age 62 or termination within two (2) years following a change of control will receive a pro-rata portion of the Performance Shares he or she would have received had he or she remained employed for the full performance vesting period as long as performance-based vesting conditions are met. This pro-rata award is based on the amount of elapsed time between the time of grant and the time of termination of employment for each applicable performance cycle.

Our Compensation Committee also made awards of time-based Restricted Shares to our Named Executive Officers. These Restricted Share grants cliff-vest on February 1, 2020 if the recipient remains employed by us; provided,

however, that an officer who fails to remain employed due to death, disability, normal retirement following age 62 or termination within two (2) years following a change of control will receive a pro-rata portion of the Restricted Shares based on the amount of time between the grant date and the date of termination of employment.

Awards under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan are not yet determined. The grant date fair value of performance awards at Target performance is included under Stock Awards in the Summary Compensation Table. For the three-year period ending with fiscal 2017, we were ranked below the 33rd percentile relative to the 2015 S&P Apparel Retail Index. Awards under the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan, which covered the performance period from fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2017, were not paid based on our performance below the 33rd percentile relative to the 2015 S&P Apparel Retail Index for the performance period.

Table of Contents**Perquisites**

We provide perquisites such as paid vacation days, health insurance, life insurance and a 401(k) retirement plan. We do not provide perquisites such as (i) a defined benefit plan (pension plan) and (ii) financial advice, tax preparation and the like. We provide the following perquisites to our Named Executive Officers which differ from those available to all full-time employees:

Executive Medical, Dental and Vision Plan. We maintain a medical, dental and vision plan (the *Medical Plan*) for all of our full-time employees, including the Named Executive Officers, covering medical premiums similar to those covered by many companies with a substantial number of employees. The Medical Plan differs for Named Executive Officers in that such officers do not have any co-pay amounts, deductibles or other amounts withheld from their salary to pay for their participation. The Medical Plan was amended in 2008 to limit the total amount paid as co-pay and deductible to \$25,000 per annum for any Named Executive Officer and to continue coverage to age 65 for officers retiring after age 62. Any payment by us for Named Executive Officers in excess of amounts not covered by the normal Medical Plan for other officers is taxable to the Named Executive Officer receiving the benefit of such payment.

Split-Dollar Life Insurance Plan. We maintain a death benefit plan for our executives which is funded through a split-dollar life insurance plan. The Executive Split Dollar Plan was implemented to provide a lower cost method of paying death benefits for senior management than group term insurance. The Plan provides the executive's beneficiary with a substantial measure of financial security by providing a pre-retirement death benefit. This benefit is intended to help attract and retain quality executives.

The Executive Split Dollar Plan is an endorsement method arrangement. As such, we purchase a life insurance policy on each executive's life to fund death benefits. The amount of the death benefit is based upon the executive's total compensation and eligible status. As the policy owner, we exercise all ownership rights granted to the owner thereof by the terms of the policies. The total policy proceeds (death benefit) is split between us and the beneficiary(ies) named by the executive. If an executive's employment ends before retirement, they are given the option of buying the policy on their life from us for the greater of the accumulated current cash value of the policy or the amount paid by us to date as premiums for that policy. We make premium payments, with the expense being offset by the cash value growth for the period. The cumulative premiums paid by us will be recovered either through any death benefits paid or the cash purchase price if the executive elects to retain the coverage post-retirement.

The Executive Split Dollar Plan provides a pre-retirement death benefit equal to five (5) times the annual compensation for each of our Senior Vice Presidents and higher executives. For purposes of this plan, total annual compensation is the sum of the executive's current base salary and last received annual cash incentive compensation. However, if an executive's compensation drops, the death benefit remains at the historical year's highest level.

Defined Contribution and Executive Deferred Compensation Plan. Executive officers are eligible to participate in our 401(k) plan. We provide a matching contribution of up to 4% of base salary (up to IRS limits) to contributing participants with more than 12 months of service. Participants have the ability to choose from a variety of investment options under the 401(k) plan. We have suspended the match on the 401(k) plan effective February 4, 2018.

We also provide a Non-Qualified Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (the *Deferral Plan*) for a number of our executives including the Named Executive Officers. Under the Deferral Plan, each covered executive has the right to defer receipt of a portion of his or her total compensation each year. For Named Executive Officers, we match the amount of deferred compensation up to a maximum of ten percent (10%) of an executive's total compensation (salary plus bonuses) for each year. Our matched portion vests at twenty percent (20%) per year in each of years four

(4) through eight (8) in order to encourage the retention of the executive receiving the match. Matching amounts also vest on retirement or termination of the executive's employment within three (3) years following a change of control. Retirement means a voluntary separation by an executive upon attaining age 62. We do not provide any defined benefit pension plan for our Named Executive Officers and believe that the Deferral Plan provides a benefit which partially offsets the lack of a defined benefit plan, but at a much smaller cost to us. We have suspended the match on the Deferral Plan effective February 4, 2018.

Deferred amounts (which include vested matching contributions) are paid to the executive following their retirement, death, disability or termination following a change of control of Stein Mart. Those amounts are paid either in a lump sum or as the executive elects. The plan allows for in service accounts whereby funds are channeled to accounts for specific purposes and are allowed by regulation to be withdrawn.

Automobile Allowance. Each Named Executive Officer receives an automobile allowance of \$3,300 per calendar quarter. Mr. Stein utilizes a company-owned automobile.

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Employment Agreements

Our Named Executive Officers have employment agreements that provide for payments upon a termination of employment by the executive for good reason or by us without cause. We believe that these agreements create incentives for our executives to build shareholder value without the fear of losing employment for situations other than for cause. These arrangements are intended to attract and retain qualified executives who could have job alternatives that may appear to them to be less risky absent these arrangements. Each of the employment agreements with Messrs. Hawkins and Kleffner and Ms. Morin contains, among other things, the following provisions:

Term. The current employment agreements with Messrs. Hawkins, Kleffner and Ms. Morin are each for a period of two (2) years. Both Mr. Hawkins' s and Mr. Kleffner' s employment agreements were amended in 2017 and now include an auto-renewal provision for successive two-year terms unless Stein Mart or the executive give written notice not to renew at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of the initial term or any renewal term. Ms. Morin' s employment agreement is also for a two-year term expiring in December 2018 but does not include an auto-renewal provision. Each of the employment agreements may be terminated before the end of their terms by us with or without cause or by the Named Executive Officer with or without good reason; provided, however, that Mr. Kleffner' s employment agreement requires the unanimous approval of our independent directors in order to terminate Mr. Kleffner.

Responsibilities. The employment agreements outline the responsibilities of each of the Named Executive Officers to devote, among other things, their full business time and attention to the affairs of Stein Mart.

Compensation. The employment agreements provide for base compensation to each Named Executive Officer, which compensation is reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee. Bonuses are paid on an annual incentive bonus program which is formula-driven and each officer receives Long-Term Incentive Compensation paid in the form of equity-based compensation. In addition, each Named Executive Officer is entitled to participate in our Deferral Plan. In addition, for 2018, 2019 and 2020, Mr. Kleffner' s employment agreement provides that Mr. Kleffner will be entitled to receive the greater of his earned bonus for the preceding fiscal year, if any, or a retention bonus of \$150,000 if he remains in his current position on April 1st of such year.

For a detailed discussion of the provisions of the employment agreements applicable to termination of employment, see [Executive Compensation – Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control](#) beginning on page 32.

Changes For 2018

In response to discussions with shareholders, we have made several changes in an effort to further align our executive compensation practices to the achievement of our goals. None of our Named Executive Officers received pay raises for fiscal 2017 nor will any receive base salary increases or incentives under a short-term incentive plan for fiscal 2018. Mr. Stein remains as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Stein' s fiscal 2018 compensation for his service as Chairman of the Board remains set at \$1.00 per pay period (\$24.00 per year).

For 2018, we sunset our Executive Split Dollar Life Insurance Plan, discussed above, and have moved all our Executives, including our Named Executive Officers into a traditional Group Term Life Insurance Plan that provides significantly lower caps on claims.

For 2018, the Compensation Committee continues to believe that Comparable Store Sales Growth and Operating Income, as adjusted, are the measures of our short-term success and will use those metrics for the Short-Term Incentive Plan. In addition, the Compensation Committee has focused our Executives on long-term growth by temporarily eliminating short-term incentives and has issued Long-Term Incentives (RSUs) to continue to align

incentives with growing shareholder value.

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COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation Committee, comprised entirely of independent directors, reviewed and discussed the above Compensation Discussion and Analysis with Stein Mart's management. Based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in these Proxy materials and incorporated by reference into the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2018.

Burton Tansky (Chairman)

Timothy Cost

Lisa Galanti

Richard L. Sisisky

Table of Contents**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The Summary Compensation Table summarizes the compensation paid or accrued by us to our Chief Executive Officer and our two other highest paid officers during the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.

The amounts reported in this section for stock and option awards may not represent the amounts that the Named Executive Officers will actually realize from the awards. Whether, and to what extent, a Named Executive Officer realizes value will depend on our performance and stock price and his or her continued employment.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal				Stock	Option	Non-Equity		
		Salary	Bonus	Awards	Awards	Incentive Plan Compensation	All Other Compensation	Total
Position	Year	(\$)	(\$)	\$(1)	\$(2)	\$(3)	\$(4)	(\$)
Hunt Hawkins	2017	563,500	-	127,055	-	-	89,310	779,865
Chief Executive Officer	2016	494,583	-	556,222	1,255,000	-	210,485	2,516,290
	2015	450,000	-	561,091	-	-	225,719	1,236,810
MaryAnne Morin ⁽⁵⁾	2017	717,099	350,000	77,405	410,000	-	92,183	1,646,687
President								
Gregory W. Kleffner	2017	400,500	-	70,962	-	-	74,471	545,933
Executive Vice President,	2016	398,583	-	480,600	251,000	-	220,730	1,350,914
Chief Financial Officer	2015	389,000	-	485,044	-	-	217,084	1,091,128

- (1) The amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with ASC Topic 718 of stock awards made during the fiscal years indicated. Forfeiture estimates have been disregarded in determining the amounts indicated. The grant date fair value of restricted share awards was based on the closing price of the common stock on the applicable grant dates. The grant date fair value of performance share awards granted at the Target level during fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017 were determined using a Monte-Carlo simulation model to estimate the relative and absolute TSR performance of the companies forming the S&P Apparel Retail Index as of the valuation dates of May 19, 2015, June 2, 2016 and May 15, 2017, respectively. Assuming performance at the Superior level, the maximum value of restricted shares and performance shares, respectively, as of the May 15, 2017 valuation date for each NEO would have been as follows: Mr. Hawkins \$75,567 and \$75,732, Ms. Morin \$77,405 and \$76,560 and Mr. Kleffner \$42,770 and \$42,288. See footnote 8 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.

- (2) The amounts reflect the aggregate grant date fair value computed in accordance with ASC Topic 718 of option awards made during the fiscal years indicated. Forfeiture estimates have been disregarded in determining the amounts indicated. The grant date fair value of stock options is estimated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the expected term for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 being derived via a lattice model. The grant date fair value of stock option awards was determined based on the assumptions in the following chart for grants made during each fiscal year indicated. There were no option awards granted during 2015 to the named executive officers. See footnote 8 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.

Assumptions	2017 Fiscal Year	2016 Fiscal Year
Weighted average volatility	43.11%	40.3%
Weighted average dividend yield	8.1%	4.0%
Weighted average risk-free interest rate	1.92%	1.6%
Weighted average expected term	5.0 years	5.6 years

- (3) The amounts reflect the cash awards to the named individuals under our Short-Term Incentive Plan.

- (4) All other compensation:

Name	Year	Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits		Dividends Paid on Restricted Stock Awards		Company Contributions 401(k) Plan	Company Contributions to Deferred Compensation Plans	Total (\$)
		(a)	(b)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	
D. Hunt Hawkins	2017	48,894	-	10,128	4,461	25,827	89,310	
MaryAnne Morin	2017	77,079	-	-	-	15,104	92,183	
Gregory W. Kleffner	2017	45,358	-	8,754	2,003	18,356	74,471	

- (a) Perquisites and other personal benefits consist of automobile allowances; medical benefits not provided to non-executive employees (includes excess medical, dental and vision payments); imputed income for the value of split dollar pre-retirement death benefit; relocation expenses; and medical administration and reinsurance cost-plus long-term disability and group life premiums. No single item exceeds the greater of \$25,000 or 10% of the aggregate value of all perquisites and other personal benefits received by any of the named executive officers, except for: medical benefit payments not provided to non-executive employees (which includes excess medical, dental and vision payments) in the amount of \$16,280 for Mr. Hawkins, \$23,078 for Mr. Kleffner and \$13,474 for Ms. Morin; imputed income for split dollar insurance in the amount of \$19,414 for Mr. Hawkins, \$8,754 for Mr. Kleffner and \$15,104 for Ms. Morin; and \$34,717 in relocation expenses for Ms. Morin
- (b) All perquisites and other personal benefits are valued on the basis of the aggregate incremental cost to us.
- (5) Ms. Morin received a sign-on bonus of \$100,000 and we paid her the bonus that she would have been entitled to at her previous employer in the amount of \$250,000.

Table of Contents**GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under				Estimated Future Payouts Under				All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Option	Ex or Pr O A
	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)				Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)						
	Threshold	Target	Superior	Outstanding	Threshold	Target	Superior				
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(\$/S	
/15/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,070	-		
/15/17	-	-	-	-	20,826	63,110	94,665	-	-		
	140,875	281,750	422,750	563,500	-	-	-	-	-		
/22/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000		
/15/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,530	-		
/15/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	21,054	63,800	95,700	-	-		
	181,250	362,500	543,500	725,000	-	-	-	-	-		
/15/17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,500	-		
/15/17	-	-	-	-	11,629	35,240	52,860	-	-		
	80,100	160,200	240,300	320,400	-	-	-	-	-		

(1) The amounts shown reflect the Threshold, Target, Superior and Outstanding annual incentive compensation payment levels under Stein Mart's Short-Term Incentive Program. These amounts are based on the individual's current position. Threshold payment levels were not achieved during 2017, so no short-term annual incentive compensation was paid for fiscal 2017.

(2) This column shows long-term compensation awards of performance shares granted in fiscal 2017. The Threshold amounts shown, which are 33% of the Target amounts, reflect the number of shares that would vest for a certain minimum level of performance. The Superior amounts shown, which are 150% of the Target amounts, represent the maximum number of performance shares that may be earned. The percentage of Target awards paid, if at all, is determined based on Stein Mart's relative TSR compared to that of the S&P Apparel Retail Index at the time of the grant.

(3) Grant date fair value is computed assuming Target level of performance awards.

Table of Contents**OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2017 FISCAL YEAR END FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

The following table shows the outstanding equity awards for each Named Executive Officer as of the end of the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.

	Option Awards				Stock Awards		
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options	Option Exercise	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested
	(#)	(#)	Price		(#)	(#)	(#)
	Exercisable	Unexercisable	(\$)	Expiration Date	(#)	(\$)(1)	(#)
ins	244,148 ⁽²⁾	-	4.93 ⁽²⁾	08/08/22	-	-	-
	43,125 ⁽²⁾	14,358 ⁽²⁾	8.44 ⁽²⁾	04/30/21	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	70,430 ⁽³⁾	45,780	105,660 ⁽⁴⁾
	-	500,000 ⁽²⁾	7.35 ⁽²⁾	03/14/26	-	-	-
orin	-	500,000 ⁽⁵⁾	3.72 ⁽⁵⁾	02/22/24	42,530 ⁽⁶⁾	27,645	63,800 ⁽⁷⁾
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
leffner	48,630 ⁽⁸⁾	-	5.48 ⁽⁸⁾	07/31/19	-	-	-
	161,766 ⁽⁸⁾	-	4.93 ⁽⁸⁾	08/08/22	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	48,010 ⁽⁹⁾	31,207	72,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾
	-	100,000 ⁽⁸⁾	7.35 ⁽⁸⁾	03/14/26	-	-	-

(1) The market value is determined by multiplying the number of shares by the closing price of our common stock on The NASDAQ Global Select Market as of the last business day of the fiscal year. The closing price of our stock on February 02, 2018 (the last business day of the fiscal year) was \$0.65. The actual value will depend on the fair market value on the date of vesting.

(2) Options granted on 07/31/2009 vest as follows: 33% on the third anniversary date, another 33% on the fourth anniversary date and the final 34% on the fifth anniversary date, and expire on the date shown, which is the tenth anniversary of the grant. Options granted on 08/08/12 vest as follows: 33% on the first anniversary date, another 33% on the second anniversary date and the final 34% on the third anniversary date and expire on the

date shown which is the tenth anniversary of the grant. Amounts and exercise price of options granted on 07/31/2009 and 08/08/12 automatically adjusted due to the February 2015 special dividend. Options granted on 03/14/2016 vest as follows: 33% on the third anniversary date, another 33% on the fourth anniversary date and the final 34% on the fifth anniversary date, and expire on the date shown, which is the tenth anniversary of the grant. Upon termination, except for death, disability, retirement or change of control, unvested options are forfeited.

- (3) The shares indicated represent 28,360 shares issued under the 2016 Long-Term Incentive Plan that cliff vest on February 2, 2019 plus 42,070 shares issued under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan that cliff vest on February 1, 2020. Upon termination, except for death, disability, retirement or change in control, unvested stock awards are forfeited.
- (4) The shares indicated consist of 42,550 Performance Shares, which represents the number of Performance Shares that would be issued at the Target level of the 2016 Long-Term Incentive Plan based on our TSR compared to that of the S&P 500 Apparel Retail Index over the cumulative three-year performance period that consists of fiscal years 2016-2018 plus 63,110 Performance Shares, which represents the number of Performance Shares that would be issued at the Target level of the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan based on our TSR compared to that of the S&P 500 Apparel Retail Index over the cumulative three-year performance period that consists of fiscal years 2017-2019. The actual Performance Shares that will be earned, if any, will be based on the actual performance level achieved and would vest if the participant remains employed by us on February 2, 2019 for the 2016 Plan and February 1, 2020 for the 2017 Plan. If the participant fails to remain employed due to death, disability, normal retirement or termination following a change of control, he will nevertheless receive a pro-rata portion of the Performance Shares he would have received had he remained employed for the full performance vesting period. This pro-rata award is based on the amount of elapsed time between the time of grant and the time of termination of employment for each applicable performance cycle.
- (5) Options granted on 02/22/2017 vest ratably over five (5) years at 20% evenly upon the grant date. All option grants expire on the date shown.
- (6) The shares indicated represent 42,530 shares issued under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan that cliff vest on February 1, 2020. Upon termination, except for death, disability, retirement or change in control, unvested stock awards are forfeited.
- (7) The shares indicated consist of 63,800 Performance Shares, which represents the number of Performance Shares that would be issued at the Target level of the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan based on our TSR compared to that of the S&P 500 Apparel Retail Index over the cumulative three-year performance period that consists of fiscal years 2017-2019. The actual Performance Shares that will be earned, if any, will be based on the actual performance level achieved and would vest if the participant remains employed by us on February 1, 2020 for the 2017 Plan. If the participant fails to remain employed due to death, disability, normal retirement or termination following a change of control, he will nevertheless receive a pro-rata portion of the Performance Shares he would have received had he remained employed for the full performance vesting period. This pro-rata award is based on the amount of elapsed time between the time of grant and the time of termination of employment for each applicable performance cycle.

- (8) Options granted on 08/08/12 vest as follows: 33% on the first anniversary date, another 33% on the second anniversary date and the final 34% on the third anniversary date. Options granted on 05/06/2014 vest ratably over five (5) years. 1/60th at the end of each month beginning May 2014. Upon termination, except for death, disability, retirement or change of control, unvested options are forfeited. Amounts and exercise price of options granted on 05/06/14 automatically adjusted due to the February 2015 special dividend. Options granted on 03/14/2016 vest as follows: 33% on the third anniversary date, another 33% on the fourth anniversary date and the final 34% on the fifth anniversary date, and expire on the date shown, which is the tenth anniversary of the grant. All option grants expire on the date shown.
- (9) The shares indicated represent 24,510 shares issued under the 2016 Long-Term Incentive Plan that cliff vest on February 2, 2019 plus 23,500 shares issued under the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan that cliff vest on February 1, 2020. Upon termination, except for death, disability, retirement or change in control, unvested stock awards are forfeited.

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- (10) The shares indicated consist of 36,760 Performance Shares, which represents the number of Performance Shares that would be issued at the Target level of the 2016 Long-Term Incentive Plan based on our TSR compared to that of the S&P 500 Apparel Retail Index over the cumulative three-year performance period that consists of fiscal years 2016-2018 plus 35,240 Performance Shares, which represents the number of Performance Shares that would be issued at the Target level of the 2017 Long-Term Incentive Plan based on our TSR compared to that of the S&P 500 Apparel Retail Index over the cumulative three-year performance period that consists of fiscal years 2017-2019. The actual Performance Shares that will be earned, if any, will be based on the actual performance level achieved and would vest if the participant remains employed by us on February 2, 2019 for the 2016 Plan and February 1, 2020 for the 2017 Plan. If the participant fails to remain employed due to death, disability, normal retirement or termination following a change of control, he will nevertheless receive a pro-rata portion of the Performance Shares he would have received had he remained employed for the full performance vesting period. This pro-rata award is based on the amount of elapsed time between the time of grant and the time of termination of employment for each applicable performance cycle.

OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 3, 2018

The following table provides information relating to options exercised and stock awards that vested during the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018, for each of the Named Executive Officers.

	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
Name	(#)	(\$)	(#)	(\$)(1)
Hawkins	-	-	16,031	58,353
ne Morin	-	-	-	-
W. Kleffner	-	-	13,858	50,443

- (1) The value realized represents the number of shares acquired on vesting multiplied by the closing market price of our common stock as listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market on the date of vesting. Includes value related to shares withheld for payment of taxes.

NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Amounts credited to each Named Executive Officer's account will receive earnings (loss) depending upon the investment option elected by each named executive. Such amounts are not preferential, as returns are calculated in the same manner and at the same rate as earnings for all other investors in the investment options detailed below. The following table shows the current investment options available under our Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan and their annual rates of return for the calendar year ended December 31, 2017.

Fund	Annual	Fund	Annual
	Rate of Return		Rate of Return

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Model Portfolio	Conservative	5.96%	Dreyfus Stock Index	21.54%
Model Portfolio	Moderate/Conservative	11.07%	American Funds IS Growth	28.29%
Model Portfolio	Moderate	15.23%	JPMorgan Mid Cap Value	13.76%
Model Portfolio	Moderate/Aggressive	18.90%	Janus Henderson Entrp. SVC	27.09%
Model Portfolio	Aggressive	23.65%	DFA VA US Targeted Value	9.77%
Fidelity VIP Investment Grade Bond		4.16%	Vanguard VIF Small Company Growth	23.46%
Nationwide VIT Money Market		0.47%	Oppenheimer VA Global Securities	36.66%
American Century VP Inflation		3.67%	MFS VIT-II International Value	26.82%
MFS VIT Value SVC		17.35%		

The earnings (loss) realized by each of the Named Executive Officers is reflected in the table below:

	Executive	Registrant	Aggregate		
	Contributions in	Contributions in	Earnings/(Loss) in	Aggregate	Aggregate Balance
	Last Fiscal Year	Last Fiscal Year	Last Fiscal Year	Withdrawals/Distributions	at Last FYE
Name	\$(1)	\$(2)	(\$)	(\$)	\$(3)
D. Hunt Hawkins	54,002	27,001	221,331	-	1,542,347
M a r y A n n e Morin	30,208	15,104	4,291	-	49,603
Gregory W . Kleffner	42,168	19,191	335,011	-	2,118,920

- (1) The amount reflected for each of the Named Executive Officers is reported as compensation to such Named Executive Officer in the Summary Compensation Table (Salary and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation columns).
- (2) Registrant contributions are reported as compensation in the Summary Compensation Table (All Other Compensation column).
- (3) The following amounts reflected in this column were reported as compensation to the applicable Named Executive Officer in the Summary Compensation Table for previous years \$1,147,830 for Mr. Hawkins; \$0 for Ms. Morin and \$1,334,029 for Mr. Kleffner.

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POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our Named Executive Officers. The employment agreements provide for certain payments and other benefits if a Named Executive Officer's employment terminates under circumstances specified in the agreement or if there is a change in control of Stein Mart. Additionally, awards under our 2001 Omnibus Plan are subject to pro-rata vesting and/or payment in the event of a termination in certain circumstances. The following discussion outlines the applicable provisions of the employment agreements with Messrs. Hawkins, Kleffner and Ms. Morin. For additional discussion of the employment agreements, see the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 13.

Employment Agreements

Termination Events. In the event a Named Executive Officer is terminated by us for cause (as defined below) or if the Named Executive Officer leaves during the employment term without good reason (as defined below), then our only obligations to the executive are to pay his or her base salary through the date of termination, and to provide such other benefits as having been vested. However, if the Named Executive Officer is terminated by us without cause, or if he or she terminates his or her employment for good reason, or in the event we fail to renew the Named Executive Officer's employment agreement on expiration (or deliver notice of non-renewal prior to expiration) on terms not materially less than in their current employment agreement, then in addition to payment of base salary through the termination date, the Named Executive Officer is entitled to receive one hundred percent (100%) of his or her current annual base salary paid out over a period of twelve (12) months, beginning six (6) months following his or her termination. During a continuation period of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months following his or her termination, he or she also receives continued coverage under our medical, life and disability insurance programs. Finally, for Named Executive Officers, if such termination without cause (by us) or for good reason (by the executive) occurs within two (2) years following a change in control (as defined below), then the severance payment is two hundred percent (200%) of the sum of (A) amounts otherwise payable to the Named Executive Officer for termination without cause or for good reason (other than continued insurance coverage) and (B) an amount equal to the Target short-term incentive for the year in which the termination occurs (without proration). Mr. Kleffner's employment may not be terminated by Stein Mart without the unanimous approval of our independent directors.

Good reason includes, among other things, (i) a material and continuing failure to pay compensation and benefits earned by the Named Executive Officer, (ii) a material reduction in the Named Executive Officer's compensation or benefits which is materially more adverse to the executive than similar reductions applicable to other executives of a similar level of status within Stein Mart (or, with respect to Mr. Kleffner, no other members covered by an employment agreement are receiving similar reductions in compensation), (iii) a reduction in the incentive compensation or deferred compensation or contribution matching levels where such reductions are applicable to the executive only, without similar reductions for all other executive officers, (iv) a material breach of the employment agreement by us, (v) any requirement that the executive perform duties inconsistent with ethical or lawful business practices, (vi) the required relocation of the Named Executive Officer to a principal place of employment more than 100 miles from his or her current principal place of employment or, (vii) following a change in control, a material change in the Named Executive Officer's duties, roles or responsibilities. Ms. Morin also may terminate her employment for good reason if, following the appointment of a CEO other than Hunt Hawkins or Jay Stein, there is a material change in her duties, roles or responsibilities.

Cause includes, among other things, that the Named Executive Officer (i) has been convicted of, or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony involving dishonesty, theft, misappropriation, embezzlement, fraud, crimes against property or person, or moral turpitude which negatively impacts us; (ii) intentionally furnishes materially false, misleading, or incomplete information concerning a substantial matter to us or persons to whom the executive reports;

(iii) intentionally fails to fulfill any assigned responsibilities for compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or violates the same; (iv) intentionally and wrongfully damages material assets of ours; (v) intentionally and wrongfully discloses material confidential information of ours; (vi) intentionally and wrongfully engages in any competitive activity which would constitute a material breach of the duty of loyalty; (vii) intentionally breaches any stated material employment policy or any material provision of our ethics policy which could reasonably be expected to expose us to liability, (viii) intentionally commits a material breach of the employment agreement, or (ix) intentionally engages in acts or omissions which constitute failure to follow reasonable and lawful directives of ours.

Change in Control means the occurrence of any of the following: (i) the Board approves the sale of all or substantially all of our assets in a single transaction or series of related transactions; (ii) we sell and/or one or more shareholders sells a sufficient amount of our capital stock (whether by tender offer, original issuance, or a single or series of related stock purchase and sale agreements and/or transactions) sufficient to confer on the purchaser or purchasers thereof (whether individually or a group acting in concert) beneficial ownership of at least 35% of the combined voting power of our voting securities; (iii) we are

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party to a merger, consolidation or combination, other than any merger, consolidation or combination that would result in the holders of our voting securities outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving entity) more than 50% of the combined voting power of our voting securities outstanding immediately after such merger, consolidation or combination; or (iv) a majority of our Board of Directors consists of individuals who are not continuing directors (as defined in the applicable employment agreement).

Death and Disability. The employment agreements also provide that in the event of the Named Executive Officer's death, his or her estate shall receive annual base compensation through the end of the month during which the death occurred, plus whatever bonus the Named Executive Officer was entitled to for the year during which the death occurred. Normal payments will also be made for the Named Executive Officer's benefit under our other benefit plans in which he or she was a participant. Additionally, if the Named Executive Officer has any Options or Restricted Shares (but excluding Performance Shares) which are unvested on the date of termination due to the Named Executive Officer's death, we will pay to the Named Executive Officer's estate: (i) the net value of the excess, if any, of the closing price of our common stock on the date of death and the exercise price of any unvested options multiplied by the number of shares of common stock subject to such unvested options; and (ii) the value of the closing price of our common stock on the date of death, multiplied by the number of unvested Restricted Shares. In the event that termination is a result of permanent disability, such Named Executive Officer may be terminated if he or she does not recover within six (6) months following the onset of the disability, and the executive will receive a pro rata portion of his or her bonus for the year in which the termination occurred, and an additional nine (9) months base compensation following termination, as well as payment of benefits from any of our benefit plans in which the disabled executive was a participant, including any disability plan.

Restrictive Covenant. Each executive agrees to maintain all of our trade secrets fully confidential, in perpetuity and agrees to certain non-solicitation provisions in favor of us.

Internal Revenue Code Section 409A. The employment agreements of the Named Executive Officers contain provisions intended to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 409A which may have the effect of postponing payments received by the Named Executive Officers following the termination of their employment with us.

Equity Awards

Termination events for awards under our 2001 Omnibus Plan include death, disability, and retirement following age 62 or termination within two (2) years of a change in control. The definition of change in control used in the 2001 Omnibus Plan is the same definition used in the employment agreements discussed above.

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PROPOSAL NO. 2 -

ADVISORY RESOLUTION ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We are asking shareholders to approve an advisory resolution approving our executive compensation as reported in this proxy statement. As described previously, in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this proxy statement, the Compensation Committee has structured our executive compensation program to achieve the following key objectives:

How Our Executive Compensation

Objective	Program Achieves This Objective
Pay For Performance	Our annual Short-Term Incentive Plan provides performance-based cash incentive awards focused on closely aligning rewards with results.
Align the Interests of Our Executives and Shareholders	Our Long-Term Incentive Plan promotes a long-term focus on results to align employee and shareholder interests.
Attract and Retain Top Talent	Our executive compensation program is designed to be similar to the programs that are offered by other companies in our industry because of our desire to attract and retain top-level executives in the market in which we operate and compete for talent.

We urge shareholders to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page 13 of this proxy statement, which describes in more detail how our executive compensation policies and procedures operate and are designed to achieve our compensation objectives, as well as the Summary Compensation Table and other related compensation tables and narrative, which provide detailed information on the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. The Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors believe that the policies and procedures articulated in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis are effective in achieving our goals and that the compensation of our Named Executive Officers reported in this proxy statement has contributed to our recent and long-term success.

In accordance with Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), we are asking shareholders to approve the following advisory resolution:

RESOLVED, that the shareholders of Stein Mart, Inc. approve, on an advisory basis, the 2017 compensation of our Named Executive Officers disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Summary Compensation Table and the related compensation tables, notes and narrative in this proxy statement for our 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

This advisory resolution, commonly referred to as a say-on-pay resolution, is not binding on the Board of Directors. Although non-binding, the Board and the Compensation Committee will review and consider the voting results when making future decisions regarding our executive compensation program. The Board of Directors has determined that holding an advisory vote on executive compensation every year is the most appropriate policy for us at this time.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ADVISORY RESOLUTION APPROVING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

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PROPOSAL NO. 3

APPROVAL OF THE STEIN MART 2018 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLAN

Our Board of Directors is asking our shareholders to approve the Stein Mart 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "2018 Plan"), including the authority to issue up to 4,100,000 shares of our common stock under the 2018 Plan. On January 23, 2018, our Board of Directors adopted the 2018 Plan, subject to approval by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting. The 2018 Plan is intended to replace the Stein Mart 2001 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "2001 Plan"), and following shareholder approval of the 2018 Plan no further grants will be made under the 2001 Plan.

The 2018 Plan includes a number of provisions that our Board of Directors believes serve the interests of our shareholders, including the following provisions:

Limits the number of shares that may be awarded to any single individual in any one year;

Prohibits paying dividends before the underlying award vests;

Prohibits pricing Options and stock appreciation rights ("SARs") at less than the fair market value of our common stock on the grant date;

Prohibits repurchasing underwater Options or SARs for cash;

Prohibits repricing or backdating Options and SARs without shareholder approval;

Subjects awards to our Clawback Policy;

Requires shareholder approval for material amendments; and

Administration by our Compensation Committee composed entirely of members who qualify as independent under NASDAQ rules, except as it relates to non-employee director awards, which the full Board administers.

If the 2018 Plan is not approved by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting, all awards granted under the 2018 Plan since its adoption will be forfeited and automatically terminate. Because there are insufficient shares available under the 2001 Plan to make grants to new and continuing employees and non-employee directors, the Compensation Committee would be required to revise its compensation philosophy and create other non-equity related compensation programs to attract, retain and compensate executives, non-employee directors and other key employees and consultants.

Summary of the 2018 Plan

The following summary of the 2018 Plan and the provisions described above do not contain all of the terms and conditions of the 2018 Plan and is qualified in its entirety by the specific language of the 2018 Plan, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A. The closing price of a share of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on May 3, 2018, was \$2.26.

General

Purpose. The purposes of the 2018 Plan are to (a) enable us to attract and retain the types of employees, consultants and directors who will contribute to our long-range success, (b) provide incentives that align the interests of employees, consultants and directors with those of our shareholders and (c) promote the success of our business.

Administration. Either the Compensation Committee or another committee consisting of one or more non-employee members of the Board may administer the 2018 Plan. The Compensation Committee presently administers the 2018 Plan, except that the Board administers the 2018 Plan as it relates to the grant or adjustment of awards to non-employee directors. References in this proxy statement to the Plan Committee mean our Board with reference to awards to non-employee directors under the 2018 Plan.

Awards are made at the exclusive discretion of the Plan Committee. Subject to the provisions of the 2018 Plan, the Plan Committee has full power and authority to administer the 2018 Plan including, but not limited to, (i) determining which eligible participants receive awards under the 2018 Plan, (ii) determining the number and types of awards to be made to an

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eligible participant, if any, and (iii) determining the terms and conditions of any award. The Plan Committee also has full power to administer and interpret the terms of the 2018 Plan and all awards thereunder. Unless otherwise expressly provided in the 2018 Plan, all of the Plan Committee's designations, determinations, interpretations, and other decisions with respect to the 2018 Plan or any award thereunder are final, conclusive and binding upon all persons.

The Plan Committee may delegate some or all of its authority under the 2018 Plan to a subcommittee or to one or more of our officers, subject in each case to certain limitations specified in the 2018 Plan.

Eligible Participants. The Plan Committee or its delegates, as applicable, may grant awards to employees, consultants or directors of Stein Mart or its affiliates, including persons who are reasonably expected to become an employee, consultant or director of Stein Mart or its affiliates after the receipt of an award. As of February 3, 2018, we had approximately 10,200 employees and nine non-employee directors who would be eligible to participate in the 2018 Plan, although the number of individuals who are selected to participate in the 2018 Plan may vary from year to year. Consultants are also eligible to participate in the 2018 Plan, though historically Mr. Legler is the only consultant who has participated.

Available Shares. Subject to the adjustment provisions included in the 2018 Plan, a total of 4,100,000 shares of our common stock will be authorized for awards granted under the 2018 Plan. This reserve will be reduced by one share for every one share that is subject to an award granted under the 2018 Plan, including Options, SARs and full-value awards, such as Restricted Share, Restricted Share Units and performance awards.

In general, if an award granted under the 2018 Plan is canceled, forfeited or expires prior to exercise or realization in full or in part, then the shares subject to that portion of the award will again be available for issuance under the 2018 Plan. Additionally, shares subject to an award that is settled in cash, withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations with respect to Restricted Share, Restricted Share Units, Performance Shares or other full-value awards, or subject to an award that is exchanged with Stein Mart's permission prior to the issuance of one or more award(s) not involving the issuance of shares, will also again be available for issuance under the 2018 Plan. However, shares subject to an award under the 2018 Plan that are tendered in payment of the exercise price of an Option or SAR, withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations with respect to Options or SARs, not issued as a result of the net settlement of an Option or SAR or repurchased on the open market with the proceeds of an Option exercise price will not be available again for issuance under the 2018 Plan.

In addition, shares underlying any award granted under the 2001 Plan that expires, terminates or is canceled or forfeited under the terms of the 2001 Plan will be available for grant under the 2018 Plan. Following shareholder approval of the 2018 Plan, no further awards will be granted made under the 2001 Plan.

Award Limits. Under the 2018 Plan, no participant in any one fiscal year can receive (i) Options with respect to more than 1 million shares of our common stock, (ii) Restricted Share, Restricted Share Units, Performance Shares, Performance Share Units or other equity-based awards with respect to more than 1 million shares of our common stock or (iii) cash awards with an aggregate value that exceeds \$2.5 million. If an award is to be settled in cash, the number of shares of common stock on which the award is based do not count toward the individual share limit described above.

Additional Limit on Non-Employee Directors. In addition to the award limits described above, non-employee directors who are not consultants may not receive awards with respect to more than 70,000 shares of our common stock in the aggregate in any single fiscal year. As discussed in the section entitled Related Party Transactions elsewhere in this proxy statement, Mr. Legler currently serves as a consultant to Stein Mart.

Types of Awards

As discussed in more detail below, the 2018 Plan permits a variety of forms of equity grants including Options, SARs, Restricted Shares, Restricted Share Units, performance awards and other equity-based awards.

Options. The 2018 Plan authorizes the Plan Committee to grant non-qualified and/or incentive Options to eligible participants chosen by the Plan Committee that give the participant the right, after satisfaction of any vesting conditions and prior to the expiration or termination of the Option, to purchase shares of our common stock at a fixed price. The Plan Committee determines the exercise price for each share subject to an Option granted under the 2018 Plan, which exercise price may not be less than the fair market value (as defined in the 2018 Plan) of our common stock on the date of grant. The Plan Committee also determines the number of shares subject to each Option, the time or times when each Option becomes exercisable, the term of each Option, methods of exercise, whether or not each Option will contain a corresponding SAR and any other terms and conditions of each Option. The maximum term of any Option will be ten (10) years from the date of grant.

Dividend equivalents will not be paid with respect to Options granted under the 2018 Plan.

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Stock Appreciation Rights. Subject to the terms and conditions of the 2018 Plan, the Plan Committee is authorized to grant SARs to eligible participants chosen by the Plan Committee that give the participant the right, after satisfaction of any vesting conditions and prior to the expiration or termination of the SAR, to receive the excess of the fair market value (as defined in the 2018 Plan) of our common stock on the date of exercise over the exercise price of the SAR. The Plan Committee determines the exercise price for each SAR granted under the 2018 Plan, which exercise price may not be less than the fair market value (as defined in the 2018 Plan) of our common stock on the date of grant. The Plan Committee also determines the number of shares subject to each SAR, the time or times when each SAR becomes exercisable, the term of each SAR, methods of exercise, methods of settlement (which may include cash, common stock or a combination of the two), whether the SAR is granted independently or in tandem with an Option and any other terms and conditions of any SAR.

Dividend equivalents will not be paid with respect to SARs granted under the 2018 Plan.

Restricted Awards. The Plan Committee may grant Restricted Share awards or awards of hypothetical units having a value equal to an identical number of shares of our common stock (Restricted Share Units) to eligible Participants, subject to terms and conditions relating to forfeiture, transfer and other restrictions (including the right to receive dividends or dividend equivalents). Restrictions on Restricted Share and Restricted Share Unit awards may lapse separately or in combination at such time or times as the Plan Committee may deem appropriate. The Plan Committee will determine all terms and conditions of these types of awards, subject to the terms of the 2018 Plan, including, with respect to Restricted Share Units, methods of settlement (which may include cash, common stock, or a combination of the two).

Except as otherwise determined by the Plan Committee or as set forth in the 2018 Plan, upon termination of employment of a participant or the termination of a consultant or director for any reason during the applicable restriction period, all Restricted Shares and/or Restricted Share Units still subject to restriction are forfeited by the participant and reacquired by Stein Mart. The Plan Committee may, however, waive any or all restrictions with respect to Restricted Shares or Restricted Share Units held by a Participant when it finds that such a waiver would be in our interest.

Dividends paid on Restricted Shares and, to the extent provided by the Plan Committee, dividend equivalents with respect to Restricted Share Units, will be withheld for the participant's account until such time as the Restricted Shares or Restricted Share Units vest, at which time the withheld dividends or dividend equivalents, as applicable (including interest, at the discretion of the Plan Committee), will be paid in cash or, at the discretion of the Plan Committee, in shares of our common stock having a fair market value (as defined in the 2018 Plan) equal to the amount of such dividends or dividend equivalents.

Performance Awards. The Plan Committee may grant Performance Share awards or awards of hypothetical units having a value equal to an identical number of shares of our common stock (Performance Share Units) to eligible Participants, which become payable at the end of an award period based upon attainment of one or more performance goals determined by the Plan Committee. Such Performance Share or Performance Share Unit awards may also be subject to terms and conditions relating to forfeiture, transfer and other restrictions, as determined by the Plan Committee. The Plan Committee will determine all terms and conditions of these types of awards, subject to the terms of the 2018 Plan, including, with respect to Performance Share Units, methods of settlement (which may include cash, common stock or a combination of the two).

Except as otherwise determined by the Plan Committee or as set forth in the 2018 Plan, upon termination of employment of a participant or the termination of a consultant or director for any reason during the applicable performance period, all Performance Shares and/or Performance Share Units still subject to ongoing performance

periods are forfeited by the participant and reacquired by Stein Mart.

Dividends and dividend equivalents will not be paid with respect to Performance Shares or Performance Share Units granted under the 2018 Plan.

Other Equity-Based and Cash Awards. In addition to the award types described above, the Plan Committee may grant any other type of award payable by delivery of our common stock, measured by reference to the value of our common stock, or payable in cash, in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions as the Plan Committee determines in its sole discretion, subject to the terms of the 2018 Plan. Such awards may be made in addition to or in conjunction with other awards under the 2018 Plan. Such awards may include unrestricted shares of our common stock, which may be awarded, without limitation (except as provided in the 2018 Plan), as a bonus, in payment of director fees, in lieu of cash compensation, in exchange for cancellation of a compensation right, as a bonus, or upon the attainment of performance goals or otherwise, or rights to acquire shares of our common stock from us. Dividends and dividend equivalents may be credited with respect to such awards, but no dividends or dividend equivalents will be paid with respect to any such award until such award vests.

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Transferability

Awards granted under the 2018 Plan are not transferable other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, except that (a) a participant may designate in writing a beneficiary to exercise an award following the participant's death and (b) the Plan Committee may, in its sole discretion, permit the transfer of any award (other than Incentive Stock Options, as defined in the 2018 Plan). No award may be pledged or otherwise encumbered, and any attempt to pledge or otherwise encumber an award shall be void and unenforceable against Stein Mart or any affiliate.

Clawback

Under the 2018 Plan, we may cancel any award, require reimbursement of any award by a participant, and effect any other right of recoupment of equity or other compensation provided under the 2018 Plan in accordance with any of our policies that may be adopted and/or modified from time to time, including our Clawback Policy.

Federal Income Tax Treatment

Non-qualified Options. With respect to non-qualified Options granted to Optionees under the 2018 Plan, (i) no income is realized by the Optionee at the time the non-qualified Option is granted, (ii) at exercise, ordinary income is realized by the Optionee in an amount equal to the difference between the Option price and the fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise, such amount is treated as compensation and is subject to both income and wage tax withholding, and we may claim a tax deduction for the same amount, and (iii) on disposition, appreciation or depreciation after the date of exercise is treated as either short-term or long-term capital gain or loss depending on the holding period.

Incentive Stock Options. With respect to Incentive Stock Options, there is no tax to the optionee at the time of the grant. Upon the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option, an optionee will not recognize taxable income, although the excess of the fair market value of the shares obtained upon exercise of the Incentive Stock Option over the exercise price will increase the alternative minimum taxable income of the optionee, which may cause such optionee to incur alternative minimum tax. The payment of any alternative minimum tax attributable to the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option would be allowed as a credit against the regular tax liability of the optionee in a later year to the extent the optionee's regular tax liability is in excess of the alternative minimum tax for that year. If an Incentive Stock Option is disposed of after two years in a qualifying disposition, the difference between the strike price and the fair market value of the shares obtained in exercise of the Option is taxed as a long-term capital gain. Options disposed of in a non-qualifying disposition will be taxed at ordinary income rates to the optionee.

SARs. If a participant exercises an SAR and receives the appreciation element in cash or in shares of our common stock, the cash and the fair market value of our common stock received are compensation income in the year of exercise and constitute wages for purposes of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) or the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), subject to income and wage tax withholding. We may claim a deduction for the compensation element in a SAR for our taxable year in which or with which the Participant's taxable year of inclusion ends.

Restricted Share and Restricted Share Unit Awards. Upon becoming entitled to receive shares at the end of the applicable restriction period without forfeiture, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares at that time or when the shares are initially received (despite being restricted) if the recipient makes a valid election under Section 83(b) of the Code. Delivery of the shares is subject to both income and wage tax withholding. We generally will be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount that is taxable as ordinary compensation income to the recipient.

Performance Awards. Performance awards granted under the 2018 Plan will be subject to the applicable provisions of the Code, including Section 83, the Federal Income Tax Regulations and other administrative guidance issued thereunder. Participants who receive grants of performance awards (i) will not recognize any taxable income at the time of the grant and (ii) upon settlement of the performance awards, the participant will realize ordinary compensation income in an amount equal to the cash and the fair market value of any shares of our common stock received. We generally will be entitled to a deduction equal to the amount that is taxable as ordinary compensation income to the participant. The settlement of performance awards will be subject to wage and income tax withholding.

Section 162(m). The 2001 Plan provided for grants of awards intended to comply with the performance-based compensation exception to the \$1 million limit on the amount that a public company may deduct for compensation to certain executives under Section 162(m) of the Code (Section 162(m)). Effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, the Section 162(m) exception for performance-based compensation was repealed by The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law on December 22, 2017 (Tax Cuts Act). The Tax Cuts Act also expanded the group of employees and former employees whose compensation is subject to the deduction limitation in Section 162(m). As a result, we may not be entitled to take a tax deduction after 2017 for compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to any current or former named executive officer.

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Section 409A. The 2018 Plan is intended to comply with Section 409A of the Code and will be interpreted and administered to be in compliance with Section 409A to the maximum extent permitted. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the 2018 Plan, to the extent required to avoid accelerated taxation and tax penalties under Section 409A of the Code, amounts that would otherwise be payable and benefits that would otherwise be provided pursuant to the 2018 Plan during the six month period immediately following a participant's termination will instead be paid on the first payroll date after the six-month anniversary of the participant's separation from service (or the participant's death, if earlier). Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither Stein Mart nor the Plan Committee shall have any obligation to take any action to prevent the assessment of any excise tax or penalty on any participant under Section 409A of the Code and neither Stein Mart nor the Plan Committee will have any liability to any participant for such tax or penalty.

Changes in Capitalization and Similar Changes

In the event of changes in our outstanding common stock or our capital structure by reason of any stock or extraordinary cash dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, extraordinary corporate transaction such as a recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, combination or exchange, or other similar change in capitalization, the aggregate number of shares of common stock with respect to which awards may be made under the 2018 Plan, and the terms, types and number of shares or other consideration subject to any outstanding awards under the 2018 Plan, will be equitably adjusted by the Plan Committee to the extent necessary to preserve the economic intent of such awards.

Change of Control

If there is a change in control of Stein Mart, our obligations under the 2018 Plan will be binding upon the successor corporation or organization resulting from the change in control transaction. If a participant is terminated without cause or resigns for good reason (for employees and consultants, as such terms are defined in any employment or service agreement with Stein Mart or, if no such definition exists, or if the participant is a non-employee director, as defined in the 2018 Plan) within 24 months following the change in control, all of the participant's performance awards that are subject to incomplete performance periods will vest pro rata based upon the length of the performance period that has passed, at the target level of performance. All other awards that are in effect as of the date of such termination will vest in full or be deemed earned in full, effective on the date of such termination.

In the event that a change in control transaction results in a cash payment for each outstanding share of our common stock, then all awards other than performance awards will be cancelled and each holder thereof will receive a corresponding cash payment for each share of our common stock represented by such awards, less the exercise price of any Options or SARs. In such an event any Options or SARs with an exercise price that equals or exceeds the amount of the cash payment will be canceled by the Plan Committee without any payment.

In addition, in the event of a change in control where the consideration paid to the existing shareholders is stock or a combination of cash and stock, the Plan Committee may, in its discretion and upon at least ten days advance notice to the affected persons, cancel outstanding awards and pay the holders thereof, in cash, stock or any combination thereof, the value of such awards based upon the price per share to be received by other Stein Mart shareholders in connection with the change in control. In such an event any Options or SARs with an exercise price that equals or exceeds the price per share to be received by other shareholders will be canceled by the Plan Committee without any payment.

The 2018 Plan defines a change in control as the occurrence of any one of the following: (a) a person (or more than one person acting as a group), other than Jay Stein or any group of which Jay Stein is a member, acquires beneficial ownership of our common stock that, together with the stock held by such person or group, constitutes more than fifty

percent (50%) of the total fair market value or total voting power of our common stock; *provided, that*, a change in control shall not occur if any person (or more than one person acting as a group) owns more than fifty percent (50%) of the total fair market value or total voting power of our common stock and acquires additional stock; (b) one person (or more than one person acting as a group), other than Jay Stein or any group of which Jay Stein is a member, acquires (or has acquired during the twelve-month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition) ownership of our common stock possessing thirty-five percent (35%) or more of the total voting power of our common stock; (c) a majority of the members of our Board are replaced during any twelve-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of our Board before the date of appointment or election; or (d) one person (or more than one person acting as a group) acquires (or has acquired during the twelve-month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition) assets from Stein Mart that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than forty percent (40%) of the total gross fair market value of all of our assets immediately before such acquisition(s).

The 2018 Plan does not provide for a gross-up for any excise taxes imposed on golden parachute payments under Code Section 4999.

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Amendment and Termination.

The Board may from time to time amend, alter, suspend or discontinue the 2018 Plan. Shareholder approval of an amendment must be obtained if otherwise required by applicable law or the listing requirements of the principal securities exchange or market on which shares of our common stock are then traded. The 2018 Plan will automatically terminate on the tenth anniversary of the effective date, which will be January 23, 2028. No award may be granted under the 2018 Plan after the 2018 Plan is terminated, but awards granted prior to its termination date may extend beyond that date until they lapse or are terminated by their own terms and conditions. No amendment or termination of the 2018 Plan alters or impairs any award granted and outstanding under the 2018 Plan without the consent of the affected participant.

The Plan Committee generally may modify, amend or cancel any award or waive any restrictions or conditions applicable to any award or the exercise of an award. Any modification or amendment that impairs the rights of the participant increases the participant's obligations or increases the participant's federal income tax liability with respect to an award will be effective only if agreed to by that participant. Without shareholder approval, the Plan Committee cannot amend the terms of outstanding Options or SARs to reduce the exercise price of such outstanding Options or SARs; cancel outstanding Options or SARs in exchange for Options or SARs with an exercise price that is less than the exercise price of the original Options or SARs; or cancel outstanding Options or SARs with an exercise price above the current per share price of the Common Stock in exchange for cash or other securities or take any other action that would be treated as a repricing of an Option or SAR under the rules of the principal securities exchange or market on which shares of our common stock are then traded.

New Plan Benefits

In March and April of 2018, under the 2018 Plan, our current executive officers received a total of 500,000 Restricted Share Unit awards, our current directors as a group received a total of 37,331 Restricted Share Unit awards, and all other employees as a group received a total of 630,000 Restricted Share Unit awards, subject in each case to forfeiture in the event that the 2018 Plan is not approved by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting. Other than these awards, the benefits that will be granted or paid under the 2018 Plan are equity awards to be made in the future and therefore cannot be currently determined. Awards granted under the 2018 Plan are within the discretion of the Plan Committee (or the Board, in the case of equity awards to non-employee directors), and the Plan Committee has not determined future awards or who might receive them. Current executive officers did not receive any share awards during fiscal 2017. Current directors as a group did not receive any share awards during fiscal 2017, nor did any other employees receive any share awards during fiscal 2017.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE STEIN MART, INC. 2018 OMNIBUS STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN.

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PROPOSAL NO. 4

APPROVAL OF THE STEIN MART EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

Our Board of Directors is asking our shareholders to approve the Stein Mart, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the ESPP), including the authority to issue up to 2,000,000 shares of our common stock under the ESPP. The ESPP was adopted by our Board of Directors effective as of January 1, 2018, subject to approval by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting. The ESPP is intended to replace the Amended and Restated Stein Mart, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan which was originally adopted in 1997 (the 1997 Plan).

The purpose of the ESPP is to provide eligible employees of Stein Mart and certain of its subsidiaries with an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in Stein Mart through the purchase of shares of our common stock. The ESPP is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan meeting the requirements of Section 423 of the Code.

The maximum number of shares of our common stock that may be purchased under the ESPP will be 2,000,000, subject to adjustment as provided in the ESPP. If the ESPP is not approved by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting, no shares will be sold and all payroll deductions will be returned to participants without interest.

Summary of the ESPP

The following summary of the ESPP and the provisions described above do not contain all of the terms and conditions of the ESPP and is qualified in its entirety by the specific language of the ESPP, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix B. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this proposal have the same meaning as in the ESPP. The closing price of a share of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on May 3, 2018, was \$2.26.

General

Administration. The ESPP is administered by a committee of our Board of Directors appointed by the Board (the ESPP Committee), which at this time is the Compensation Committee. None of the members of the Compensation Committee is an officer or employee, or former officer or employee, of Stein Mart or its subsidiaries. The ESPP Committee has the authority to construe and interpret the ESPP, prescribe, amend and rescind rules relating to the ESPP's administration, and take any other actions necessary or desirable for the administration of the ESPP (including without limitation adopting sub-plans applicable to particular subsidiaries or locations, which sub-plans may be designed to be outside the scope of Section 423 of the Code). The ESPP Committee may correct any defect or supply any omission or reconcile any inconsistency or ambiguity in the ESPP. The decisions of the ESPP Committee with respect to the ESPP Plan are final and binding. All expenses of administering the ESPP are borne by us.

Shares Reserved. As noted above, 2,000,000 shares of our common stock have initially been reserved for issuance under the ESPP, subject to adjustment as described below. Shares delivered upon exercise of purchase rights under the ESPP may be shares of authorized but unissued common stock, treasury stock or common stock acquired in an open-market transaction. In the event of any change in our outstanding common stock by reason of a stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, split-up, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, reorganization or other capital change, the aggregate number and type of shares available for purchase under the ESPP, the number and type of shares granted or purchasable during an offering period and the purchase price per share under an outstanding purchase right will be appropriately adjusted in a manner that complies with Section 423 of the Code.

If any purchase rights granted under the ESPP expire or terminate without having been exercised, the unpurchased shares of common stock will again be available for purchase under the ESPP.

Eligibility. Participation in the ESPP is voluntary and limited to employees of Stein Mart and certain subsidiaries who have been employed by us for at least six months and are customarily employed for at least twenty hours per week and more than five months in any calendar year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the ESPP Committee may exclude from participation in the ESPP or any offering under the ESPP those employees who are highly compensated employees (within the meaning of Section 414(q) of the Code) and/or subject to the disclosure requirements of Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

As of February 3, 2018, approximately 8,954 employees were eligible to participate in the ESPP, however, at this time we do not allow our executive officers to participate in the ESPP.

Limitations. No participant in the ESPP may purchase more than 3,000 shares of our common stock during any one offering period, regardless of the total value of his or her payroll contributions during the offering period. No participant will be granted an option under the ESPP if, after the grant of the option, such participant (or any other person whose stock would be

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attributed to such participant pursuant to Section 424(d) of the Code) would own shares, or options to purchase shares, representing five percent or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of our stock. Furthermore, no participant will be granted an option under the ESPP if such option would cause the participant's cumulative rights to purchase stock under all of our employee stock purchase plans (as described in Section 423 of the Code) to accrue at a rate that exceeds \$25,000 of the Fair Market Value (as defined in the ESPP and determined at the time the option is granted) of our common stock for each calendar year.

General Terms of Participation

Offering Periods. The ESPP allows eligible employees to purchase shares of our common stock through payroll deductions made during six month offering periods commencing on or about January 1st and July 1st of each year (or such other times as determined by the ESPP Committee). At the beginning of each offering period, each participant in the applicable offering period will be granted an option to purchase, at the end of the offering period, a number of shares of our common stock determined by dividing the participant's accumulated payroll deductions by the applicable purchase price. The ESPP Committee can change the duration, frequency, start and end dates of offering periods to the extent permitted by Section 423 of the Code. If the ESPP is approved at the 2018 annual meeting, the first offering period under the ESPP, which commenced on January 1, 2018, will end on June 30, 2018. If the ESPP is not approved by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting, no shares will be sold and all payroll deductions will be returned to participants without interest.

Method of Participation. Participation in the ESPP is entirely voluntary. An eligible employee may authorize payroll deductions in whole percentage amounts of up to 10% (or such other maximum percentage as the ESPP Committee may determine) of his or her Compensation (as defined in the ESPP) to purchase shares of our common stock under the ESPP by properly completing an enrollment form in accordance with enrollment procedures established under the ESPP. The maximum payroll deduction for any participant per year is \$20,000. A Participant may decrease his or her payroll deductions (including to zero) no more than once during the course of any offering period, in accordance with procedures established under the ESPP. Stein Mart will not pay interest on payroll deductions or hold such amounts in a trust or in any segregated account.

Purchase Price. The purchase price per share of our common stock for each offering period will be the lesser of (i) eighty-five percent (or such greater percentage as designated by the ESPP Committee) of the Fair Market Value of a share of our common stock at the beginning of the offering period or (ii) eighty-five percent (or such greater percentage as designated by the ESPP Committee) of the Fair Market Value of a share of our common stock at the end of the offering period.

Withdrawal and Termination. A participant may withdraw from participation in the ESPP by giving Stein Mart written notice in accordance with procedures established under the ESPP. In addition, participation in the ESPP will terminate upon a participant's termination of employment. A participant who withdraws from an offering period and remains eligible for future participation may not re-commence participation within that same offering period. Upon withdrawal from the ESPP or termination of employment at least 30 days prior to the end of an offering period, cumulative amounts withheld in anticipation of a purchase of shares under the ESPP will be delivered to the participant.

Shareholder Rights. A participant will become a shareholder with respect to the shares purchased under the ESPP when the shares are transferred to the participant's account. A participant will have no rights as a shareholder with respect to shares for which an election to participate in an offering period has been made until such time.

Amendment and Termination of the ESPP. The ESPP Committee may, in its sole discretion, amend, suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time and for any reason without shareholder approval except as required by Section 423 of the Code or by the listing standards of any stock exchange upon which our common stock is listed. If the ESPP is terminated, the ESPP Committee may elect to terminate ongoing offering periods either immediately or once shares have been purchased on the next purchase date (which may, in the discretion of the ESPP Committee, be accelerated), or permit offering periods to expire in accordance with their terms. If any offering period is terminated before its scheduled expiration, all amounts not used to purchase shares will be returned to participants without interest, except as otherwise required by law.

Effective Date and Term. The ESPP was adopted by our Board of Directors effective January 1, 2018, subject to approval by our shareholders within twelve months. If the ESPP is approved by our shareholders at the 2018 annual meeting, it will have a term of ten years.

Corporate Transactions. In the event of a Corporate Transaction (as defined in the ESPP), and subject to the ESPP Committee's right to amend, suspend or terminate the ESPP at any time, each outstanding option will be assumed or substituted by the successor company. If the successor corporation refuses to assume or substitute an option, the offering period with respect to which the option relates will be shortened by setting a new date on which the offering period will end. The new purchase date will occur before the date of the Corporate Transaction. Prior to the new purchase date, the ESPP Committee will

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provide each participant with written notice, which may be electronic, of the new purchase date and that the participant's option will be exercised automatically on such date unless the participant has validly withdrawn from the offering.

New Plan Benefits. Benefits and purchases of shares of our common stock under the ESPP depend on elections made by employees and the fair market value of our common stock on dates in the future. As a result, it is not possible to determine the benefits that will be received by executive officers and other employees in the future under the ESPP. The closing price of our common stock on January 2, 2018 (the first trading day of the current offering period that began on January 1, 2018) was \$1.22, and as of April 18, 2018, a total of \$57,263.43 had been deducted from participant paychecks in connection with the current offering period. There were no deductions from paychecks of participants who are also executive officers. As described above, no employee may purchase shares under the ESPP at a rate that exceeds either \$20,000 in fair market value in any calendar year or 3,000 shares in any offering period.

For information regarding past purchases under our previous plan, please see [Aggregate Past Purchases Under the 1997 Plan](#) below.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences Relating to the ESPP

The following is a summary of certain material federal income tax consequences associated with the grant and exercise of purchase rights under the ESPP under current federal tax laws and certain other tax considerations associated with purchase rights under the ESPP. The summary is based upon the laws and regulations in effect as of the date of this proxy statement and does not purport to be a complete statement of the law in this area. The summary also does not address tax rates or non-U.S., state or local tax consequences, nor does it address employment tax or other federal tax consequences except as noted. The exact federal income tax treatment of transactions under the ESPP will vary depending upon the specific facts and circumstances involved and participants are advised to consult their personal tax advisors with regard to all consequences arising from the grant or exercise of awards and the disposition of any acquired shares.

The ESPP is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan under Section 423 of the Code. In general, an employee will not recognize U.S. taxable income until the sale or other disposition of the shares of our common stock purchased under the ESPP. Upon such sale or disposition, the employee will generally be subject to tax in an amount that depends on the employee's holding period with respect to the shares.

If the shares are sold or disposed of more than one year from the date of purchase and more than two years after the first day of the offering period in which they were purchased, or upon the employee's death while owning the shares, the employee will recognize ordinary income in an amount generally equal to the lesser of: (i) an amount equal to 15% of the fair market value of the shares on the first day of the offering period (or such other percentage equal to the applicable purchase price discount), and (ii) the excess of the sale price of the shares over the purchase price. Any additional gain will be treated as long-term capital gain. If the shares held for the periods described above are sold and the sale price is less than the purchase price, then the employee will recognize a long-term capital loss in an amount equal to the excess of the purchase price over the sale price of the shares.

If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before the expiration of the holding periods described above, other than following the employee's death while owning the shares, the employee generally will recognize as ordinary income an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date the shares were purchased over the purchase price. Any additional gain or loss on such sale or disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the employee's holding period with respect to the shares.

We are not entitled to a deduction for amounts taxed as ordinary income or capital gain to an employee except to the extent of ordinary income recognized upon a sale or disposition of shares prior to the expiration of the holding periods described above. Participants are required to give Stein Mart prompt written notice of any sale or other disposition occurring within than one year from the date of purchase or two years from the first day of the offering period.

The ESPP is not qualified under the provisions of Section 401(a) of the Code and is not subject to any of the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE STEIN MART, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of our common stock voted on the proposal is required to approve it. The accompanying proxy will be voted for the proposal unless shareholders indicate a contrary choice. Broker non-votes and abstentions will have no effect on the vote.

Table of Contents**Aggregate Past Purchases Under the 1997 Plan**

As of February 3, 2018, approximately 1,286,308.57 shares of our common stock had been purchased under the 1997 Plan since its inception in 1997. The following numbers of shares have been purchased by the persons and groups identified below:

Name	Aggregate Number of Shares Purchased in the Most Recent Completed Offering Period Ended June 30, 2017	Aggregate Number of Shares Purchased Under the Purchase Plan in All Completed Offering Periods
Named Executive Officers		
D. Hunt Hawkins	-	-
MaryAnne Morin	-	-
Gregory Kleffner	4,562	19,364
All executive officers (including the Named Executive Officers identified above)	4,562	33,654
All Non-Employee Directors	-	-
Each other person who has received 5% or more of the options, warrants or rights under the 1997 Plan	-	-
All other employees	223,997	1,252,654
Total	228,559	1,286,308

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AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

For the year ended February 3, 2018 (fiscal 2017), the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Stein Mart was composed of three independent directors, as defined under the NASDAQ's Marketplace Rules and the rules and regulations of the SEC. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that during the 2017 fiscal year, Irwin Cohen has qualified as an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC under Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K.

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes and controls of Stein Mart and the audits of Stein Mart's financial statements and of Stein Mart's internal control over financial reporting. The purpose of the Audit Committee is to monitor the integrity of the financial statements, review Stein Mart's internal accounting procedures and controls, oversee the independence, qualification and performance of Stein Mart's independent registered certified public accounting firm and appoint the independent registered certified public accounting firm and oversee the internal audit function. Management has the primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2017 with management, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

The Audit Committee reviewed with Stein Mart's independent registered certified public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, who is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of Stein Mart's audited financial statements with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, its judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of Stein Mart's accounting principles and discussed with the independent accountants such other matters as are required under Auditing Standard No. 1301 and other generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed with KPMG LLP the independent registered certified public accountants' independence from management and Stein Mart, including the matters in the written disclosures and the letter received by the Audit Committee, as required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and considered the compatibility of nonaudit services with the accountants' independence. Audit Committee members are not professionally engaged in the practice of accounting or auditing and are not experts under the Exchange Act in either of those fields or in auditor independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with KPMG LLP and Stein Mart's Internal Audit department, the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Audit Committee met with KPMG LLP, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examination and the overall quality of Stein Mart's financial reporting.

Based on the review and discussions described above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in Stein Mart's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2018, for filing with the SEC, and that KPMG be ratified as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the year ending February 2, 2019.

The foregoing report is provided by the following independent directors, who constitute the committee:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Irwin Cohen (Chairman)

Thomas L. Cole

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL NO. 5 -****RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF KPMG LLP AS****STEIN MART S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has selected the firm KPMG LLP to serve as our independent registered certified public accounting firm for the current fiscal year ending February 2, 2019. KPMG LLP has served as our audit firm since July 10, 2013.

Our Board of Directors has directed that the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm be submitted for ratification by the shareholders at the annual meeting. Representatives of KPMG LLP will be present at the annual meeting of shareholders and will be given the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire, and to respond to appropriate questions.

Shareholder ratification of the selection of KPMG LLP as our independent registered certified public accounting firm is not required by our articles of incorporation or bylaws. However, the Board of Directors is submitting the appointment of KPMG LLP as a matter of good corporate practice. If the shareholders do not ratify the selection, the Audit Committee will reconsider whether or not to retain KPMG LLP. In such event, the Audit Committee may retain KPMG LLP notwithstanding the fact that the shareholders did not ratify the selection, or select another nationally recognized accounting firm without re-submitting the matter to a shareholder vote. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee retains the right in its discretion to select a different nationally recognized independent registered certified public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of our shareholders and Stein Mart.

The following table provides information relating to the fees billed or expected to be billed for the audit including the audit of internal controls and fees billed/paid for other services provided by KPMG LLP, our independent registered certified public accounting firm in each of the last two (2) fiscal years.

	KPMG LLP	
	2017	2016
Audit Fees	\$ 1,074,124	\$ 1,099,400
Audit-related Fees ⁽¹⁾	-	44,500
Tax Fees ⁽²⁾	299,130	-
All Other Fees ⁽³⁾	1,650	1,650
Total	\$ 1,374,904	\$ 1,145,550

(1) Fees for additional services provided related to assessment of software implementation.

(2) Fees for tax compliance services.

(3) Fees for use of KPMG's accounting research tool.

All decisions regarding the selection of independent registered certified public accounting firms and approval of accounting services and fees are made by our Audit Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Audit Committee must pre-approve (i) all audit services, and (ii) all non-audit services provided by the independent registered certified public accounting firm that is permitted by Section 201 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, except if:

1. in the case of permissible non-audit services, such services qualify as de minimis under Section 202 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and we did not recognize that such services were non-audit services at the time of the engagement;
2. the Audit Committee, or one (1) or more of its designated members, approves the permissible non-audit services before completion of the audit; and
3. when one (1) or more designated members approve such services, such approval is presented to the Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

All audit, audit-related and tax services provided by KPMG LLP were pre-approved in accordance with the Audit Committee s guidelines.

The Audit Committee discussed the non-audit services with KPMG LLP and determined that their provision would not impair that firm s independence.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF STEIN MART RECOMMENDS THAT THE SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF KPMG LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 2, 2019.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for evaluating the appropriateness of all related-party transactions.

The Audit Committee has adopted written policies and procedures for the Committee to follow in reviewing and approving or ratifying related-party transactions involving Stein Mart and any of our executive officers, directors or five percent (5%) or more shareholders or any of their family members. These transactions include:

- (a) transactions that must be disclosed in proxy statements under SEC rules; and
- (b) transactions that could potentially cause a non-employee director to cease to qualify as independent under NASDAQ listing requirements.

Transactions that are deemed immaterial under SEC disclosure requirements are generally deemed pre-approved under these written policies and procedures, including transactions with a company with which a Stein Mart director's sole relationship is as a non-employee director and the total amount involved does not exceed one percent (1%) of the other company's total annual revenues.

Criteria to be considered by the Audit Committee in determining whether related party transactions should be approved or ratified include:

- (a) whether the transactions are on terms no less favorable to Stein Mart than terms generally available from an unrelated third party;
- (b) the extent of the related party's interest in the transaction;
- (c) whether the transaction would interfere with the performance of the officer's or director's duties to us;
- (d) in the case of a transaction involving a non-employee director, whether the transaction would disqualify the director from being deemed independent under NASDAQ listing requirements; and
- (e) such other factors that the Audit Committee deems appropriate under the circumstances.

The Audit Committee has approved the related-party transactions described below after determining that the transactions do not adversely affect the performance by these directors of their duties to Stein Mart.

Mr. Mitchell W. Legler. Mr. Legler, a member of the Board of Directors, is the majority shareholder of Kirschner & Legler, P.A., general counsel to us since April 2001. From August 1995 to April 2001, Mr. Legler was the sole shareholder of the law firm of Mitchell W. Legler, P.A., which served as our general counsel. Legal fees received by Kirschner & Legler, P.A. for fiscal 2017 were \$192,500. In addition, Mr. Legler, as general counsel to us, participated in our 2017 Incentive Plans and was granted 14,400 Performance Share Awards at a target level and 9,600 Restricted Stock Awards under our Long-Term Incentive Plan. In March 2017, we renewed an agreement with Kirschner & Legler, P.A. effective April 1, 2017, pursuant to which we have retained Mr. Legler and his firm to serve as our general counsel for a term of two (2) years. This agreement provides that we will pay Kirschner & Legler, P.A. annual compensation of \$200,000 per year and that such firm will be eligible to receive bonus and equity awards through our compensation program. This agreement further provides that Mr. Legler will be able to participate in our medical and dental insurance plans to the same extent as a person employed as a Senior Vice President. The agreement provides for a severance payment of \$200,000 if the agreement is terminated without cause (as defined in the agreement) or if the agreement is not renewed at the expiration of the term. If the agreement is terminated following a change of control, we have agreed to pay 200% of the sum of (i) the amount due for a termination without cause and (ii) the target bonus in the year of termination.

During November of 2017, we initiated certain cost reduction activities. In connection with these cost reduction activities, Mr. Legler voluntarily agreed to reduce the annual compensation paid to Kirschner & Legler, P.A. by fifteen (15) percent to \$170,000 per year.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation. Messrs. Tansky (Chairman), Cost and Sisisky and Ms. Galanti served on our Compensation Committee during fiscal 2017. None of these directors has served as an officer or employee Stein Mart, and none of these directors had a related-party transaction with us during fiscal 2017. During fiscal 2017,

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none of our executive officers served on the compensation committee (or its equivalent) or board of directors of another entity whose executive officers served on our Compensation Committee or Board.

OTHER MATTERS

Shareholder Proposals for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission require proxy statements to disclose the date by which shareholder proposals must be received by us in order to be included in our proxy materials for the next annual meeting. In accordance with these regulations, shareholders are hereby notified that if they wish a proposal to be included in our proxy statement and form of proxy relating to the 2019 annual meeting, a written copy of their proposal must be received at the principal executive offices of Stein Mart no later than January 11, 2019. To ensure prompt receipt by us, proposals should be sent certified mail return receipt requested. Proposals must comply with the proxy rules relating to shareholder proposals in order to be included in our proxy materials. Notice to us of a shareholder proposal submitted otherwise than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 will be considered untimely if received by us after January 11, 2019, and the proposal will not be brought before the meeting. For a discussion of the process by which our Corporate Governance Committee may consider shareholder nominees for director, please refer to Meetings and Committees of the Board beginning on page 9 of this proxy statement.

Annual Report

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2018, accompanies this proxy statement. Additional copies may be obtained by writing to Ms. Linda Tasseff, Director, Investor Relations, at 1200 Riverplace Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

Householding

The SEC's rules permit us to deliver a single Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or a single set of annual meeting materials to two or more of our shareholders who share an address. This delivery method is referred to as householding and can result in significant cost savings. To take advantage of this opportunity, we have delivered only one Notice, proxy statement and annual report to multiple shareholders who share an address, unless we received contrary instructions from one or more of such shareholders prior to the mailing date. We will deliver promptly, upon written or oral request made in accordance with the instructions below, a separate copy of the Notice or annual meeting materials, as requested, to any shareholder at a shared address to which a single copy of those documents was delivered. If you are currently a shareholder sharing an address with another shareholder and wish to receive separate copies or only one copy of future Notices, proxy statements and annual reports for your household, please call or write to Ms. Linda Tasseff, Director, Investor Relations, at the following address and/or telephone number.

Stein Mart, Inc.

1200 Riverplace Boulevard

Jacksonville, Florida 32207

(904) 858-2639

SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO SPECIFY THEIR CHOICES AND VOTE BY INTERNET, TELEPHONE OR MAIL. INTERNET OR TELEPHONE VOTE AUTHORIZES THE NAMED PROXIES

TO VOTE YOUR SHARES IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF YOU MARKED, SIGNED AND RETURNED YOUR PROXY CARD. IF YOU VOTE YOUR PROXY BY INTERNET OR BY TELEPHONE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAIL BACK YOUR PROXY CARD.

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Appendix A

STEIN MART, INC.

2018 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLAN

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