

AMSOUTH BANCORPORATION  
Form DEF 14A  
March 16, 2006  
Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

**AmSouth Bancorporation**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

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

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(2) Aggregate number 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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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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**Table of Contents**

March 10, 2006

To our Shareholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of AmSouth Bancorporation scheduled for 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at the auditorium of AmSouth Bank in the AmSouth-Harbert Plaza, 1901 Sixth Avenue North, in Birmingham, Alabama. The matters scheduled for consideration at the meeting are described in the attached Notice of Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement.

Your vote is important to us, no matter how many shares you own. Shareholders have a choice of voting over the Internet, by telephone or by using a traditional proxy card. Check your proxy card forwarded by AmSouth or your broker or other holder of record to see the voting options available to you. If you do attend the Annual Meeting and desire to vote in person, you may do so even though you have previously voted your proxy.

Also enclosed is AmSouth's 2005 Annual Report to Shareholders which contains additional information about AmSouth, including our letter to shareholders and a detailed discussion of our financial performance during the past year. We believe that this information will be useful and informative regarding the current status of your company.

Sincerely,

C. Dowd Ritter

Chairman, President and Chief

Executive Officer

**Table of Contents**

Post Office Box 11007

Birmingham, Alabama 35288

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD ON APRIL 20, 2006**

**TO THE HOLDERS OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to call of its Directors, the regular Annual Meeting of Shareholders of AMSOUTH BANCORPORATION will be held at the auditorium of AmSouth Bank in the AmSouth-Harbert Plaza, 1901 Sixth Avenue North in Birmingham, Alabama on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 11:00 A.M., for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. An AmSouth proposal to elect three directors of Class III to serve for a term of three years until the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in 2009 or until their successors are elected and qualify.
2. An AmSouth proposal to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm of the Company to serve for the 2006 fiscal year.
3. Approval of the 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan.
4. Consideration of shareholder proposals as set forth in the Proxy Statement, if presented to the meeting.
5. The transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Your attention is directed to the accompanying Proxy Statement for further information with respect to the matters to be acted upon at the meeting.

All holders of record of shares of AmSouth common stock (NYSE: ASO) at the close of business on February 21, 2006 are entitled to receive notice of the meeting and to vote at the meeting.

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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 10, 2006

John D. Buchanan  
Secretary

**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<u>Proxy Statement</u>	1
<u>General</u>	1
<u>Important Notice Regarding Delivery of Security Holder Documents</u>	2
<u>Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof</u>	3
<u>Stock Ownership</u>	4
<u>Item 1 Election of Directors</u>	6
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	13
<u>Item 2 Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	27
<u>Item 3 Approval of the 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan</u>	27
<u>Item 4 Shareholder Proposal (Political Contributions)</u>	36
<u>Item 5 Shareholder Proposal (Amendment to EEOC Policy)</u>	37
<u>Voting Procedures</u>	39
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	40
<u>Miscellaneous Information</u>	41
<u>Audit Committee Charter</u>	A-1
<u>Director Independence and Categorical Standards</u>	B-1
<u>AmSouth Bancorporation 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan</u>	C-1

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

You can vote one of three ways:

- (a) Via the Internet: Visit the web site listed on your proxy card to vote via the Internet.
- (b) By Telephone: Call the toll-free number listed on your proxy card to vote by phone.
- (c) By Mail: Mark, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

**Table of Contents**

**PROXY STATEMENT**  
**DATED MARCH 10, 2006**  
**AmSouth Bancorporation**

P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288

For Annual Meeting of Shareholders

To be Held on April 20, 2006

**GENERAL**

We are delivering these proxy materials to solicit proxies on behalf of the Board of Directors of AmSouth Bancorporation (AmSouth or the Corporation or the Company) for the 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 20, 2006 and any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

We are mailing this Proxy Statement, together with a form of proxy and voting instruction card (proxy card) and the Company's annual report for the year ended December 31, 2005, or otherwise making them available through electronic delivery, starting on or about March 16, 2006, to shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

**Shareholders Entitled to Vote at the Meeting**

If you are a registered shareholder at the close of business on the record date, February 21, 2006, you are entitled to receive this notice and to vote at the meeting. There were 345,567,367 shares of common stock outstanding on the record date. You will have one vote on each matter properly brought before the meeting for each share of AmSouth common stock you own.

**Electronic Access to Proxy Materials and Annual Report**

Shareholders can elect to view future AmSouth Bancorporation proxy statements and annual reports over the Internet instead of receiving paper copies in the mail and thus can save AmSouth the cost of producing and mailing these documents. If you already have internet access, there will be no additional charge for you to have electronic access via the internet to our proxy materials and annual report.

If you are a registered shareholder, you can choose to receive future annual reports and proxy statements electronically by following the prompt if you choose to vote over the Internet. Registered shareholders, as well as most beneficial shareholders, can enroll to receive electronic delivery of materials by following the instructions on the Investor Relations Resource Center at our web site, [www.amsouth.com](http://www.amsouth.com), or by accessing [www.icsdelivery.com/aso](http://www.icsdelivery.com/aso).



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Shareholders who choose to view future proxy statements and annual reports over the Internet will receive an e-mail with instructions containing the Internet address of those materials, as well as voting instructions, approximately four weeks before future meetings.

If you enroll to view AmSouth's future annual reports and proxy statements electronically and vote your proxy over the Internet, your enrollment will remain in effect for all future shareholders' meetings unless you cancel it. To cancel, registered shareholders should access [www.icsdelivery.com/aso](http://www.icsdelivery.com/aso) and follow the instructions to cancel your enrollment. If you hold your AmSouth stock in nominee name, check the information provided by your nominee for instructions on how to cancel your enrollment.

If at any time you would like to receive a paper copy of the annual report or proxy statement, please write to Investor Relations, AmSouth Bancorporation, P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288 or call us at 205-581-7890.

**Table of Contents**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DELIVERY OF SECURITY HOLDER DOCUMENTS**

The Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) has issued rules regarding the delivery of proxy statements and information statements to households. These rules spell out the conditions under which annual reports, information statements, proxy statements, prospectuses and other disclosure documents of a particular company that would otherwise be mailed in separate envelopes to more than one person at a shared address may be mailed as one copy in one envelope addressed to all holders at that address. In accordance with that rule, several years ago AmSouth began householding all annual reports and proxy and information statements.

If you are a new registered shareholder since the record date for our 2005 Annual Meeting and you choose not to have your annual reports and proxy and information statements sent to a single household address as described above, you must opt out by marking the designated box on the enclosed proxy card. If you are a registered shareholder and if you choose to opt out of the householding program at a future date, please write to Investor Relations, AmSouth Bancorporation, P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288 or call us at 205-581-7890 or 1-800-542-1061, and we will cease householding your annual reports and proxy and information statements within 30 days. If we do not receive instructions to remove your account(s) from this service, your account(s) will continue to be householded until we notify you otherwise. However, if at any time you would like a separate copy of the annual report or proxy statement, please write or call us at the address or phone number shown above, and we will deliver it promptly.

If you own your AmSouth stock in nominee name (such as through a broker), information regarding householding of disclosure documents should be forwarded to you by your broker.

**How to Vote Your Shares**

Your vote is important. Your shares can be voted at the Annual Meeting only if you are present in person or represented by proxy. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote in advance. If you own your shares in record name, you may cast your vote one of three ways:

*Vote by Internet:* You can choose to vote your shares over the Internet site listed on the proxy card. This site will give you the opportunity to make your selections and confirm that your instructions have been followed. To take advantage of the convenience of voting on the Internet, you must subscribe to one of the various commercial services that offers access to the World Wide Web. *If you vote via the Internet, you do not need to return the proxy card.*

*Vote By Telephone:* You can also vote by phone at any time by calling the toll-free number (for residents of the U.S.) listed on the proxy card. To vote by phone follow the simple recorded instructions. *If you vote by phone, you do not need to return the proxy card.*

*Vote by Mail:* If you choose to vote by mail, simply mark the proxy card, and then date, sign and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Shareholders who hold their shares beneficially in street name through a nominee (such as a broker) may be able to vote by telephone or the Internet as well as by mail. You should follow the instructions you receive from your nominee to vote these shares.

**How to Revoke Your Proxy**

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the meeting by:

Properly executing and delivering a later-dated proxy (including a telephone or Internet vote);

Voting by ballot at the meeting; or

Sending a written notice of revocation to the inspectors of election in care of the Corporate Secretary of AmSouth at the address shown on the cover of this proxy statement.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Cost of Proxy Solicitation**

We will pay the expenses of soliciting proxies in connection with the Annual Meeting. Proxies may be solicited on our behalf through the mail, in person, by telephone, electronic transmission, or facsimile transmission. We have hired Morrow & Co., Inc. to assist with the solicitation of proxies for a fee of \$11,500 plus the reimbursement of any out-of-pocket expenses incurred. It is possible that Morrow & Co. may be paid additional fees depending upon the services rendered.

In accordance with the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) rules, AmSouth will also reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their expenses of sending proxies and proxy materials to the beneficial owners of AmSouth common stock.

### **Other Matters**

The Board of Directors does not know of any matters that may be brought before the Annual Meeting other than as listed in the Notice of Meeting. If any other matters are properly introduced at the Annual Meeting for consideration, including consideration of a motion to adjourn the meeting to another time or place, the individuals named on the enclosed proxy will vote on such matters in accordance with their discretion.

### **The Board's Recommendations**

If you send a properly executed proxy without specific voting instructions, your shares represented by that proxy will be voted as recommended by the Board of Directors:

FOR the election of the three nominees as directors (see Item 1),

FOR the ratification of Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm (see Item 2),

FOR the approval of the 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan (see Item 3), and

AGAINST each of the shareholder proposals (see Items 4 and 5).

### **VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF**

Shares of common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, are the only authorized securities of AmSouth entitled to vote, and each outstanding share is entitled to one vote. Only holders of record of common stock at the close of business on February 21, 2006 will be entitled to vote at the Annual

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Meeting. AmSouth is currently authorized to issue up to seven hundred and fifty million (750,000,000) shares of such common stock. As of February 21, 2006, there were 345,567,367 shares of common stock of AmSouth issued, outstanding and entitled to vote.

Shareholders who are participants in AmSouth's Direct Stock Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "DRP") and/or are AmSouth employees who participate in the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan will find that the enclosed proxy card or electronic voting instruction shows the total of the number of any shares held by them in their own names (but not in street name through a broker) as well as those shares, including fractions of shares, held on their behalf by the agent for the DRP and/or the trustee for the Thrift Plan.

Voting in one of the ways previously described will allow voting of all shares, including those held by the DRP agent and the trustee for the Thrift Plan. Except with respect to the election of directors, the trustee for the Thrift Plan may, in its discretion, under the terms of the Thrift Plan, vote shares for which no directions have been received.

**Table of Contents****STOCK OWNERSHIP**

At December 31, 2005 no person was known to the management of AmSouth to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of AmSouth's outstanding common stock other than the Wealth Management Division of AmSouth Bank (see the table below). The following table reflects the number of shares of AmSouth common stock (rounded to the nearest whole number) beneficially owned by (i) AmSouth Bank, (ii) each director and nominee for director of AmSouth, (iii) the four most highly compensated executive officers who are not also directors (listed in the table under the heading Certain Executive Officers) and (iv) the directors, nominees and executive officers of AmSouth as a group.

Most of the directors of AmSouth have elected to defer receipt of some or all of the retainer and meeting fees they are paid for service on the Board of Directors and to receive shares of AmSouth stock instead of cash when the deferred amounts are paid. Therefore, the ultimate value of the amounts deferred will be tied to the performance of AmSouth stock. As of February 21, 2006, the directors as a group held 86,734 shares of such deferred stock. Certain executive officers of AmSouth have made similar elections to defer receipt of bonuses and to receive shares of AmSouth stock when the deferred amounts are paid. Such stock, whether attributable to deferrals by directors or by executive officers, is hereinafter referred to as Deferred Stock.

Person, Group or Entity	AmSouth Shares Beneficially Owned(1)			
	As of February 21, 2006			
	Sole Power(2)	Shared Power(3)	Aggregate	Percent of Total Outstanding
AmSouth Bank **				
P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288	(4)	(4)	18,957,890 (5)	5.4%
DIRECTORS AND NOMINEES				
David J. Cooper, Sr.	17,782		17,782	*
Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr.	96,285		96,285	*
Don DeFosset	5,597		5,597	*
Martha R. Ingram	119,204		119,204	*
Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr.	90,846	240	91,086	*
James R. Malone	66,905	6,750	73,655	*
Charles D. McCrary	48,639		48,639	*
Claude B. Nielsen	80,583	3,536	84,119	*
C. Dowd Ritter	4,388,227(6)	19,333	4,407,560	1.3%
CERTAIN EXECUTIVE OFFICERS				
O.B. Grayson Hall, Jr.	722,898(7)		722,898	*
W. Charles Mayer, III	963,688(8)	18,483	982,171	*
Beth E. Mooney	669,644(9)		669,644	*
E. W. Stephenson, Jr.	908,705(10)	64,000	972,705	*
Directors, Nominees and Executive Officers as a group (consisting of 19 persons)	11,021,486(11)	159,837	11,181,323	3.2%

\* Less than one percent

\*\* Amounts and percentage for AmSouth Bank are as of December 31, 2005

**Notes**

- (1) The number of shares reflected are shares which under applicable regulations of the SEC are deemed to be beneficially owned. Shares deemed to be beneficially owned under such regulations include shares as to which, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship or otherwise, either voting power or investment power is held or shared. The total number of shares beneficially owned is divided, where applicable, into two categories: shares as to which voting/investment power is held solely, and shares as to which voting/investment power is shared.

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**Table of Contents**

- (2) Unless otherwise indicated in the following notes, if a beneficial owner is shown as having sole power, the owner has sole voting and sole investment power, and if a beneficial owner is shown as having shared power, the owner has shared voting power and shared investment power. If ownership of restricted stock is shown, the individual has sole voting power, but no power of disposition. The amounts in this column include (a) shares of Deferred Stock held by the following directors in the amounts (rounded) shown: Deavenport 17,024; DeFosset 597; Ingram 6,169; Kuehn 23,598; Malone 12,098; McCrary 12,227; and Nielsen 15,021; and (b) stock options for 49,173 shares for each of directors Kuehn, Malone and Nielsen, stock options for 47,486 shares for directors Deavenport and Ingram; and stock options for 36,200 shares for director McCrary. These are options that can be exercised within 60 days. Option information for director Ritter is in footnote (6). For directors and executive officers, shares of Deferred Stock are held under deferred compensation plans and have no voting rights. Some individuals are beneficial owners of shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan. The individual has sole voting power, but no direct power of disposition over the shares held in the Stock Fund, but can elect to move monies in and out of the Fund and/or change the amount of contributions, thereby affecting the individual's balance in the Fund.
- (3) This column may include shares held in the name of, among others, a spouse, minor children or certain other relatives sharing the same home as the director, nominee or executive officer, as to all of which beneficial ownership is disclaimed by the respective director, nominee and executive officer.
- (4) With respect to these shares, AmSouth Bank has sole voting power as to 17,170,836 shares, sole dispositive power as to 6,867,933 shares and shared dispositive power as to 4,591,996 shares.
- (5) Shares reported as beneficially owned by AmSouth Bank are held in various capacities and reflect the amount and percentage reported on Schedule 13G, dated February 14, 2006, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (6) Includes 3,574,875 shares which could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options, 320,000 shares of restricted stock and 102,209 shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan.
- (7) Includes 623,092 shares which could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options, 50,000 shares of restricted stock and 8,571 shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan.
- (8) Includes 769,809 shares which could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options, 75,000 shares of restricted stock and 1,861 shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan.
- (9) Includes 522,385 shares which could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options, 75,000 shares of restricted stock, 1,161 shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan and 17,931 shares of Deferred Stock.
- (10) Includes 729,409 shares that could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options, 75,000 shares of restricted stock, 6,205 shares held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan and 12,670 shares of Deferred Stock.
- (11) 151,265 of these shares are held by the AmSouth Stock Fund of the AmSouth Thrift Plan, 744,653 of these shares are restricted stock, 8,959,204 of these shares could be acquired within 60 days pursuant to stock options and 128,209 are shares of Deferred Stock.

As of February 21, 2006, AmSouth held 71,257,110 shares of its common stock as Treasury shares.



**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**General**

Under AmSouth's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the Board of Directors is divided into three classes, with the term of office of each class expiring in successive years. AmSouth's Bylaws provide that the number of directors will be fixed from time to time by the vote of two-thirds of the directors then in office who have been elected by the shareholders. The current number of directors is nine. The terms of Class III Directors expire at this Annual Meeting. The terms of Class I and Class II Directors will expire in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

The Board of Directors is recommending the election to Class III of directors Martha R. Ingram, Charles D. McCrary and C. Dowd Ritter. Each of the Class III Directors elected at this Annual Meeting will serve three-year terms expiring at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until the director's respective successor is elected and qualified, except as provided in the Board Retirement Policy and the Corporate Governance Guidelines.

Proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted for the election of the nominees named above, unless you withhold your vote. Management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable or unwilling to serve as a director if elected. However, if any one of them should become unavailable, the Board of Directors may reduce the size of the board or designate a substitute. If the board designates a substitute nominee, shares represented by proxies will be voted for the substitute nominee.

The names of the nominees and the directors who will continue to serve unexpired terms and certain information relating to them, including the business experience of each during the past five years, follow. The directorships shown are with corporations subject to the registration or reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Each of the directors of AmSouth is also a director of AmSouth Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AmSouth.

**Table of Contents**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING THREE NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR:**

**NOMINEES FOR TERMS EXPIRING IN 2009 (CLASS III)**

***Martha R. Ingram***

Director since 1999

Ms. Ingram, 70, is the Chairman of the Board of Ingram Industries Inc., a privately held company with diversified businesses in marine transportation, book distributing and insurance, a position she has held since 1995. She also serves on the board of directors of Ingram Micro, Inc. and Weyerhaeuser, Inc.

***Charles D. McCrary***

Director since 2001

Mr. McCrary, 54, has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Alabama Power Company, a public utility, since October 2001. From April 2001 to October 2001, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Alabama Power. Mr. McCrary served as President of Southern Company Generation and Energy Marketing (and certain predecessor companies) (affiliate of public utility) from June 1998 to April 2001. He is a member of the board of directors of Alabama Power Company and Protective Life Corporation.

***C. Dowd Ritter***

Director since 1993

Mr. Ritter, 58, has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of AmSouth and AmSouth Bank and Chairman of the Board of AmSouth Bank since 1996. He is also the Chairman of the Board of AmSouth, a position he held September 1996 to October 1999 and January 2001 to date. Mr. Ritter serves on the board of directors of Alabama Power Company and Protective Life Corporation.

**Table of Contents**

**DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN 2007 (CLASS I)**

***Don DeFosset***

Director since 2005

Mr. DeFosset, 57, is the former Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Walter Industries, Inc., a diversified company with businesses in water infrastructure, flow control, water transmission products, metallurgical coal and natural gas, and affordable homebuilding. He served as Chairman from March 2002 through September 16, 2005 and as President and Chief Executive Officer from November 2000 through September 16, 2005. He is also a director of Terex Corporation.

***James R. Malone***

Director since 1994

Mr. Malone, 63, is the Founding and Managing Partner of Qorval LLC, a financial and business restructuring and consulting firm. Since 2004, he has served as Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Brown Jordan International, Inc., a manufacturer of retail and contract furnishings. During 2005 he also served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cenveo Inc., a printer and manufacturer of envelopes, business forms and labels. He was Chairman of the Board 1996-2004 and Chief Executive Officer 1997-2004 of HMI Industries, Inc., a producer of cleaners for residential and commercial use and other industrial manufactured products. Mr. Malone also serves on the boards of Ametek, Inc. and Brown Jordan International, Inc.

***Claude B. Nielsen***

Director since 1993

Mr. Nielsen, 55, has been the Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc., a soft drink bottler, since 1991, and its Chairman since May 2003. Mr. Nielsen also serves on the board of Colonial Properties Trust.

**Table of Contents**

**DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN 2008 (CLASS II)**

*David J. Cooper, Sr.*

Director since 2005

Mr. Cooper, 60, serves as President of Cooper/T. Smith Corporation, a privately held corporation and one of the largest stevedoring and maritime-related firms in the United States. Mr. Cooper is a member of the board of directors of Alabama Power Company.

*Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr.*

Director since 1999

Mr. Deavenport, 67, was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer from 1994 to January 2002 of Eastman Chemical Company, a manufacturer of plastic, chemical and fiber products. He also serves on the boards of Theragenics Corporation, King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Acuity Brands, Inc.

*Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr.*

Director since 1986

Mr. Kuehn, 70, has been Chairman of the Board of El Paso Corporation, a diversified energy company, since March 2003, a position he also held from October 1999 to December 2000. From March 2003 to September 2003, Mr. Kuehn served as El Paso's Chief Executive Officer, and from September 2002 to March 2003, Mr. Kuehn was the Lead Director of El Paso. From January 2001 to March 2003, he was a business consultant. He is a member of the board of directors of The Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, El Paso Corporation and Praxair, Inc.

## **Table of Contents**

### **The Board of Directors**

The full Board of Directors met ten times during 2005. To assist it in carrying out its work, the Board of Directors has the following standing committees: Audit; Corporate Governance; Human Resources; Risk and an Executive Committee. AmSouth's Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Conduct and the charters for each of the Company's standing Board committees are available on AmSouth's website at [www.amsouth.com](http://www.amsouth.com) in the Corporate Governance section of the Investor Relations Resource Center, and are available in print to any shareholder who requests them.

### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee currently consists of Directors Charles D. McCrary (Chairman), Don DeFosset and Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr. Former Director Cleophus Thomas, Jr. was a member of the Audit Committee during 2005 and until his resignation from the Board of Directors on February 15, 2006. This committee is charged by the Board of Directors with several major functions, including to oversee the audit and examination of the financial condition of AmSouth and to consider and review AmSouth's policies addressing various internal control matters. In performing these functions, the committee met eleven times during 2005.

### **Human Resources Committee**

This committee is currently composed of Directors Claude B. Nielsen (Chairman), Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr., Martha R. Ingram and James R. Malone and met five times during 2005. The committee is charged with the oversight of AmSouth's compensation plans and determining the compensation of senior management.

### **Corporate Governance Committee**

The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with setting the corporate governance policies of AmSouth. The current members of this committee are Directors Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr. (Chairman), David J. Cooper, Sr. and Charles D. McCrary. Former Director Cleophus Thomas, Jr. was a member of the Corporate Governance Committee during 2005 and until his resignation from the Board of Directors on February 15, 2006. The committee is also charged with reviewing potential nominees and recommending new directors, and reviewing the structure of the Board and its operation and recommending changes where appropriate. Procedures whereby individual shareholders can submit recommendations of persons to be considered for nomination as a director of AmSouth and AmSouth's process for nominating directors are described below in the Miscellaneous Information Director Nomination Process section of this Proxy Statement. The committee met five times during 2005.

### **Executive Committee**

This committee has the power to exercise all of the authority of the Board of Directors, to the extent allowed by law, and is specifically given the authority, among other things, to declare dividends. The current members of the committee are Directors C. Dowd Ritter (Chairman), Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr., Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr., Charles D. McCrary and Claude B. Nielsen. The committee did not meet during 2005.

**Risk Committee**

The Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing AmSouth's risk management process with a focus on the Company's major risks, including emerging risks. The current members of this committee are Directors Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr. (Chairman), David J. Cooper, Sr., James R. Malone and Claude B. Nielsen. The committee met three times in 2005.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Audit Committee Report**

The Board of Directors, in its business judgment, has determined that all members of the Audit Committee are independent, as required by applicable SEC rules and the listing standards of the NYSE. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a charter, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. The Audit Committee has also adopted procedures for handling complaints regarding accounting or auditing matters, including procedures for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of related concerns.

In the performance of its oversight function, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements, including a discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements, with management and Ernst & Young LLP, AmSouth's independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee has also discussed with Ernst & Young the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, *Communication with Audit Committees*, as amended by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 90, *Audit Committee Communications*, as currently in effect. Finally, the Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Ernst & Young required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, *Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*, as currently in effect, has considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the independent registered public accounting firm to the Company is compatible with maintaining the firm's independence and has discussed with Ernst & Young the firm's independence. See the discussion under *Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm* on page 40.

Based upon the review, discussions and reports described in this report, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in AmSouth's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 to be filed with the SEC.

Submitted by the Audit Committee:

Charles D. McCrary, Chairman

Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr.

### **Audit Committee Financial Experts**

The Board of Directors believes that the following members of the Audit Committee qualify as Audit Committee Financial Experts under applicable SEC regulations: Messrs. DeFosset, Kuehn and McCrary. As noted above, the Board of Directors has determined that all of these individuals are independent under applicable SEC and NYSE rules.

### **Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers**

AmSouth has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers. It may be found on AmSouth's website ([www.amsouth.com](http://www.amsouth.com)) in the Corporate Governance section of the Investor Relations Resource Center and is available in print to any shareholder who requests it.

**Director Attendance**

During 2005, all incumbent directors of AmSouth attended at least 75 percent of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of the committees of which they were members.

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

AmSouth is not aware of any instance during 2005 in which directors or executive officers of AmSouth failed to make timely filings required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 other than one late report filed by Executive Officer David B. Edmonds. AmSouth has relied on written representations of its directors and executive officers and copies of the reports that have been filed in making required disclosures concerning beneficial ownership reporting.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Director Independence**

It is the judgment of the Board of Directors that the directors listed below, being all members of the Board of Directors other than the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ritter, are independent under the rules of the NYSE and the categorical standards adopted by the Board. These standards are attached as Appendix B to this Proxy Statement.

David J. Cooper, Sr.

Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr.

Don DeFosset

Martha R. Ingram

Ronald L. Kuehn, Jr.

James R. Malone

Charles D. McCrary

Claude B. Nielsen

### **Certain Relationships, Related Transactions and Legal Proceedings**

Certain directors and executive officers of AmSouth and AmSouth Bank, and certain associates and members of the immediate families of these individuals, were customers of, and had loan transactions with, AmSouth Bank in the ordinary course of business during 2005. In addition, certain of the foregoing are or have been executive officers or 10 percent or more shareholders in corporations, or members of partnerships, which are customers of AmSouth Bank and which have had loan transactions with AmSouth Bank in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of the management of AmSouth, all such transactions were made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons and corporations and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features. Transactions of a similar nature will, in all probability, occur in the future in the ordinary course of business.

Director James R. Malone is and has been a principal of financial and business restructuring and consulting firms. Through his association with these firms, Mr. Malone has occasionally served as an executive officer of companies that retain the firm to assist in their financial restructuring, and as part of the restructuring strategy some of these companies file for bankruptcy. AmSouth does not believe that Mr. Malone's service as an executive officer with such companies, which arises solely because of his affiliation with the consulting firms, is material to an evaluation of the ability or integrity of Mr. Malone to serve as a Director of AmSouth.

**Table of Contents****EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Summary of Cash and Certain Other Compensation**

The following table provides summary information concerning compensation paid by AmSouth and its subsidiaries to its Chief Executive Officer and each of the four other most highly compensated executive officers of AmSouth at December 31, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the named executive officers), for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, 2004 and 2003.

**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation		Other Annual Compensation (\$)(1)	Long Term Compensation		All Other Compensation (\$)	
		Salary(\$)	Bonus(\$)		Awards	Payouts		
					Restricted Stock Award(s) underlying Options (#)	LTIP Payouts(\$)		
C. Dowd Ritter Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, AmSouth & AmSouth Bank	2005	\$ 995,000	\$ 2,472,575	\$ 335,117	\$ 0	530,800	\$ 2,004,480	\$ 189,951(3)
	2004	\$ 995,000	\$ 1,636,775	\$ 281,324	\$ 0	582,400	\$ 1,779,960	\$ 209,851
	2003	\$ 995,000	\$ 1,865,000	\$ 210,713	\$ 0	602,000	\$ 0	\$ 209,851
O. B. Grayson Hall, Jr. Senior Executive Vice President and Lines of Business/Operations and Technology Group Head	2005	\$ 460,000	\$ 781,540	\$ 45,344	\$ 0	144,300	\$ 311,460	\$ 21,990(3)
	2004	\$ 375,000	\$ 416,720	\$ 43,414	\$ 0	88,600	\$ 281,990	\$ 26,090
	2003	\$ 350,000	\$ 398,125	\$ 44,296	\$ 0	100,800	\$ 0	\$ 23,600
W. Charles Mayer, III Senior Executive Vice President and General Banking Group Head	2005	\$ 460,000	\$ 678,040	\$ 56,961	\$ 0	144,300	\$ 391,500	\$ 25,118(3)
	2004	\$ 400,000	\$ 348,160	\$ 54,145	\$ 0	113,900	\$ 356,970	\$ 30,718
	2003	\$ 385,000	\$ 404,250	\$ 53,211	\$ 0	121,800	\$ 0	\$ 28,300
Beth E. Mooney Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Finance Group Head	2005	\$ 455,000	\$ 596,050	\$ 35,162	\$ 0	103,900	\$ 391,500	\$ 19,718(3)
	2004	\$ 436,667	\$ 383,000	\$ 126,687	\$ 0	113,900	\$ 356,970	\$ 27,190
	2003	\$ 385,000	\$ 404,250	\$ 34,372	\$ 0	121,800	\$ 0	\$ 23,100
E. W. Stephenson, Jr Senior Executive Vice President and Tennessee Banking Group Head	2005	\$ 455,000	\$ 505,050	\$ 81,014	\$ 0	103,900	\$ 391,500	\$ 25,848(3)
	2004	\$ 440,000	\$ 383,000	\$ 253,216	\$ 0	113,900	\$ 356,970	\$ 34,048
	2003	\$ 425,000	\$ 463,250	\$ 55,168	\$ 0	121,800	\$ 0	\$ 30,310

- (1) These amounts include various perquisites valued at their incremental cost to the Company. Those perquisites that for any individual exceed 25% of the individual's total perquisites are: for Mr. Ritter, an excess supplemental disability insurance premium payment of \$98,206; for Mr. Hall and Ms. Mooney, automobile allowance of \$12,000 each; for Ms. Mooney, imputed financial planning of \$7,425; for Mr. Hall, Mr. Mayer and Mr. Stephenson, club dues of \$10,368, \$17,004 and \$19,616, respectively.

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(2) The following table provides information about restricted shares unreleased as of December 31, 2005.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aggregate # of Restricted Shares Held</u>	<u>Value Based on Year End Stock Price of \$26.21</u>
Ritter	320,000	\$ 8,387,200
Hall	50,000	\$ 1,310,500
Mayer	75,000	\$ 1,965,750
Mooney	75,000	\$ 1,965,750
Stephenson	75,000	\$ 1,965,750

None of the restricted stock awards listed in the Footnote Table above had an original vesting schedule of less than three years. The named executive officers were granted shares of restricted stock in 2001 that do not vest

**Table of Contents**

until retirement, and they will be forfeited if an executive's employment is terminated prior to retirement by him or her voluntarily or involuntarily by AmSouth, except in the case of a change in control, death or disability. Dividends are paid on all restricted shares.

- (3) These amounts reflect Company matching contributions to the AmSouth Thrift Plan and Supplemental Thrift Plan and payouts related to the former Profit Sharing Plan as shown below.

Name	Company Match Thrift	Prior Profit Sharing Plan
Ritter	\$ 39,800	\$ 7,670
Hall	\$ 18,400	\$ 2,600
Mayer	\$ 18,400	\$ 5,200
Mooney	\$ 18,200	\$ 0
Stephenson	\$ 18,200	\$ 4,810

In the case of Mr. Ritter, the amount shown in the Summary Compensation Table also includes the Company's share of the annual premium paid in the amount of \$142,481 for the split dollar life insurance under which he is covered. Amounts in this column also include payments of group term life insurance premiums as follows: Mr. Hall \$990; Mr. Stephenson \$2,838; Mr. Mayer and Ms. Mooney \$1,518.

**Stock Options**

The following table contains information regarding the grant of stock options to the named executive officers during 2005. The table sets forth the number of stock options granted at fair market value during 2005. As required by applicable SEC regulations, the table further sets forth the potential realizable value of such stock options in the year 2015 (the expiration date of the stock options) at arbitrarily assumed annualized rates of stock price appreciation of 5% and 10% over the full ten-year term of the stock options. As the table indicates, the annualized stock price appreciation of 5% and 10% would result in stock prices in the year 2015 of approximately \$41.59 and \$66.22, respectively. The amounts shown in the table as potential realizable values for all shareholders' stock (approximately \$5.4 billion and \$13.9 billion), represent the corresponding increases in the market value of shares of the common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2005. No gain to the named executives is possible without an increase in stock price, which would benefit all shareholders proportionately. Actual gains, if any, on stock option exercises and common stock holdings are dependent on the future performance of the common stock and overall stock market conditions. There can be no assurances that the potential realizable values shown in this table will be achieved.

The amount of value delivered to Plan participants in the form of stock options has been decreased beginning with the 2002 grants, and new Performance Units have been granted. These Units are performance-based and carry greater risk than stock options. Therefore, a significant portion of the long-term compensation of senior management is now in the form of performance-related grants that have greater risk for executives than traditional grants because they depend on meeting specific performance goals and not just on a general improvement in the stock market. Dilution is managed by AmSouth's practice of issuing repurchased shares to meet its stock-based benefit plan requirements, rather than using newly issued shares.

**Table of Contents****OPTION GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR\***

Name	Individual Grants				Potential Realizable Value At Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Price Appreciation for Option Term	
	Number of Securities Underlying Options Granted(#)	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees in Fiscal Year	Exercise or Base Price (\$/sh)	Expiration Date	If stock price at \$41.59 in 2015 5% (\$)	If stock price at \$66.22 in 2015 10% (\$)
All Shareholders Stock Appreciation	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ 5,353,345,930	\$ 13,926,356,999
C. Dowd Ritter	530,800	6.1%	\$ 25.53	February 8, 2015	\$ 8,524,648	\$ 21,598,252
O.B. Grayson Hall, Jr.	144,300	1.7%	\$ 25.53	February 8, 2015	\$ 2,317,458	\$ 5,871,567
W. Charles Mayer, III	144,300	1.7%	\$ 25.53	February 8, 2015	\$ 2,317,458	\$ 5,871,567
Beth E. Mooney	103,900	1.2%	\$ 25.53	February 8, 2015	\$ 1,668,634	\$ 4,227,691
E. W. Stephenson, Jr.	103,900	1.2%	\$ 25.53	February 8, 2015	\$ 1,668,634	\$ 4,227,691

\* These stock options were granted in February 2005. The exercise price is equal to the closing price of AmSouth common stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. The original grants provided that the options would vest over a three-year period and remain exercisable until the tenth anniversary of the date of grant. However, the Board of Directors approved the acceleration of vesting of these options effective December 29, 2005 in anticipation of the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (SFAS 123R) effective January 1, 2006. AmSouth has placed a restriction on executive management (including the named executives) and directors that prohibits the sale of any stock obtained through exercise of an accelerated option prior to the date the option would have vested under the terms of the original option agreement.

**Option Exercises and Holdings**

The following table provides information concerning the exercise of stock options during 2005 by the named executive officers and the unexercised stock options held by them at December 31, 2005.

**AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST****FISCAL YEAR AND FY-END OPTION VALUES**

Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at FY-End(#)	Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options at FY-End(\$)
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Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized* (\$)	Exercisable/ Unexercisable	Exercisable/ Unexercisable*
C. Dowd Ritter	0	\$ 0	3,574,875/0	\$ 16,997,051/\$0
O.B. Grayson Hall, Jr.	0	\$ 0	623,092/0	\$ 2,593,623/\$0
W. Charles Mayer, III	5,875	\$ 55,930	769,809/0	\$ 3,427,211/\$0
Beth E. Mooney	39,165	\$ 229,236	522,385/0	\$ 2,223,336/\$0
E. W. Stephenson, Jr.	5,875	\$ 56,518	729,409/0	\$ 3,399,739/\$0

\* Market value of underlying securities at exercise or year-end, as applicable, minus the exercise price.

**Table of Contents****LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLANS NON-STOCK AWARDS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR**

<u>Name</u>	<b>Performance</b>		<b>Estimated Future Payouts under</b>		
	<b>or Other</b>		<b>Non-Stock Price-Based Plans</b>		
	<b>Number of</b>	<b>Period Until</b>			
	<b>Shares, Units, or</b>	<b>Maturation or</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
	<b>Other Rights (#)</b>	<b>Payout</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
C. Dowd Ritter		2005-2007	\$ 583,500	\$ 1,167,000	\$ 2,917,500
O.B. Grayson Hall Jr.		2005-2007	\$ 115,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 775,000
W. Charles Mayer, III		2005-2007	\$ 115,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 775,000
Beth E. Mooney		2005-2007	\$ 113,500	\$ 227,000	\$ 567,500
E. W. Stephenson, Jr.		2005-2007	\$ 113,500	\$ 227,000	\$ 567,500

These grants of performance units were made pursuant to amendments to the 1996 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan approved by the shareholders in 2002. The amount of the eventual payments will depend on the achievement of earnings per share and return on equity goals over a three year period including fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION****AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005**

<u>Plan Category</u>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights</b>		<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))</b>
		<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	30,600,448	\$ 23.15		17,993,705(3)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders(1)(2)	5,363,705	\$ 17.14		348,119(4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,964,153</b>	<b>\$ 22.28</b>		<b>18,341,824</b>

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- (1) This includes 4,782,871 options to purchase shares of AmSouth common stock granted under an incentive compensation plan assumed from First American Corporation in a merger with AmSouth. Shareholders of First American Corporation approved such plan, but pre-merger AmSouth shareholders did not approve this plan.
- (2) This does not include outstanding options to purchase 311,203 shares of AmSouth common stock granted to employees of predecessor organizations and assumed through various mergers and acquisitions. At December 31, 2005, these assumed options had a weighted average exercise price of \$16.15 per share. The plans under which these options were granted are not available for future issuances of options to purchase shares of AmSouth common stock, and in the event that any such assumed option is not exercised, no further option to purchase shares of AmSouth common stock will be issued in place of such unexercised option.
- (3) This number of shares includes 858,148 shares reserved under the AmSouth Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors and 863,716 shares of common stock reserved under the AmSouth Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (4) This number of shares represents shares reserved under the AmSouth Deferred Compensation Plan for future issuance.



## **Table of Contents**

Material features of equity compensation plans adopted or assumed without the approval of AmSouth shareholders are described below:

### **First American Corporation 1993 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan; Heritage Federal Bancshares 1994 Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors**

AmSouth assumed the First American Corporation 1993 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, and the Heritage Federal Bancshares 1994 Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the FAC Director Plans), in connection with AmSouth's merger with First American Corporation in October 1999. Only directors of First American or Heritage Federal (a First American predecessor) who were not employees were eligible to receive awards under the FAC Director Plans. At the time the outstanding options under the FAC Director Plans were granted, the options were exercisable for common shares of First American Corporation or Heritage Federal Bancshares, as the case may be. All outstanding options were granted prior to AmSouth's merger with First American, and awards are no longer granted under the FAC Director Plans. Under the FAC Director Plans, the exercise price of options may not be less than the fair market value of the stock into which the option is exercisable at the time of grant. Previously granted but unexercised options are subject to adjustment for any future stock dividends, splits, business combinations, or other changes in capitalization as described in the FAC Director Plans.

### **First American Corporation Broad-Based Employee Stock Option Plan; Pioneer Bancshares, Inc. 1994 Long-Term Incentive Plan; Heritage Federal Bancshares, Inc. 1992 Stock Option Plan; Deposit Guaranty Corporation Long Term Incentive Plans**

AmSouth assumed the plans described in the caption above (the Predecessor Employee Plans) in connection with AmSouth's merger with First American Corporation in October 1999. Generally, only employees of the pertinent predecessor corporations were eligible to receive awards under the Predecessor Employee Plans, although under some plans non-employee directors could be granted non-qualified stock options. At the time the outstanding options under the Predecessor Employee Plans were granted, the options were exercisable for common shares of the pertinent predecessor corporation. Following AmSouth's merger with First American, these options became exercisable for shares of AmSouth's common stock. The number of shares these options are exercisable for and the exercise prices were adjusted in accordance with the terms of the merger between AmSouth and First American. All of these outstanding options were granted prior to AmSouth's merger with First American, and awards are no longer granted under the Predecessor Employee Plans. Under the Predecessor Employee Plans, the exercise price of options generally may not be less than the fair market value of the underlying stock at the time of grant, although some plans permitted non-qualified options to be granted at exercise prices below market value. Options granted under the Predecessor Employee Plans were in some instances made subject to vesting over time. Previously granted but unexercised options are subject to adjustment for any future stock dividends, splits, combinations, or other changes in capitalization as described in the Predecessor Employee Plans. The Predecessor Employee Plans require that, in the event of a merger or other corporate reorganization affecting AmSouth, the holder of an option will be entitled to exercise such option, or, in some instances, to receive cash in the amount of the spread between the exercise price and fair market value.

### **AmSouth Bancorporation Deferred Compensation Plan**

AmSouth has adopted the AmSouth Bancorporation Deferred Compensation Plan, which was amended and restated as of January 1, 2005. A select group of members of management and highly compensated employees are eligible to participate. Under the Deferred Compensation Plan, a participant may elect to defer a portion (from 25% to 100%) of his or her annual bonus into Deferred Stock or other investments. The deferral election must specify a payment date, which may not be sooner than the third anniversary of the first day of the plan year to which the deferral relates. For contributions made on or prior to December 31, 2004, the cash amount of the bonus being deferred was exchanged for an equivalent number of deemed shares of AmSouth common stock based on the fair market value of such stock. For contributions made after December 31, 2004, the cash amount of the bonus being deferred is exchanged for



## **Table of Contents**

an equivalent number of deemed shares of the investments available in the Thrift Plan. For balances on December 31, 2004 deemed invested in Company stock, that number of shares of AmSouth common stock will be distributed to the participant on the selected payment date. The participant may elect to have payments distributed in a lump sum or in installments, but must make such election in advance of the deferral. All amounts so deferred are fully vested and are not subject to forfeiture. In the event of stock splits, recapitalizations, reorganizations, or other similar transactions affecting AmSouth's common stock, the Human Resources Committee can make such adjustments as it determines to be equitable. Effective January 1, 2005, the deferrals are deemed invested in accordance with the participant's investment elections under the Thrift Plan. Amounts deferred after January 1, 2005 will be distributed in cash.

### **Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors of AmSouth Bancorporation**

AmSouth has adopted the Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors of AmSouth Bancorporation. Directors of AmSouth are eligible to participate. Under this plan, a participant may elect to defer a portion of his or her retainer and meeting fees into Deferred Stock. Upon each such deferral, the cash amount of the payment being deferred is converted into an equivalent number of deemed shares of AmSouth common stock based on the fair market value of such stock. The director must elect whether to receive payment upon retirement or upon reaching a certain age, and whether to be paid in a lump sum or in specified annual installments. All amounts so deferred are fully vested and are not subject to forfeiture. In the event of stock splits, recapitalizations, reorganizations, or other similar transactions affecting AmSouth's common stock, the Human Resources Committee can make such adjustments as it determines to be equitable.

### **AmSouth Bancorporation Amended and Restated 1991 Employee Stock Incentive Plan (formerly First American Corporation Amended and Restated 1991 Employee Stock Incentive Plan)**

AmSouth assumed the plan described in the caption above (the 1991 Plan) in connection with AmSouth's merger with First American Corporation in October 1999. The 1991 Plan permitted grants to officers and other key employees. Any outstanding options that were granted under the 1991 Plan before the merger of AmSouth and First American became exercisable into shares of AmSouth's common stock under the terms of that merger. AmSouth made a grant of stock options under the 1991 Plan in 2000 and 2001, which are reflected in the table above in column (a). No additional grants may be made under the 1991 Plan, which terminated in 2001. Shareholders of First American approved the 1991 Plan, but pre-merger AmSouth shareholders did not approve this plan.

### **Retirement Plan**

AmSouth has both a non-contributory qualified defined benefit Retirement Plan, as well as a non-qualified Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP). All benefits earned under the qualified defined benefit plan are based on years of credited service up to 30 and the annual average of the highest five consecutive years of base salary earned out of the last ten years worked. The SERP provides benefits that would otherwise be denied participants under the qualified Retirement Plan because of Internal Revenue Code limitations on qualified plan benefits, as well as additional benefits that serve to attract and retain high quality senior executive talent for the organization.

There are two types of retirement benefits in the SERP: a regular benefit and a targeted benefit. The annual average covered compensation for both benefits is based on the highest three consecutive years of base salary plus bonus out of the last ten years worked. The amount of the regular SERP retirement benefit is determined by the length of the retiree's credited service up to 35 years and the annual average covered compensation utilizing the qualified Retirement Plan formula. Participants vest in this benefit after five years of service or attainment of age 55. The regular SERP benefit is available to all eligible SERP participants.

The targeted SERP retirement benefit is available only to a select group of senior officers, including the named executive officers. This targeted SERP benefit provides a percentage of annual average covered

**Table of Contents**

compensation based on years of credited service ranging from 40% at 10 years up to a maximum of 65% at 35 years. These targeted SERP benefits are offset by the qualified plan benefit, the Social Security benefit, and any non-contributory retirement benefit earned from a prior employer. Participants vest in this benefit only after 10 years of service and the attainment of age 60 except in the case of death, disability or change in control. If a participant retires prior to meeting these vesting requirements, he or she will receive a regular SERP benefit.

The full years of credited service for the named executive officers are as follows: Mr. Ritter 33 years; Mr. Hall 25 years; Mr. Mayer 27 years; Ms. Mooney 6 years; and Mr. Stephenson 30 years. The table below shows the estimated annual retirement benefits payable at normal retirement age (65) under the qualified plan and the SERP. These benefits are computed as straight life annuities beginning at age 65, and also include an estimated Social Security benefit at age 65. If an executive attains age 62, he or she is eligible to retire with an unreduced accrued benefit. The most senior executives, including the named executives, are eligible to retire with an unreduced accrued benefit at age 60 if the vesting conditions described above for the targeted SERP benefit are met.

Upon retirement from the Company, executives who are vested in both the regular and targeted benefit will receive the higher of the two benefits. The higher potential benefits are shown assuming that both vesting requirements have been met. If the conditions of vesting for the targeted benefit are not met, then the benefit amounts could be less.

**PENSION PLAN TABLE**

Average Annual Covered Compensation	Years of Service					
	10	15	20	25	30	35
\$ 600,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 360,000	\$ 394,539
800,000	320,000	360,000	400,000	440,000	480,000	520,539
1,000,000	400,000	450,000	500,000	550,000	600,000	650,000
1,200,000	480,000	540,000	600,000	660,000	720,000	780,000
1,400,000	560,000	630,000	700,000	770,000	840,000	910,000
1,600,000	640,000	720,000	800,000	880,000	960,000	1,040,000
1,800,000	720,000	810,000	900,000	990,000	1,080,000	1,170,000
2,000,000	800,000	900,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	1,200,000	1,300,000
2,200,000	880,000	990,000	1,100,000	1,210,000	1,320,000	1,430,000
2,400,000	960,000	1,080,000	1,200,000	1,320,000	1,440,000	1,560,000
2,600,000	1,040,000	1,170,000	1,300,000	1,430,000	1,560,000	1,690,000
2,800,000	1,120,000	1,260,000	1,400,000	1,540,000	1,680,000	1,820,000
3,000,000	1,200,000	1,350,000	1,500,000	1,650,000	1,800,000	1,950,000
3,200,000	1,280,000	1,440,000	1,600,000	1,760,000	1,920,000	2,080,000
3,400,000	1,360,000	1,530,000	1,700,000	1,870,000	2,040,000	2,210,000
3,600,000	1,440,000	1,620,000	1,800,000	1,980,000	2,160,000	2,340,000
3,800,000	1,520,000	1,710,000	1,900,000	2,090,000	2,280,000	2,470,000

**Stock Ownership Guidelines for Officers**

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Several years ago AmSouth adopted common stock ownership guidelines for the officers who are members of its corporate Management Committee. Ownership targets are expressed as a multiple of salary and are as follows: (i) senior executive vice presidents and above who are not directors: three times salary and (ii) officers who are directors: five times salary. Shares considered owned include individually owned shares, restricted shares of AmSouth stock, shares credited to deferral accounts under AmSouth's Deferred Compensation Plan and benefit plan investments in AmSouth stock. As of year-end, all of the members of the Management Committee had met their ownership targets other than the newest member of the Management Committee.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Compensation of Directors**

#### **Fees**

Non-employee directors of AmSouth are paid a fee of \$10,000 per calendar quarter (\$14,000 for the Audit Committee Chairman and \$12,000 for other committee chairmen) during which the director has served. In addition, each such director is paid a fee of \$1,500 for each meeting of the Board and \$1,500 for each committee meeting in which the director participates. Individual directors may, at their option, elect to defer the receipt of directors' fees, and the deferred amounts are deemed invested in AmSouth common stock. Most of the directors of AmSouth have elected to defer receipt of some or all of the retainer and meeting fees they are paid for service on the Board of Directors and to invest these fees in Deferred Stock of AmSouth.

#### **Director Stock Purchase Program**

Under AmSouth's Director Stock Purchase Program, directors who own less than 5,000 shares of AmSouth stock and are not within three years of scheduled retirement from the Board are required to use at least one quarterly retainer each 15 months to purchase AmSouth stock. This requirement may also be fulfilled by the deferral of fees that are invested in Deferred Stock as described in "Fees" above.

#### **Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors**

Each non-employee director of AmSouth is eligible to be granted stock options under the Stock Option Plan for Outside Directors. The Plan provides that options will have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of AmSouth common stock on the date the options are granted. In April 2005, each non-employee director was granted options to purchase 7,600 shares of AmSouth common stock. The original grants provided that the options would vest over a three-year period and remain exercisable until the tenth anniversary of the date of grant. However, the Board of Directors approved the acceleration of vesting of these options effective December 29, 2005 in anticipation of the adoption of Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment* (SFAS 123R) effective January 1, 2006. AmSouth has placed a restriction on executive management and directors that prohibits the sale of any stock obtained through exercise of an accelerated option prior to the date the option would have vested under the terms of the original option agreement.

#### **Employment Contract and Change-in-Control Agreements**

In 1999, AmSouth entered into an employment agreement (the "Agreement") with Mr. Ritter. The Agreement had an initial term of five years, but contains automatic renewal provisions such that the remaining term of the Agreement at any given time will be five years. The Agreement provides that Mr. Ritter will be paid the following compensation: an annual base salary not less than \$900,000; the opportunity to earn an annual bonus under AmSouth's Executive Incentive Plan; a one-time grant of restricted stock and stock options for AmSouth common stock, both of which grants vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the third anniversary of the date of grant; a specified total retirement benefit; AmSouth's normal employee benefits commensurate with his position; reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in accordance with AmSouth's policies; and supplemental life insurance coverage.

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If Mr. Ritter's employment is terminated by AmSouth for reasons other than for Cause or Disability, or if he terminates his employment for Good Reason (all as defined in the Agreement): (A) he is entitled to be paid a lump sum in cash equal to the sum of: (i) unpaid base salary through date of termination, a prorated annual bonus, any previously deferred compensation and accrued vacation pay (the "Accrued Obligations"); (ii) three times annual compensation; (iii) a total retirement benefit as calculated under the Agreement ("Retirement Benefit"); and (iv) accrued benefits under AmSouth's Supplemental Thrift Plan; (B) all unvested stock awards will vest; and (C) he will be paid any amounts due under other AmSouth employee benefit plans and certain other benefits. If employment is terminated due to death or Disability, (A) he or his estate will be paid the



## **Table of Contents**

Accrued Obligations and such other benefits as would be paid to senior executives in such cases, and (B) all unvested restricted stock and stock options will vest. If Mr. Ritter's employment is terminated for Cause or if he terminates it without Good Reason, he will be paid his base salary through date of termination, the Retirement Benefit, and any amounts due under other AmSouth employee benefit plans. AmSouth will also reimburse Mr. Ritter for certain excise taxes that he may be obligated to pay as a result of receiving payments under the Agreement.

AmSouth has also entered into change-in-control agreements with each of the named executive officers other than Mr. Ritter. These agreements are structured such that they have an employment period of two years that begins on the date (the Effective Date) that a change of control (as defined in the agreement) occurs. During the employment period the executive will be paid the following compensation: an annual base salary at least equal to twelve times the highest monthly base salary payable prior to the Effective Date; an annual bonus at least equal to the highest annual bonus paid for the three years prior to the Effective Date; the ability to participate in AmSouth's normal employee benefit plans at an appropriate level; reimbursement for expenses in accordance with AmSouth policy; and fringe benefits consistent with those previously afforded the executive.

If, during the two-year period following the change in control, the Company terminates the executive's employment other than for Cause or Disability, or the executive terminates his or her employment for Good Reason (all as defined in the agreement), the executive will be paid a lump sum payment equal to the sum of the following: (A) unpaid base salary through the date of termination, a prorated annual bonus amount, any previously deferred compensation and accrued vacation pay (the Accrued Obligations); (B) three times annual compensation; (C) the actuarial present value of accrued benefits under AmSouth's Supplemental Retirement Plan; and (D) aggregate benefits accrued under AmSouth's Supplemental Thrift Plan. Based on established election procedures for payments under the Supplemental Retirement Plan and Supplemental Thrift Plan, an executive may receive payments over time instead of in a lump sum. The executive will also be reimbursed for certain excise taxes that may be due in connection with payments made under the agreement.

In the event of termination of employment during the employment period due to death or Disability, the executive or the executive's estate will be paid the Accrued Obligations and such other benefits as would be paid to peer executives in such cases. If the executive's employment is terminated during the employment period (i) for Cause, the executive will be paid unpaid base salary through termination, deferred compensation and certain other benefits due under Company plans, or (ii) because of voluntary termination by the executive without Good Reason, the executive will be paid the Accrued Obligations and other benefits due under Company plans.

## **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

The following directors currently serve as members of the Human Resources Committee of AmSouth's Board of Directors:

Claude B. Nielsen (Chairman)

Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr.

Martha R. Ingram

James R. Malone

There are no relationships that would create a compensation committee interlock as defined under applicable SEC regulations.

**Human Resources Committee Report on Executive Compensation**

**Introduction**

Our report covers the following topics:

Role of the Human Resources Committee ( the Committee )

Executive Compensation Guiding Principles

## **Table of Contents**

Components of Our Executive Compensation Program

Chief Executive Officer Compensation

### **Role of the Human Resources Committee**

The primary role of the Committee is to review the Company's compensation practices with specific focus on the members of AmSouth's Management Committee (referred to here as the Executive Officers). As the Committee endeavors to achieve a high correlation of performance to pay, it carefully considers long-term shareholder interests. In addition, the Committee oversees the broad-based employee benefit plans of the Company.

The Board of Directors requires that members of the Committee be independent under all applicable rules, and all Committee members are independent under those rules. Our analysis of independence is described in Appendix B to this proxy statement and includes business and family relationships between the Committee members and AmSouth.

The Committee considers the advice of independent, outside consultants in discharging its responsibilities to ensure that the amounts and types of compensation the Company pays are appropriate. It uses a wide variety of survey data, analyses and other information in its deliberations, including bench marking, peer group comparisons, and an ongoing review of industry practices.

The Committee's charter clearly reflects that its purpose is to ensure that compensation is aligned with long-term shareholder interests. This charter is reviewed and reaffirmed annually. The current charter appears on the Company's website under [About AmSouth Investor Relations Corporate Governance Board Committee Responsibilities](#).

### **Executive Compensation Guiding Principles**

As noted above, the Human Resources Committee seeks to align executive compensation with long-term shareholder interests. In order to achieve that goal, it utilizes the following four guiding principles:

- 1. Compensation should be related to performance**
- 2. Incentive, or at risk, compensation should be a greater part of total compensation for more senior positions**
- 3. Compensation should be set at competitive levels**
- 4. Deductibility should be maximized if possible**

Each of these principles is described below:

**1. Compensation should be related to performance**

In setting goals for potential annual incentive awards, we believe that such awards should be tied to both individual performance and to how well AmSouth performs financially. The degree to which results exceed or fall short of established goals, in either case, will determine the level of incentive awards earned. It is noteworthy that AmSouth has consistently set aggressive goals.

AmSouth uses a variety of time periods for measuring performance to help ensure that there is an appropriate mix of both short-term goals and long-term goals. As described below under Components of Compensation Program Long-Term Incentives: Stock Options, Restricted Stock and Performance Units , the value to be derived from the Company s Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan Performance Units grants has been measured over a three-year period. The Committee believes that such linkage between compensation and performance over more than one-year periods enhances the correlation between AmSouth s executive compensation program and long-term shareholder interests.

## **Table of Contents**

### **2. Incentive, or at risk, compensation should be a greater part of total compensation for more senior positions**

The portion of an individual's total compensation that varies with individual and company performance goals should increase as the individual's business responsibilities increase. For AmSouth's CEO, for example, the percentage of target compensation that is at risk has steadily risen over the past several years, with such percentage being approximately 83% for 2005. We believe that this compares very favorably with peer banks.

### **3. Compensation should be set at competitive levels**

In order to attract, motivate and retain highly capable individuals for senior positions at AmSouth, we strive to design our executive compensation program so that it is competitive with those at organizations that might also seek to attract those individuals. We review compensation survey data from several independent sources to ensure that our total compensation program is competitive. We compare our compensation to data from two separate groups of bank holding companies. One of these groups (the Peer Group) is a group of approximately 13 large financial institutions with total assets ranging from \$30 billion to \$180 billion (AmSouth currently has approximately \$53 billion in assets). The other group (the Regional Bank Data) is a group of over 75 regional bank holding companies whose compensation data is assembled by independent executive compensation firms. The Peer Group data is used to set the targets for our various types of compensation and the Regional Bank Data is used to corroborate those results.

We also periodically examine compensation data from larger groups of public companies (such as the S&P 500) which is assembled by publications such as The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. However, less weight is given to such data because the Company recruits its executive talent mainly from larger financial institutions, such as those in the Peer Group. Thus, we consider compensation data for such institutions to be the best source of competitive compensation data. Moreover, data assembled from a larger, diverse group of companies necessarily must utilize assumptions and other methodologies in order to allow for comparisons across all industries that can make the data for a particular industry less reliable. We believe that the banks included in the Peer Group are the most appropriate points of comparison for the compensation of our Executive Officers.

### **4. Deductibility should be maximized if possible**

It is a goal to have most of the compensation paid to the most highly compensated Executive Officers qualify as performance-based and therefore deductible under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. We have structured most of our compensation plans so that amounts paid under them will be fully deductible. The Executive Incentive Plan and the 1996 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan (the Long Term Incentive Plan) have been approved by shareholders so as to continue to achieve that goal. However, the Committee reserves the right to pay amounts outside of such plans which might not be fully deductible. As described below under Chief Executive Officer Compensation, the Committee determined again in 2005 not to give the CEO an increase in base salary, so as to maintain the deductibility of such salary.

## **Components of Our Executive Compensation Program**

The three components of our compensation program are:

### **1. Base Salary**

2. Short-Term Incentives
3. Long-Term Incentives

Each of these compensation components is described below:

**1. Base Salary**

We set salary range midpoints for Executive Officers at the median for those of the Peer Group. The information is further verified by examining data from the Regional Bank Data described above. We adjust base salaries when warranted by an individual's experience when our market surveys show that base salaries at the Peer Group are being adjusted.

## **Table of Contents**

### **2. Short-Term Incentives**

Our Executive Incentive Plan is designed to align Executive Officer pay with the annual performance of the Company and, for Executive Officers other than Mr. Ritter, the annual performance of his or her respective area of responsibility. For 2005, the two major factors which were used to measure AmSouth's performance for purposes of the Executive Incentive Plan were growth in earnings per share and return on average equity. These factors were established at the beginning of the plan year. The Committee clearly continues to embrace the principle that attainment of these goals on a sustained basis will lead to superior long-term shareholder returns.

In addition to the two goals described above, the Committee may also evaluate performance for purposes of the Executive Incentive Plan by considering one or more of the following factors:

Return on average assets

Credit quality measures

Efficiency ratio

Loan growth

Deposit growth

Non-interest revenue growth

Calculation of a participant's bonus under the Executive Incentive Plan is done in two steps. First, each participant in the plan is assigned a Base Bonus Opportunity, which is targeted at the median level of similar opportunities at the Peer Group for the prior year. For 2005, Base Bonus Opportunities ranged from 65% to 140% of base pay. The second step in the calculation of an award under the Executive Incentive Plan is to evaluate the individual's performance against the pre-established individual goals set by management and apply a market-based multiplier times the Base Bonus Opportunity that ranges from zero to 2.0 dependent upon the achievement of the goals. The Committee may use its discretion to adjust payments downward from these amounts. Participants are able to defer amounts paid under the Executive Incentive Plan. As noted above, the Committee may pay short-term incentive compensation outside the Executive Incentive Plan, which might not be fully deductible, where necessary in our judgment to attract, motivate or retain executives.

### **3. Long-Term Incentives: Stock Options, Restricted Stock and Performance Units**

The Committee believes that stock-based awards can create a strong link to long-term financial results. We base our target grants under the Long Term Incentive Plan on our performance compared to the Peer Group, setting them generally at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for grants made by such other institutions. However, grants to individuals can be adjusted based on individual performance, retention and other special circumstances.

We generally make grants of stock options to Executive Officers once a year. The actual grant level is determined based on AmSouth's relative performance against the Peer Group for the year prior to grant date. The options have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of grant. The Long Term Incentive Plan does not permit repricing of options issued under that plan. Options generally vest pro rata over three years after grant and generally have an exercise period that expires ten years after the date of grant.

From time to time shares of restricted stock are granted under the Long Term Incentive Plan. Restricted stock is used primarily as a recruitment and retention tool for senior executives and otherwise as necessary to maintain competitiveness of compensation compared to the Peer Group. Restricted stock grants are conditioned upon the recipient s remaining employed with the company until vesting, which in certain cases does not occur until retirement. Beginning in 1997, the Company ceased making grants of restricted stock to all Executive Officers annually. Some grants have been made since then under special circumstances. However, the Committee believes that such grants may become more common when stock options are required to be expensed beginning in 2006.



## **Table of Contents**

Beginning in 2002, the amount of long-term incentive compensation denominated in stock (such as stock options or restricted stock) was reduced and a cash-based portion was put in place of this reduction. The potential cash payments are made at the end of a multi-year performance period based on AmSouth's performance against peers. The Committee approved the annual Long Term Incentive Plan award grant, which was made up of two-thirds stock options and one third cash performance units. The cash payment for the performance period 2003-2005 also was approved by the Committee.

The Company has had stock ownership guidelines for the Executive Officers for many years. Senior Executive Vice Presidents and above who are not directors must own shares with a value equal to at least three times their respective base salaries, and officers who are also directors (currently just Mr. Ritter) must own shares with a value equal to at least five times their respective base salaries. As of year end, all Executive Officers have met these ownership targets, with the exception of the newest Executive Officer.

## **Chief Executive Officer Compensation**

For 2005, we paid Mr. Ritter \$995,000 in base salary. In order to ensure that a greater portion of his target compensation is performance-based and so as to ensure its deductibility, Mr. Ritter's base salary for 2006 will not be increased. We also approved payment of a bonus to Mr. Ritter under the Executive Incentive Plan of \$2,472,575 for 2005, compared to \$1,636,775 for 2004. As has been the case for a number of years, Mr. Ritter's 2005 bonus was based on the Company's performance relative to goals set for the return on average shareholder equity and the earnings per share growth rate.

We also approved payment of a long-term cash performance unit award under the Long Term Incentive Plan of \$2,004,480. This award was initially granted on February 10, 2003 and was contingent on AmSouth's three year performance (2003-2005) for average annual return on equity and average annual earnings per share growth rate compared to the Peer Group.

Lastly, we used grants under the Long Term Incentive Plan to link Mr. Ritter's pay closely to Company performance and to align his interest directly with the longer-term interests of shareholders. In 2005, we granted him options on 530,800 shares of AmSouth common stock. We believe that stock options can be an extremely effective incentive for superior performance, leading to long-term shareholder value. In addition, Mr. Ritter received a performance unit grant under the Long Term Incentive Plan that could have a value of between \$0 and \$2,917,500 depending on Company performance for average annual return on equity and average annual earnings per share growth rate compared to the Peer Group over a three year period (2005-2007). Once again, the Committee felt that such a grant was consistent with its executive compensation guiding principle that compensation be related to performance. In summary, the Committee deems Mr. Ritter's compensation to be appropriately tied to the long-term interests of shareholders. The amounts of these payments and awards to Mr. Ritter are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table and the stock option and long-term incentive grant tables.

## **Conclusion**

The Committee believes that compensation paid to its Executive Officers under the Company's executive compensation program has been commensurate with the Company's financial performance and is well correlated with shareholder long-term interests.

Claude B. Nielsen (Chairman)

Earnest W. Deavenport, Jr.

Martha R. Ingram

James R. Malone

**Table of Contents**

**Performance Graph**

Set forth below is a graph comparing the yearly change in the cumulative total return of AmSouth's common stock against the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Index and the S&P 500 Commercial Banks Index for the last five years. The graph assumes that the value of the investment in AmSouth common stock and in each index was \$100.00 and that all dividends were reinvested.

**AmSouth Stock Performance**

The information provided under the headings "Audit Committee Report", "Human Resources Committee Report on Executive Compensation" and "Performance Graph" above shall not be deemed to be soliciting material or to be filed with the SEC, or subject to Regulation 14A or 14C, other than as provided in applicable statutes and rules, or to liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and, unless specific reference is made therein to such headings, shall not be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF  
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP to serve as independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006, subject to ratification of the appointment by the shareholders. Ernst & Young LLP has served as the Company's independent auditors for many years and is considered by the Audit Committee and management to be well qualified.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR RATIFICATION OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM.**

**ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF THE 2006 LONG TERM INCENTIVE  
COMPENSATION PLAN (LTICP)**

The success of AmSouth depends, in large measure, on its ability to recruit and retain employees with outstanding ability and experience. The Board of Directors also believes that it is in the best interests of shareholders to align shareholder and employee interests by encouraging employee stock ownership, providing employees with stock-based incentives, and providing compensation opportunities that are conditioned upon achievement of performance goals. In order to accomplish these objectives the Board of Directors has recommended that the shareholders approve the AmSouth Bancorporation 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan (the "LTICP"). The LTICP is intended to replace the 1996 AmSouth Bancorporation Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan (the "1996 LTIP") under which authority to grant awards expires on April 18 of this year.

In making this recommendation to shareholders, management and the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Human Resources Committee"), together with the help and counsel of independent compensation consultants, have begun to re-examine our compensation programs in light of issues important to shareholders such as dilution levels (the number of shares of common stock which may be issued pursuant to outstanding equity awards relative to the amount of common stock presently outstanding) and run rate (the annual rate of equity awards granted).

Upon review, our primary objectives of (1) providing a competitive compensation program that attracts and retains exceptional employees; (2) rewarding and motivating those key employees responsible for the growth and success of AmSouth; and (3) aligning employee and shareholder interests remain unchanged. To continue to meet these primary objectives while addressing dilution and run rate concerns, the new LTICP (which is described in more detail below and the complete text of which is set forth in attached Appendix C) has been structured to provide:

**No Discount Stock Options or Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs):** The LTICP prohibits the grant of a stock option or SAR with an exercise price less than the fair market value of our stock on the date of grant. The only exception is for SARs that are tandem to stock options, which must have the same exercise price as the related stock option.

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**No Repricing of Stock Options or SARs:** The LTICP prohibits the repricing of stock options or SARs either by reducing the exercise price or by substituting a new option or SAR at a lower price. The only exception is for exercise price adjustments to reflect mergers, changes in control, stock splits or other change in capitalization or, if the exercise price is indexed, to reflect changes in the index.

**Independent Committee Administration:** The LTICP will be administered by a committee of the Board whose members satisfy the disinterested administration requirements of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Exchange Act ), the outside director requirement of Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), and any applicable independence requirements of the New York Stock

## **Table of Contents**

Exchange. The only exception is that the LTICP authorizes the Board committee which administers the LTICP to delegate to the CEO the power to grant awards to employees who are not executive officers, within limits established by that committee.

**Shares Available For Full Value Awards Limited:** Of the shares available for issuance under the LTICP less than 25% (5,500,000 shares) may be issued pursuant to grants of restricted stock or other full value awards. In determining this number of shares to be made available for issuance pursuant to full value awards, the Human Resources Committee has taken into account AmSouth's practice of issuing restricted stock with a three year vesting period in lieu of paying a portion of some top-performing employees' annual incentive awards in cash when they are earned under AmSouth's other performance based incentive plans. The Human Resources Committee believes that paying a portion of these annual awards in the form of restricted stock with deferred three-year vesting rather than cash furthers the goals of aligning the interests of the affected top-performing employees with the interests of our shareholders and retaining those employees.

**Vesting:** AmSouth has historically granted options with a three-year vesting period, and this practice is not expected to change substantially. Under the LTICP, options and other awards, including restricted stock awards, that are conditioned only on future employment (rather than the attainment of performance goals) may not vest more rapidly than in monthly installments over the three years after the date of grant. Awards that vest upon the attainment of performance goals must provide for a performance period of at least one year. The only exceptions to these vesting provisions apply in cases of retirement, death, disability, other extraordinary circumstances, change in control, and sign-on grants for new hires. Awards that are granted in full or partial satisfaction of payments that would otherwise be made under other AmSouth compensation programs may but need not be subject to the three-year or one-year vesting requirement.

**Future Grants:** Beginning with the annual grants that will be made later in 2006, the Human Resources Committee intends to change the mix of equity based awards by decreasing AmSouth's reliance on stock options in favor of a mix that includes more restricted stock and long-term performance based cash awards. These types of awards can provide appropriate value to recipients while utilizing less AmSouth stock, and are therefore less dilutive to existing shareholders. It is anticipated that this change will apply especially to employees at lower levels within the organization. This change is expected to increase the retentive nature of AmSouth's compensation plans, maintain a strong link between employee and shareholder interests, and help focus this important broader key employee population on our goal of improving long term share performance. We anticipate that grants of appreciation-based equity awards such as stock options will be reserved primarily for higher level key employees whose actions most significantly impact share performance.

## **SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE LTICP**

The following summary of the material terms of the LTICP is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the LTICP, which is attached as Appendix C to this Proxy Statement.

### **Effective Date and Duration of Plan**

The LTICP will become effective only if and when it is approved by shareholders. If approved by shareholders, the LTICP will remain in effect until all awards granted thereunder have been satisfied or terminated pursuant to the terms of the LTICP. However, in no event may an award be granted under the LTICP after April 19, 2016.

### **Administration**

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The LTICP is to be administered by the Human Resources Committee. The members of any committee of the Board of Directors that administers the LTICP (the Committee ) must all satisfy the disinterested administration requirement of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the outside director

## **Table of Contents**

requirement of Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), and any applicable independence rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Under the LTICP, the Committee may authorize the CEO to grant awards to employees who are not subject to the short-swing trading provisions of the federal securities laws, provided that it establishes an annual limit on the total number of awards that may be so granted.

### **Eligibility**

Any key officer or employee of AmSouth or of a corporation in which AmSouth or a subsidiary owns more than 50% of the voting stock (approximately 1,200 persons) are eligible to participate in the LTICP. Key employees who are members of the Board of Directors are eligible to participate but non-employee Directors of AmSouth are not eligible.

### **Stock Available for Issuance through the LTICP**

The number of shares of AmSouth's common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, authorized for issuance through the LTICP is twenty-three million (23,000,000) shares, subject to adjustments for stock splits and other capital changes occurring after the effective date. All of these shares may (but need not) be issued through incentive stock options.

As previously mentioned, the authority to grant awards under the 1996 LTIP will expire prior to the date of this shareholder meeting. When the 1996 LTIP expires, the unused shares under that plan will cease to be available for issuance. Upon adoption of the LTICP, in addition to the twenty-three million shares approved for issuance under this plan, approximately 860,000 shares will remain available for issuance under the Directors Stock Option Plan, bringing the total number of shares available for issuance under all long term incentive plans to 23,860,000 shares.

Only shares that are actually issued under the LTICP will count against the number of shares that may be issued under the LTICP (including the number that may be issued through incentive stock options). Shares that are not issued or that are returned to AmSouth, whether because the related award is canceled, surrendered or forfeited, expires or is settled in cash, will not count against the number of shares available for issuance through the LTICP. If an optionee surrenders shares to AmSouth in payment of the exercise price of stock options, or if AmSouth withholds shares from the shares issuable pursuant to an award for payment of taxes, only the net number of shares issued by AmSouth in connection with the award will be deducted from the number of shares available for issuance through the LTICP. For example, if an employee exercises an option for 1,000 shares and pays the exercise price by surrendering 600 shares he already owns to AmSouth, and AmSouth withhold 100 shares in payment of withholding taxes due on the option exercise, only the net number of shares issued by AmSouth in connection with the award (300 shares) will be deducted from the number of shares available for issuance through the LTICP. Shares that AmSouth issues under awards it assumes or substitutes for another company's awards in a merger or acquisition will not be charged against the number of shares available under the LTICP or any of the award limits described below.

### **Award Limits**

*Full value award limit.* Not more than 5.5 million (5,500,000) of the shares that are available for issuance under the LTICP may be issued pursuant to full value awards (i.e., awards other than Stock Options or SARs). Awards that are subject to this limitation are awards of performance shares, performance units, restricted stock and stock units.



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*Limit on option and SAR grants.* The maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which stock options or SARs may be granted under the LTICP to any employee during any one calendar year is 950,000 shares.

*Limit on grants of other stock-based performance awards.* The maximum number of shares of common stock with respect to which any awards other than stock options, SARs and performance units may be granted in

## **Table of Contents**

any one calendar year to any employee is 950,000 shares (or their equivalent in cash). Awards that are subject to this limitation are awards of performance shares, restricted stock and stock units.

Each of the foregoing limits is subject to adjustment for stock splits and other capital changes occurring after the date shareholders approve the LTICP.

On March 7, 2006, the closing price for a share of AmSouth's common stock was \$27.39.

*Limit on grants of non-stock-based performance awards.* No participant may receive more than four million dollars (\$4,000,000) (or the equivalent in shares) in payment of performance unit awards that are granted in any one calendar year. Performance unit awards are rights to receive a specified amount of money at a future time (other than an amount determined by reference to the market value of a specified number of shares of common stock) if a specified performance goal is attained.

## **Types of Awards**

Awards that may be granted under the LTICP consist of incentive stock options and nonqualified stock options, SARs, restricted stock, performance shares, performance units, and stock units. Awards under the LTICP may be granted in satisfaction of payments due under other AmSouth compensation plans, in which case the awards may but need not be vested or exercisable when granted.

Awards under the LTICP may be granted on terms that qualify the awards as performance-based compensation that is exempt from the one million dollar (\$1,000,000) limit on corporate tax deductions for named executive officer pay (Deductible Performance-Based Compensation), or on terms that do not qualify the awards as Deductible Performance-Based Compensation. Restricted stock, performance share, performance unit, and stock unit awards that are designed to qualify as Deductible Performance-Based Compensation will be paid on account of the attainment of one or more pre-established objective performance goals (within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code) over a period of one year or more, and the performance goals will be based on one or more of the business criteria that are described below under Business Criteria for Performance Goals. However, such awards may be earned if death, disability, a change in control, or other circumstances specified by the Committee occur during the performance period, whether or not the performance goals have been attained or are thereafter attained. In such a case, the awards may not be deductible by AmSouth. Under an award that qualifies as Deductible Performance-Based Compensation, the Committee may retain discretion to reduce (but not to increase) the amount payable on account of achievement of the performance goal.

## **Vesting of Service-Based Awards**

Awards that are granted for future services and are not conditioned on achievement of performance goals, including options, SARs, restricted stock and stock units, may not become non-forfeitable (or, in the case of options and SARs, exercisable) more rapidly than in equal annual or monthly installments over a period of at least three (3) years after the date on which the awards are granted, unless one of the exceptions set forth in the LTICP applies, in which case the Committee may provide for the awards to become non-forfeitable or exercisable at an earlier time (including, if the Committee so provides, immediately). The exceptions apply in the case of retirement, death, disability or other extraordinary circumstances. Sign-on grants for new hires are another exception. Any such awards that are outstanding at the time of a change in control (as defined in the LTICP) will immediately become non-forfeitable or exercisable, any transfer restrictions on shares subject to the awards will

lapse, and options and SARs will remain exercisable throughout their entire term, unless the applicable award agreements provide otherwise.

**Change in Control**

In general, under the LTICP, a change in control will be deemed to occur if any person or group of persons acting in concert becomes the beneficial owner of more than 20% of AmSouth's common stock; there is a change in the composition of the Board of Directors such that persons who were directors at the beginning of

## **Table of Contents**

any period of two years or less or persons who were approved by them cease to constitute at least 60% of the Board; or shareholders approve a sale of assets, plan of complete liquidation, or a merger that would result in AmSouth shareholders before the transaction ceasing to own more than 60% of the voting power after the transaction.

## **Stock Options**

Options granted under the LTICP may qualify for the special tax treatment applicable to incentive stock options (so-called incentive stock options or ISOs ) or may not so qualify (so-called non-qualified stock options or NQSOs ).

Under the LTICP, the price at which a share of AmSouth common stock may be purchased under any option will be at least 100% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date the option is granted. Fair market value is defined for this purpose as the closing price of AmSouth stock in consolidated trading on the date in question. The Committee may not reprice outstanding options at a lower price, either by lowering the exercise price or by canceling the options and re-granting them at a lower price, except to reflect changes in capitalization (such as stock splits) or to substitute equivalent awards in connection with a merger or change in control or, if the exercise price of an option is indexed, to reflect changes in the index.

The consideration to be received by AmSouth for the grant of options under the LTICP is to be determined by the Committee and may consist of future services, past services, or money or other property, tangible or intangible, paid by the optionee.

Under the LTICP, the Committee determines the extent to which options may be exercised after an optionee ceases to be an AmSouth employee, and when options will expire. However, no option may be exercised more than ten (10) years after the date on which it was granted.

The purchase price of the shares subject to an option may be paid in money or, if so provided in the option agreement, either (a) in shares of AmSouth common stock owned by the optionee that have a fair market value on the date of exercise equal to the purchase price under the option, or (b) by the immediate sale through a stockbroker of that number of the shares being acquired pursuant to the option exercise sufficient to pay the purchase price (a so-called cashless exercise).

Options granted under the LTICP will be exercisable, during the optionee's lifetime, only by the optionee, and will not be transferable by the optionee except by will, by intestacy or to a designated beneficiary. However, the Committee may in its discretion allow NQSOs to be transferred during an optionee's lifetime.

## **Stock Appreciation Rights**

SARs entitle a participant to receive payment from AmSouth in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of a share of AmSouth common stock on the date the SARs are exercised and the exercise price of the SARs, multiplied by the number of SARs exercised. The Committee has the right to make payment for SARs in the form of cash, shares of common stock, or partly in cash and partly in shares of common stock.

SARs may be granted as freestanding SARs or tandem SARs.

Freestanding SARs have an exercise price that is equal to the fair market value of a share of AmSouth common stock on the date the freestanding SARs are granted. Freestanding SARs are not linked to a stock option.

Tandem SARs have the same exercise price as a specified outstanding option (the related option ), and they are exercisable only if and when the related option is exercisable. An exercise of any of the tandem SARs

## **Table of Contents**

cancels one of the related options, and an exercise of any of the related options cancels one of the tandem SARs. Tandem SARs may be granted for the same consideration as the related options (i.e., no additional consideration need be received by AmSouth).

The Committee may not reprice outstanding SARs at a lower price, either by lowering the exercise price or by canceling the SARs and re-granting them at a lower price, except to reflect changes in capitalization (such as stock splits) or to substitute equivalent awards in connection with a merger or change in control or, if the exercise price is indexed, to reflect changes in the index.

The consideration to be received by AmSouth for the grant of freestanding SARs under the LTICP is to be determined by the Committee and may consist of future services, past services, or money or other property, tangible or intangible, paid by the recipient.

Under the LTICP, the Committee determines the extent to which SARs may be exercised after the participant ceases to be an AmSouth employee, and when SARs will expire. However, no SARs may be exercised more than ten (10) years after the date on which they were granted.

## **Restricted Stock**

Restricted stock awards are shares of AmSouth common stock that are issued to a participant subject to contractual restrictions that limit the participant's right to transfer the shares during a defined time period (the Period of Restriction). The Committee may (but need not) condition the recipient's right to retain the restricted shares on the completion of a stated period of employment or the achievement of performance objectives. The Committee may but need not require a participant to pay for restricted shares. If restricted shares are not forfeited, they become freely transferable at the end of the Period of Restriction.

Unless the Committee provides otherwise, during the Period of Restriction recipients of restricted stock awards will have the right to vote the restricted shares and the right to be credited with dividends on them. The Committee, in its discretion, will determine whether the dividends are to be paid currently or reinvested, and whether they will be subject to restrictions and forfeiture.

## **Performance Shares and Performance Units**

A performance share is a right to receive a specified number of shares of AmSouth common stock at a future date if a specified performance goal is attained over a period of one year or more. A performance unit is the right to receive a specified dollar amount of money (other than one determined by reference to the market value of a specified number of shares of AmSouth stock) at a future time if a specified performance goal is attained over a period of one year or more. If the performance shares or performance units are intended to qualify as Deductible Performance-Based Compensation, the performance goal will be based on one or more of the business criteria described below under Business Criteria for Performance Goals.

Partial achievement of the specified performance goal may result in part of the performance shares or performance units being earned. Performance shares and performance units that are earned may both be settled in the form of either AmSouth common stock or cash.

In the discretion of the Committee, performance share and performance unit awards may be earned if death, disability, a change in control, or other circumstances specified by the Committee occur during the performance period, whether or not the performance goals have been attained or are thereafter attained.

Performance share and performance unit awards may (but need not) be granted each year to any employee, and a new performance period may commence each year and overlap with one or more years included in any prior or later performance period.

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**Table of Contents**

**Stock Units**

A stock unit is a right to receive a share of AmSouth common stock at a designated date or in defined circumstances, which may be the date when the stock unit is granted or a later date, or the occurrence of a specified event such as termination of employment. The right to receive the share may (but need not) be conditioned on continued employment or achievement of performance goals. Shares issued on account of a stock unit may be transferable or may be subject to restrictions during a defined period of time.

**Business Criteria for Performance Goals**

The performance goals that will apply to awards of performance shares, performance units, restricted stock and stock units that are intended to qualify as Deductible Performance-Based Compensation will be based on one or more of the following business criteria:

net income;	assets;
return on equity;	deposits;
earnings per share;	loans;
return on assets;	investments;
total shareholder return;	market share;
AmSouth's share price;	non-performing assets;
return on investment;	charge-offs;
internal rate of return;	loan loss reserves;
operating income;	asset quality levels;
operating margin;	improvement of financial ratings;
core non-interest income;	interest-sensitivity gap levels.
revenue;	
expenses;	

The goal which utilizes any of these business criteria may be an absolute performance goal, or a goal that is based on performance relative to the performance of a peer group or a designated market index, and may be based on consolidated results or the results of AmSouth, a subsidiary or a business unit. The performance goal may but need not be based on a change or an increase or positive result. In addition, the Committee may provide for the following items to be included or excluded from the performance goal: discontinued operations, unusual items, non-recurring items, extraordinary items, as determined by AmSouth's auditors, and the effects of changes in accounting standards, acquisitions, divestitures and restructuring expenses.

**Amendments**



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The LTICP may be modified or amended by the Committee or the Board of Directors at any time and for any purpose which the Committee or the Board of Directors deems appropriate. However, no amendment may be effective without shareholder approval if such approval is required by Delaware law, the principal stock exchange on which AmSouth stock is listed, or by the tax code provisions relating to Deductible Performance-Based Compensation or ISOs. In addition, the Plan may not be amended without shareholder approval to give the Committee authority to reprice outstanding options or SARs at a lower price, either by reducing the exercise price or by canceling the award and issuing lower-priced options or SARs in replacement thereof, except as permitted by the LTICP in connection with a merger or change in control. In addition, no amendment may adversely affect outstanding awards in a material way without the affected holder's consent.

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**Table of Contents**

**Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following description of the tax consequences of awards under the LTICP is based on Federal income tax laws currently in effect and does not purport to be a complete description of such Federal income tax consequences, nor does it address foreign, state or local tax consequences.

***Options.*** There are no Federal income tax consequences either to the optionee or AmSouth upon the grant of an ISO or a NQSO. If shares are purchased under an ISO (i.e., an ISO is exercised) during employment or within three months thereafter, the optionee will not recognize any income and AmSouth will not be entitled to a deduction in respect of the option exercise. However, the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of such exercise over the purchase price of the shares under the option will be includible in the optionee's alternative minimum taxable income if the optionee does not dispose of the shares in the same calendar year in which the optionee acquired the shares under the ISO, which may give rise to alternative minimum tax liability for the optionee. Generally, if the optionee disposes of shares purchased under an ISO within two years of the date of grant or one year of the date of exercise of the ISO, the optionee will recognize ordinary income, and AmSouth will be entitled to a deduction, equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise over the purchase price of such shares (but not more than the actual gain realized by the optionee on the disposition of the shares). Any gain after the date on which the optionee purchased the shares will be treated as capital gain to the optionee and will not be deductible by AmSouth. If the shares are disposed of after the two year and one year periods mentioned above, AmSouth will not be entitled to any deduction, and the entire gain or loss realized by the optionee will be treated as capital gain or loss.

When shares are purchased under a NQSO, the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date of purchase over the purchase price of such shares under the option will generally be taxable to the optionee as ordinary income and deductible by AmSouth. The disposition of shares purchased under a NQSO will generally result in a capital gain or loss for the optionee, but will have no tax consequences for AmSouth.

***Stock Appreciation Rights and Performance Share, Performance Unit and Stock Unit Awards.*** There are no Federal income tax consequences either to the recipient or AmSouth upon the grant of SARs. If and when money is paid or shares of stock are issued pursuant to the exercise of a SAR or pursuant to a performance share, performance unit or stock unit award, the recipient will generally recognize ordinary income and AmSouth will generally be entitled to a tax deduction equal to the amount of money paid and the fair market value of the shares on the date on which the shares are issued less any amount paid for them by the recipient.

***Restricted Stock Awards.*** A person who has been granted a restricted stock award will not recognize taxable income at the time the restricted shares are issued to the person unless the person makes a special election in accordance with applicable Treasury regulations to be taxed (at ordinary income rates) on the fair market value of the shares at that time (with fair market value determined for this purpose without regard to any restrictions other than restrictions, if any, which by their terms will never lapse), in which case AmSouth would be entitled to a deduction at the same time equal to the amount of income realized by the recipient but would not be entitled to deduct any dividends thereafter paid on the shares. Absent such an election, a participant who has been granted a restricted stock award will not recognize taxable income until the shares become transferable or cease to be subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, at which time the recipient will recognize ordinary income and AmSouth will generally be entitled to a corresponding deduction equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares at that time over the amount (if any) paid by the recipient for the shares. Dividends paid to the recipient on the restricted shares prior to that time will be ordinary compensation income to the recipient and deductible by AmSouth.

***Limitation on Corporate Tax Deductions for Named Executive Officer Compensation.*** Under section 162(m) of the Code, the amount which AmSouth may deduct on its federal income tax returns for compensation paid to the chief executive officer and its four other highest paid executive officers (covered employees) in any taxable year is limited to one million dollars per individual. However, compensation that qualifies as



## **Table of Contents**

performance-based compensation is not subject to the one million dollar deduction limit. As mentioned above, the LTICP authorizes the Committee to grant awards that qualify as performance-based compensation as well as awards that do not. As a result, AmSouth may not be entitled to any deduction mentioned above if the individual in question is the CEO or another covered employee, the amount in question does not qualify as performance-based compensation, and the amount in question, when added to the covered employee's other taxable compensation that is not performance-based in the same taxable year, exceeds one million dollars.

***Tax Penalties Applicable to Certain Change in Control-Related Payments.*** Under sections 280G and 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, if compensatory payments made to an officer, highly compensated employee or certain other disqualified individuals, including the vesting of stock options or other awards, is contingent, or deemed to be contingent, on a change in control of AmSouth, and if the value of such payments exceeds the individual's average annual taxable compensation from AmSouth during the preceding five years, the person who receives such payments may be subject to a 20% excise tax on most of such payments, payable in addition to regular income taxes, and AmSouth may be denied a deduction for the portion of the payments which is subject to such excise tax. If a change in control as defined in the LTICP occurs, awards under the LTICP may be subject to such excise tax, in whole or in part, and may be nondeductible by AmSouth. Compensation paid to the CEO or another covered employee within the meaning of Code section 162(m) that is non-deductible pursuant to section 280G of the Code, may also reduce, dollar for dollar, the one million dollar limit on such covered employee's non-performance-based compensation that AmSouth may deduct under section 162(m) of the Code.

***Tax Penalties Applicable to Certain Deferred Compensation Arrangements.*** Under section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, an employee who has a right to compensation that is payable in a later year may be subject to certain tax penalties if the arrangement under which the compensation is payable does not qualify for an exemption from section 409A or conform in terms and operation to the requirements of section 409A. The tax penalties consist of (a) immediate taxation of the compensation in the year in which it is not considered to be subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture within the meaning of section 409A, even if the compensation is not payable in that year (i.e., no deferral of taxation), (b) imposition of a 20% surtax on the compensation in that year, payable in addition to ordinary income taxes, and (c) extra interest charges. In addition, the tax penalties may apply to the employee's other compensation awards of the same character as the penalized award. Companies are required to report and withhold taxes on the penalized compensation. Employees who are granted awards under the LTICP, other than ISOs, may be subject to these tax penalties if the awards do not qualify for an exemption from Code section 409A or conform in terms and operation to the requirements of Code section 409A.

## **New Plan Benefits**

No awards have been granted to date under the LTICP. The amount of options or other awards that will be received by or allocated to any individual under the LTICP, or that would have been received by or allocated to any individual under the LTICP if the LTICP had been in effect during the last fiscal year, is not determinable, as all such determinations under the LTICP are to be made by the Committee in its discretion, subject to the terms of the LTICP. Awards that were granted under the 1996 LTIP during the last fiscal year to the named executive officers are included in the Summary Compensation Table and the Option Grants in Last Fiscal Year Table that appear on pages 13 and 15 of this proxy statement.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2006 LONG TERM INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN.**

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 4 SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL (Political Contributions)**

The Office of the Comptroller of New York City, 1 Centre Street, New York, New York 10007, as custodian and trustee of the New York City Employees Retirement System, the New York City Teachers Retirement System, the New York City Police Pension Fund, and the New York City Fire Department Pension Fund, and custodian of the New York City Board of Education Retirement System (the funds), which as of October 24, 2005, the date of its proposal, was the holder of 1,165,315 shares of AmSouth common stock, has informed AmSouth that it intends to present the following proposal and supporting statement at the 2006 Annual Meeting. In accordance with applicable proxy regulations, the proposal and supporting statement, which are presented as received by AmSouth, are set forth below. To ensure that readers can easily distinguish between material provided by the proponent and material provided by the Company, we have put a box around material provided by the proponent.

**Resolved**, that the shareholders of **AmSouth Bancorporation** hereby request that the Company provide a report, updated semi-annually, disclosing the Company's:

1. Policies and procedures for political contributions (both direct and indirect) made with corporate funds.
  
2. Monetary and non-monetary contributions to political candidates, political parties, political committees and other political entities organized and operating under 26 USC Sec. 527 of the Internal Revenue Code including the following:
  - a. An accounting of the Company's funds contributed to any of the persons or organizations described above;
  
  - b. The business rationale for each of the Company's political contributions; and
  
  - c. Identification of the person or persons in the Company who participated in making the decisions to contribute.

This report shall be presented to the board of directors' audit committee or other relevant oversight committee, and posted on the company's website to reduce costs to shareholders.

**Stockholder Supporting Statements**

As long-term shareholders of **AmSouth Bancorporation**, we support policies that apply transparency and accountability to corporate political giving. In our view, such disclosure is consistent with public policy in regard to public company disclosure.

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Company executives exercise wide discretion over the use of corporate resources for political purposes. They make decisions without a stated business rationale for such donations. In the 2003-04, the last fully reported election cycle, **AmSouth Bancorporation** contributed at least **\$185,000**. (The Center for Public Integrity: <http://www.publicintegrity.org/527/db.aspx?act=main>).

Relying only on the limited data available from the Federal Election Commission and the Internal Revenue Service, the Center for Public Integrity, a leading campaign finance watchdog organization, provides an incomplete picture of the Company's political donations. Complete disclosure by the company is necessary for the company's Board and its shareholders to be able to fully evaluate the political use of corporate assets.

Although the Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) enacted in 2002 prohibits corporate contributions to political parties at the federal level, it allows companies to contribute to independent political committees, also known as 527s.

## **Table of Contents**

Absent a system of accountability, corporate executives will be free to use the Company's assets for political objectives that are not shared by and may be inimical to the interests of the Company and its shareholders. There is currently no single source of information that provides the information sought by this resolution. That is why we urge your support for this critical governance reform.

### **Board of Directors Recommendation and Statement**

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL.**

### **Why the Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that Shareholders Vote Against the Proposal**

Like most public companies, AmSouth periodically makes contributions to various causes, both for charitable reasons and in furtherance of AmSouth's legitimate business interests.

Political contributions are subject to extensive federal and state regulation. These laws and regulations require the disclosure of the amount and nature of political contributions in certain circumstances. The Board of Directors believes that these disclosure requirements represent the reasoned judgment of the nation's publicly elected legislators and, as such, provide AmSouth's shareholders with appropriate disclosure about AmSouth's political contributions. Accordingly, the Board of Directors believes that adopting this Proposal would not be of any additional value to shareholders but would instead only result in AmSouth needlessly expending funds and other resources on unnecessary and duplicative publications.

**FOR THESE REASONS, YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE AGAINST ITEM 4.**

### **ITEM 5 SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL (Amendment of EEOC Policy)**

Walden Asset Management, One Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, which as of November 7, 2005, the date of its proposal, was the holder of 606,797 shares of AmSouth common stock, has informed AmSouth that it intends to present the following proposal and supporting statement at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Co-filers of the proposal are Manhattan Country School, 7 East 96<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10128, The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, New York 10016, Haymarket People's Fund, 42 Seaverns Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02130, The Funding Exchange, 666 Broadway, Suite #500, New York, New York 10012, Izetta Smith, c/o Laurie McClain, 132 E. Broadway, Suite 747, Eugene, Oregon 97401, Tides Foundation, The Presidio, P.O. Box 29903, San Francisco, California 94129, The First Parish in Cambridge, 3 Church Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. In accordance with applicable proxy regulations, the proposal and supporting statement, which are presented as received by AmSouth, are set forth below. To ensure that readers can easily distinguish between material provided by the proponents and material provided by the Company, we have put a box around material provided by the proponents.

**Table of Contents**

**AMSOUTH BANCORPORATION SEXUAL ORIENTATION NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

**WHEREAS:** AmSouth Bancorporation does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in its written employment policy;

According to a September 2002 survey by Harris Interactive and Witeck-Combs, 41% of gay and lesbian workers in the United States reported an experience with some form of job discrimination related to sexual orientation; almost one out of every 10 gay or lesbian adults also stated that they had been fired or dismissed unfairly from a previous job, or pressured to quit a job because of their sexual orientation;

National public opinion polls consistently find more than three-quarters of the American people support equal rights in the workplace for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals; for example, in a Gallup poll conducted in June 2001, 85% of respondents favored equal opportunity in employment for gays and lesbians;

San Francisco, Minneapolis, Seattle and Los Angeles currently have in effect legislation restricting business with companies which do not guarantee equal treatment for lesbian and gay employees; and such legislation will come into effect in the state of California in 2007;

Sixteen states, the District of Columbia and more than 140 cities, including St. Louis, have laws prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; Our company has operations in, and makes sales to, institutions in states and cities that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation;

AmSouth is increasingly alone in its position, as 98% of Fortune 100<sup>®</sup> companies, and more than 80% of the Fortune 500<sup>®</sup> companies, have adopted written nondiscrimination policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, according to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HCRF);

Our industry peers and competitors, such as Bank of America, Marshall & Ilsley, National City, and SunTrust, do explicitly prohibit this form of discrimination in their written policies;

Other major corporate employers in Birmingham including General Motors, Regions Financial, Saks, Inc, and University of Alabama, also explicitly prohibit this form of discrimination in their written policies;

We believe that the hundreds of corporations with nondiscrimination policies that reference sexual orientation have a competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining employees from the widest talent pool;

Our Company has an interest in preventing discrimination and resolving complaints internally to avoid costly litigation or damage to our reputation as an equal opportunity employer;



**RESOLVED:** The Shareholders request that AmSouth amend its written equal employment opportunity policy to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and to substantially implement that policy.

**STATEMENT:** Employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation diminishes employee morale and productivity. Because state and local laws differ with respect to employment discrimination, our company would benefit from a consistent, corporate-wide policy to enhance efforts to prevent discrimination, resolve complaints internally, and ensure a respectful and supportive atmosphere for all employees. AmSouth will enhance its competitive edge by joining the growing ranks of companies guaranteeing equal opportunity for all employees.

**Table of Contents**

**Board of Directors Recommendation and Statement**

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL.**

**Why the Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that Shareholders Vote Against the Proposal**

The board of directors believes this proposal is unnecessary. We are an equal opportunity employer. We are fully committed to complying with all applicable equal employment opportunity laws and believe that our current policies and practices fully achieve the objectives of this proposal. We believe it is not practical or even possible to list all categories on which to prohibit discrimination. We believe that such an effort would only divert attention from the overall goal of a truly non-discriminatory workplace.

AmSouth's written employment policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or any other legally protected status, and mirror the non-discrimination categories of federal law. Our nondiscrimination policy applies to all areas of employment, including, but not limited to, hiring and recruitment, training, promotion, transfer, demotion, counseling and discipline, employee benefits and compensation and termination of employment. Federal law does not include sexual orientation as a protected class. As such, the Board of Directors believes that the current policies and practices fully achieve the objective of this proposal.

We recognize the value of a truly diverse workforce. We are dedicated to ensuring that diversity brings our employees, customers, vendors and communities to their full potential. We continually strive to maintain a diverse workforce that meets the needs of our customers and the communities where we work and live.

**FOR THESE REASONS, YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE AGAINST ITEM 5.**

**VOTING PROCEDURES**

Under the Delaware General Corporation Law and AmSouth's bylaws, the presence in person or by proxy of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock is necessary to constitute a quorum of the shareholders to take action at the Annual Meeting. For these purposes, shares which are present, or represented by a proxy, at the Annual Meeting will be counted for quorum purposes regardless of whether the holder of the shares or the proxy abstains from voting on any particular matter or whether a broker with discretionary authority fails to exercise its discretionary voting authority with respect to any particular matter.

Once a quorum of the shareholders is established, the following votes are required to approve each item of business at the meeting:

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Election of Directors: AmSouth's bylaws provide that a plurality of the votes of the shares present at the Annual Meeting (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote is required to approve the election of directors (Item 1). However, AmSouth's Board of Directors has amended its Corporate Governance Guidelines as follows: Any nominee in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes withheld from his or her election than votes for such election shall tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee. The Corporate Governance Committee shall evaluate the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and shall recommend to the Board the action to be taken with respect to such tendered resignation. The Board shall accept such resignation unless it determines that the best interests of the Company and its stockholders would not be best served by doing so. The Board shall take action within 90 days following the election, unless such action would cause the Company to fail to comply with any requirement of the New York Stock Exchange or any rule or regulation promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, in which event the Company shall take action as promptly as is practicable while continuing to meet such requirements.

## **Table of Contents**

Other Items: An affirmative vote of the majority of the shares present at the Annual Meeting (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote is required to approve the other items of business (Items 2 through 5 and any other business).

Abstentions and broker non-votes will not have an effect on the outcome of the election of directors. With respect to Items 2 through 5, broker non-votes will not have an effect on the outcome of these items; however, abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against those items.

## **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

### **General**

The independent registered public accounting firm recommended by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors for the calendar year 2006, subject to shareholder ratification, is Ernst & Young LLP ( E&Y ). Representatives of E&Y are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement and to respond to appropriate questions.

### **Audit Fees**

The aggregate fees paid E&Y for professional services rendered for the audit of AmSouth's annual financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005 and for the reviews of the financial statements included in AmSouth's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, statutory audits, registration statements and certification of internal controls for those fiscal years were \$2,020,500 and \$2,026,000, respectively. The 2004 aggregate fee has been adjusted to reflect an additional \$150,000 billing related to the 2004 audit.

### **Audit-Related Fees**

The aggregate Audit-Related Fees paid by AmSouth to E&Y for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005 were \$302,600 and \$325,600, respectively. Audit-Related Fees include various attestation services under professional standards, employee benefit plan audits and internal control reviews.

### **Tax Fees**

AmSouth paid E&Y Tax Fees of \$118,530 and \$49,962 for the fiscal years ending December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005, respectively. Tax Fees include tax compliance and advisory services.

### **All Other Fees**

The aggregate fees billed by E&Y for services rendered to AmSouth, other than the services described above, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2005 were \$101,500 and \$107,067, respectively. All Other Fees relate primarily to annual maintenance payments related to cash management advisory services.

#### **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

The Audit Committee's pre-approval policies and procedures with respect to audit and permitted non-audit services provided by AmSouth's independent public accountants are contained in the Committee charter attached hereto as Appendix A. All audit and permitted non-audit services must be preapproved by the Audit Committee, but the Chairman of the Committee may grant preapprovals of all such services, provided that the decision to grant such preapproval shall be presented to the Audit Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

## **Table of Contents**

### **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

#### **Shareholder Proposals**

In order to be included in the proxy materials for AmSouth's 2007 Annual Meeting, shareholder proposals submitted to AmSouth in compliance with SEC Rule 14a-8 (which concerns shareholder proposals that are requested to be included in a company's proxy statement) must be received in written form at AmSouth's executive offices on or before November 16, 2006. Pursuant to SEC Rules 14a-4 and 14a-5 (which concern the exercise of discretionary voting authority when a shareholder commences his or her own proxy solicitation outside of the processes of Rule 14a-8) shareholders are advised that under the advance notice provisions of AmSouth's bylaws a shareholder proposal will be considered untimely with respect to the 2007 Annual Meeting if received by AmSouth after February 19, 2007. For more information on the advance notice provisions of AmSouth's bylaws see "Director Nomination Process", below.

#### **Director Nomination Process**

The Corporate Governance Committee of the AmSouth Board of Directors (the "Committee") performs the functions of a nominating committee. All members of the Committee are independent under the standards of the NYSE. The Committee's charter is available on AmSouth's website at [www.amsouth.com](http://www.amsouth.com) in the Corporate Governance Section of the Investor Relations Resource Center.

The Committee will consider candidates recommended by shareholders if the shareholder follows the procedures required by AmSouth's bylaws. AmSouth's bylaws require shareholders who wish to submit to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders nominations of persons for election to the Board of Directors to follow certain procedures. The shareholder must give notice in writing of the nomination to the Corporate Secretary of AmSouth, P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288, not later than the close of business on the 60<sup>th</sup> day, nor earlier than the 90<sup>th</sup> day, prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's Annual Meeting. However, if the date of the Annual Meeting is more than 30 days before or more than 60 days after such anniversary date, notice to be timely must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to such Annual Meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 60<sup>th</sup> day prior to the Annual Meeting or the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made by AmSouth. The shareholder must be a shareholder of record at the time the notice is given. The shareholder's notice must set forth (a) as to each nominee all information relating to that person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Rule 14a-11 thereunder (including the nominee's written consent to being named in the Proxy Statement as a nominee and to serving as a director if elected) and (b) as to the shareholder giving the notice and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination is made (i) the name and address of the shareholder, as they appear on AmSouth's books, and of such beneficial owner and (ii) the number and class of shares of AmSouth owned of record and beneficially by such shareholder and such beneficial owner.

The Committee has not adopted any specific minimum qualifications that must be met by a nominee or any specific qualities or skills that are necessary for one or more of the directors to possess. However, the Corporate Governance Guidelines adopted by the Board do contain the following provisions regarding director qualifications and the composition of the Board:

The Board will have a majority of directors who meet the criteria for independence required by the NYSE.

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The Committee is responsible for reviewing with the Board, on an annual basis, the requisite skills and characteristics of new Board members as well as the composition of the Board as a whole. This assessment will include members' qualifications as independent, as well as consideration of diversity, age, skills and experience in the context of the needs of the Board.

## **Table of Contents**

A director should not normally serve on the board of more than three other public companies. However, in certain circumstances it may be appropriate for the Committee to approve service on a greater number of boards, but probably not more than five.

Upon reaching age 72, directors must offer to resign from the Board of Directors.

In addition, the NYSE rules, regulations applicable to banking organizations and SEC rules require that members of the Audit Committee of AmSouth meet certain independence criteria and possess certain attributes regarding financial literacy and expertise in financial matters. The Committee may take these matters into consideration in determining whether to recommend a nominee.

The Committee has no specifically defined process for identifying and evaluating nominees. Historically, candidates for Board membership have been identified and recommended by current Board members. This usually occurs in anticipation of the retirement of an incumbent director. There is no difference in the manner in which the Committee evaluates nominees for director based on whether a nominee is recommended by a shareholder.

During 2005, the Board of Directors engaged a third party to assist in identifying or evaluating potential nominees.

Director nominees Ingram, McCrary and Ritter are incumbent directors standing for re-election.

## **Communications Between Shareholders and Other Interested Parties and the Board of Directors**

AmSouth's Board of Directors is accountable to shareholders and therefore wishes to provide a means for shareholders and other interested parties to communicate with directors. We believe that disclosing how to so communicate may help make board operations more transparent to persons who have questions or concerns about matters that are within the board's purview. Shareholders and other interested parties desiring to communicate with the entire Board of Directors, the non-management directors as a group or any individual director or committee chairmen should send their comments to:

John D. Buchanan, Corporate Secretary

AmSouth Bancorporation

P.O. Box 11007

Birmingham, AL 35288

The initial determination of whether communications will be relayed to board members will be made by the Corporate Secretary. All communications will be relayed unless they are clearly inappropriate for consideration by the directors, such as personal grievances, routine customer complaints and similar matters. Where appropriate, the Corporate Secretary will refer personal or customer service issues to the area of the Company that may best assist the shareholder. This process was approved by the Board of Directors, including all non-management directors.



If you have concerns or complaints relating to accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, you should send them to the address shown above, and the Corporate Secretary will forward them to the Audit Committee. You need not disclose your identity in such correspondence.

#### **Meetings of Non-Management Directors**

AmSouth's Corporate Governance Guidelines require that the non-management directors meet in executive session at least twice a year. The senior-most director present will preside. In 2005 the Board met in executive session at each Board meeting attended in person by directors. See Communications Between Shareholders and Other Interested Parties and the Board of Directors above regarding communication with these directors.

**Table of Contents**

**Director Attendance at the Annual Meeting**

It is the policy of AmSouth that all directors should attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders unless there is an unavoidable scheduling conflict or another valid reason for not attending, such as illness, a death in the family or other similar matters. Last year all of the directors attended the Annual Meeting other than one director who could not attend due to a death.

**Annual Report on Form 10-K**

A copy of AmSouth's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 will be furnished without charge to any shareholder who requests such report in writing from Investor Relations, AmSouth Bancorporation, P.O. Box 11007, Birmingham, Alabama 35288.

**Table of Contents**

**APPENDIX A**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**Purpose**

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, (3) the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditors, and (4) the compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements. The Committee will report regularly to the Board of Directors and will review with the Board any issues that arise regarding any of the foregoing items.

The Audit Committee shall prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

**Committee Membership**

The Audit Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members. The members of the Audit Committee shall meet the independence and experience requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, Section 10A(m)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and the rules and regulations of the Commission. At least one member of the Audit Committee shall be an audit committee financial expert as defined by the Commission. Audit committee members shall not simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies. The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Corporate Governance Committee. Audit Committee members may be replaced by the Board.

**Meetings**

The Audit Committee shall meet as often as it determines, but not less frequently than quarterly. The Audit Committee shall meet periodically with management (including the chief financial officer and chief accounting officer), the internal auditors and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions, and have such other direct and independent interaction with such persons from time to time as the members of the Audit Committee deem appropriate. The Audit Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee.

**Committee Authority and Responsibilities**

The Audit Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint or replace the independent auditor (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). The Audit Committee shall be directly responsible for the compensation and oversight of the work of the independent auditor

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(including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee shall pre-approve all auditing services, internal control-related services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by its independent auditor, subject to the de minimus exceptions for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act which are approved by the Audit Committee prior to the completion of the audit. The Chairman may grant pre-approvals of audit and permitted non-audit services, provided that decisions of the Chairman to grant pre-approvals shall be presented to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The Audit Committee shall have the authority, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as

A-1

## **Table of Contents**

determined by the Audit Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report and to any advisors employed by the Audit Committee, and for payment of ordinary administrative expenses of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Audit Committee shall report regularly to the Board and review any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditor, or the performance of the internal audit function. The Audit Committee shall annually review the Audit Committee's own performance.

The Audit Committee, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, shall:

### **Financial Statement and Disclosure Matters**

1. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the annual audited financial statements, including disclosures made in management's discussion and analysis, and recommend to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Form 10-K.
2. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the Company's quarterly financial statements prior to the filing of its Form 10-Q, including the results of the independent auditor's review of the quarterly financial statements and disclosures made in management's discussion and analysis.
3. Discuss with management and the independent auditor significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies.
4. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls, any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies and the adequacy of disclosures about changes in internal control over financial reporting.
5. Review and discuss with management (including the senior internal audit executive) and the independent auditor the Company's internal controls report and the independent auditor's attestation of the report prior to the filing of the Company's Form 10-K. Such reports include those required by Section 112 and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act ( FDICIA ).
6. Review and discuss quarterly reports from the independent auditors on:
  - (a) All critical accounting policies and practices to be used.
  - (b) All alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor.

- (c) Other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
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- 7. Discuss with the Company's external auditors any issues arising from their review prior to the release of earnings. This discussion may be held with the Chairman.
  
  - 8. Discuss with management the Company's earnings press releases, including the use of pro forma or adjusted non-GAAP information, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. This may be done generally, and the Committee does not have to discuss in advance each earnings release or each instance in which the Company may provide earnings guidance.

A-2

### **Table of Contents**

9. Discuss with management and the independent auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements.
10. Discuss with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies.
11. Discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards ( SAS ) No. 61, as amended by SAS 90, relating to the conduct of the audit, including any problems or difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, management's response to such problems or difficulties, any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management.
12. Review disclosures made to the Audit Committee by the Company's CEO and CFO during their certification process for the Form 10-K and Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.

### **Oversight of the Company's Relationship with the Independent Auditor**

13. Review and evaluate the lead partner of the independent auditor team.
14. Obtain and review a report from the independent auditor at least annually regarding (a) the independent auditor's internal quality-control procedures, (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, (c) any steps taken to deal with any such issues, (d) any material issues on which the national office of the independent auditor was consulted by the Company's audit team and (e) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company. Evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor, including considering whether the auditor's quality controls are adequate and the provision of permitted non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, and taking into account the opinions of management and internal auditors. The Audit Committee shall present its conclusions with respect to the independent auditor to the Board.
15. Ensure the rotation of the lead audit partners having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit as required by law.
16. It is the policy of the Company that the Company will not hire any employee or former employee of the independent auditors if such hiring would cause the independent auditors to cease being independent under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.
17. Meet with the independent auditor prior to the audit to discuss the planning and staffing of the audit.
18. Ensure that the Company's independent auditors share with the Committee all material written communication between the auditors and management.

### **Oversight of the Company's Internal Audit Function**

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19. Review the appointment and replacement of the senior internal auditing executive.
20. Review the significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditing department and management's responses.

A-3



## **Table of Contents**

21. Review and approve the annual internal audit plan.
22. Discuss with the independent auditors and management the internal audit department's responsibilities, budget, staffing and any recommended changes in the planned scope of the internal audit.

## **Compliance Oversight Responsibilities**

23. Obtain from the independent auditor assurance that Section 10A(b) of the Exchange Act has not been implicated.
24. Meet separately, periodically, with management, with the Company's senior internal auditing executive and with the independent auditor. Obtain reports from management, the Company's senior internal auditing executive and the independent auditor that the Company and its affiliated entities are in conformity with applicable legal requirements and the Company's Code of Conduct and other similar policies. Review reports and disclosures of insider and affiliated party transactions. Advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with the Company's Code of Conduct and other similar policies.
25. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
26. Discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports which raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.
27. Discuss with the Company's General Counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance policies.

## **Limitation of Audit Committee's Role**

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditor.

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**Table of Contents**

**APPENDIX B**

**DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE AND CATEGORICAL STANDARDS**

Under the AmSouth Corporate Governance Guidelines and New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE ) rules, the AmSouth Bancorporation Board of Directors must have a majority of independent directors. The current NYSE rules contain the following minimum requirements for independence.

- (1) A director who is an employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer, is not independent until three years after the end of such employment relationship.
- (2) A director who receives, or whose immediate family member receives, more than \$100,000 in any twelve-month period in direct compensation from the company, other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided the compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service), is not independent until three years after he or she ceases to receive more than \$100,000 per year in such compensation. Compensation received by an immediate family member for service as a non-executive employee of the company does not have to be considered in determining independence.
- (3) A director who is affiliated with or employed by, or whose immediate family member is affiliated with or employed in a professional capacity by, a present or former internal or external auditor of the company is not independent until three years after the end of the affiliation or the employment or auditing relationship.
- (4) A director who is employed, or whose immediate family member is employed, as an executive officer of another company where any of AmSouth's present executives serve on that company's compensation committee is not independent until three years after the end of such service or the employment relationship.
- (5) A director who is an executive officer or an employee, or whose immediate family member is an executive officer, of a company that makes payments to, or receives payments from, AmSouth for property or services in an amount which, in any single fiscal year, exceeds the greater of \$1 million or 2% of such other company's consolidated gross revenues, is not independent until three years after falling below such threshold. Charitable organizations are not considered companies for purposes of this rule. However, the company must disclose in its annual proxy statement any charitable contributions made by the company to any charitable organization for which a director serves as an executive officer if, within the preceding three years, contributions in any single fiscal year exceeded the greater of \$1 million or 2% of the charitable organization's consolidated gross revenues.

For purposes of the NYSE rules an immediate family member includes a person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, mothers and fathers-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, brothers and sisters-in-law, and anyone (other than domestic employees) who shares such person's home.

In addition to the requirements described above, the NYSE rules provide that no director qualifies as independent unless the board of directors affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the company (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that had a relationship with the company). The rules require that the basis for the board's determination that a relationship is not material must be disclosed in the annual proxy statement. However, a board may adopt and disclose categorical standards to assist it in making determinations of independence and may make a general disclosure if a director meets these standards. Any determination of independence for a director who does not meet these standards must be specifically explained. The company must disclose any standard it adopts. It may then make the general statement that the independent directors meet the standards set by the board without detailing particular aspects

B-1

## Table of Contents

of the immaterial relationships between individual directors and the company. Consistent with these rules, the AmSouth Board of Directors has adopted the following categorical standards for determining independence of Board members:

- (1) To be considered independent, a director must meet all of the independence criteria of Section 303A.02 (b) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, which are summarized above in items (1) through (5).
- (2) A director will not fail to be deemed independent solely as a result of lending relationships, deposit relationships or other banking relationships (such as depository, transfer, registrar, indenture trustee, trusts, estates, private banking, investment management, custodial, securities brokerage, cash management and similar services) between AmSouth and its subsidiaries, on the one hand, and the director or a company with which the director is affiliated by reason of being a director, officer or a significant shareholder thereof, on the other, provided that:
  - (a) such relationships are in the ordinary course of business of AmSouth and are on substantially the same terms as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with nonaffiliated persons; and
  - (b) with respect to extensions of credit by AmSouth or its subsidiaries to such director or affiliated company or its subsidiaries, such extensions of credit (a) have been made in compliance with applicable law, including Regulation O of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and Section 13(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Section 402 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act), and (b) no event of default has occurred under this loan.
- (3) Contributions made or pledged by AmSouth, its subsidiaries, or by any foundation sponsored by or associated with AmSouth or its subsidiaries to a charitable organization of which a director or an immediate family member is an executive officer, director, or trustee will not be considered a material relationship if within the preceding three years, the aggregate amount of such contributions during any single fiscal year of the charitable organization did not exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2 percent of the charitable organization's consolidated gross revenues for that fiscal year. Contributions made to any charitable organization pursuant to a matching gift program maintained by AmSouth or by its subsidiaries or by any foundation sponsored by or associated with AmSouth or its subsidiaries are not considered to be a material relationship and shall not be included in calculating the materiality threshold set forth above.
- (4) A relationship involving a director's relative will not be considered a material relationship solely by virtue of the familial relationship if the relative is not an immediate family member of the director.
- (5) Payments made to a public utility at rates or charges fixed in conformity with law or governmental authority are not considered to create a material relationship.

For relationships that do not meet the categorical standards, the determination of whether the relationship is material or not and therefore whether the director is independent or not will be made by the directors who satisfy the independence and categorical standards tests. For example, the directors could determine that a charitable giving situation that did not meet the categorical standards criteria was nevertheless immaterial under the particular circumstances and find that the affected director is independent. The Board would explain in the next annual proxy statement the basis for any board determination that a relationship was immaterial despite the fact that it did not meet the categorical standards of immateriality described above.

**Table of Contents****APPENDIX C****AMSOUTH BANCORPORATION 2006 LONG TERM INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PLAN**

	<b>PAGE</b>
Article 1. <u>Establishment, Objectives, and Duration</u>	C-1
Article 2. <u>Definitions</u>	C-2
Article 3. <u>Administration; Minimum Service Requirement</u>	C-6
Article 4. <u>Shares Subject to the Plan and Maximum Awards; Share Counting</u>	C-7
Article 5. <u>Eligibility and Participation</u>	C-9
Article 6. <u>Stock Options</u>	C-10
Article 7. <u>Stock Appreciation Rights</u>	C-12
Article 8. <u>Restricted Stock</u>	C-14
Article 9. <u>Stock Units</u>	C-15
Article 10. <u>Performance Shares</u>	C-16
Article 11. <u>Performance Units</u>	C-17
Article 12. <u>Performance Measures</u>	C-18
Article 13. <u>Beneficiary Designation</u>	C-19
Article 14. <u>Deferrals</u>	C-19
Article 15. <u>Rights of Employees</u>	C-19
Article 16. <u>Change in Control</u>	C-20
Article 17. <u>Amendment, Modification, and Termination</u>	C-20
Article 18. <u>Withholding</u>	C-21
Article 19. <u>Indemnification</u>	C-21
Article 20. <u>Successors</u>	C-21
Article 21. <u>Legal Construction; General Provisions</u>	C-21

**ARTICLE 1. ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTIVES, AND DURATION**

- 1.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PLAN.** Effective upon the approval of the stockholders of AmSouth Bancorporation, a Delaware corporation (hereinafter referred to as the Corporation), as provided below in this Section 1.1, the Corporation hereby establishes an incentive compensation plan to be known as the AmSouth Bancorporation 2006 Long Term Incentive Compensation Plan, as set forth in this document. The Plan permits the grant of Nonqualified Stock Options, Incentive Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Stock Units, Performance Shares and Performance Units. The Plan shall become effective upon its approval by the stockholders of the Corporation in accordance with Delaware law (the Effective Date), and it shall remain in effect as provided in Section 1.3 hereof. If the Plan is not approved by shareholders of the Corporation, the Plan shall be null, void and of no force or effect.
- 1.2 **OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN.** The objectives of the Plan are to optimize the profitability and growth of the Company through incentives which are consistent with the Company's objectives and which link the interests of Participants to those of the Corporation's stockholders; to provide Participants with an incentive for excellence in individual performance; and to promote teamwork among Participants. The Plan is further intended to provide flexibility to the Company in its ability to motivate, attract, and retain the services of Participants who make significant contributions to the Company's success and to allow Participants to share in the success of the Company.
- 1.3 **DURATION OF THE PLAN.** If the Plan is approved by the Corporation's stockholders as provided in Section 1.1 hereof, it shall remain in effect until (a) all Shares subject to it shall have been purchased or acquired according to the Plan's provisions, or (b) it is sooner terminated by the Board of Directors as provided in Article 17 hereof, and it shall remain in effect thereafter with respect to any

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Awards that are then outstanding. In no event may an Award be granted under the Plan after April 19, 2016, and in no event may an Incentive Stock Option be granted under the Plan more than ten (10) years from the date the Plan is adopted by the Board, or the date the Plan is approved by the shareholders of the Corporation, whichever is earlier.

C-1

**Table of Contents**

**ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS**

Whenever used in the Plan, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below, and when the meaning is intended, the initial letter of the word shall be capitalized:

- 2.1 **AWARD** means, individually or collectively, a grant under this Plan of Nonqualified Stock Options, Incentive Stock Options, Stock Appreciation Rights, Restricted Stock, Stock Units, Performance Shares or Performance Units.
- 2.2 **AWARD AGREEMENT** means an agreement entered into by the Corporation and each Participant setting forth the terms and provisions applicable to Awards granted under this Plan.
- 2.3 **BENEFICIAL OWNER** or **BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP** shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Rule 13d-3 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act.
- 2.4 **BOARD** or **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** means the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
- 2.5 **CAUSE** shall be determined by the Committee, in exercise of good faith and reasonable judgment, and, unless the Award Agreement provides otherwise, means the occurrence of any one or more of the following:
- (i) The willful and continued failure by the Participant to substantially perform his duties (other than any such failure resulting from a medical condition that prevents the Participant, even with a reasonable accommodation by the Company, from substantially performing his duties), after a written demand for substantial performance is delivered by the Committee to the Participant that specifically identifies the manner in which the Committee believes that the Participant has not substantially performed his duties, and the Participant has failed to remedy the situation within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving such notice; or
  - (ii) The Participant's conviction for committing an act of fraud, embezzlement, theft, or another act constituting a felony; or
  - (iii) The willful engaging by the Participant in gross misconduct materially and demonstrably injurious to the Company, as determined by the Committee. However, no act or failure to act, on the Participant's part shall be considered willful unless done, or omitted to be done, by the Participant not in good faith and without reasonable belief that his action or omission was in the best interest of the Company.
- 2.6 **CHANGE IN CONTROL** shall be deemed to have occurred as of the first day that any one or more of the following conditions shall have been satisfied:
- (a) Any Person (other than those Persons in control of the Corporation as of the Effective Date, or other than a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under an employee benefit plan of the Company, or a corporation or other entity owned directly or indirectly by the stockholders of the Corporation in substantially the same proportions as their ownership of stock of the Corporation) becomes the Beneficial Owner, directly or indirectly, of securities of the Corporation representing twenty percent (20%) or more of the combined voting power of the Corporation's then outstanding securities; or
  - (b) During any period of two (2) consecutive years or less ending after the Effective Date (whether or not including any period prior to the Effective Date), individuals who at the beginning of such period constitute the Board (and any new Director, whose election

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by the Corporation's stockholders was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors then still in office who either were Directors at the beginning of the period or whose election or nomination for election was so approved), cease for any reason to constitute at least sixty percent (60%) thereof; or

- (c) The stockholders of the Corporation approve: (i) a plan of complete liquidation of the Corporation; or (ii) an agreement for the sale or disposition of all or substantially all the Corporation's assets; or

C-2



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**Table of Contents**

(iii) a merger, consolidation, or reorganization of the Corporation or any Subsidiary with or involving any other corporation, other than a merger, consolidation, or reorganization that would result in the voting securities of the Corporation outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving entity), at least sixty percent (60%) of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Corporation (or such surviving entity) outstanding immediately after such merger, consolidation, or reorganization.

However, in no event shall a Change in Control be deemed to have occurred, with respect to the Participant, if the Participant is part of a purchasing group which consummates the Change in Control transaction. The Participant shall be deemed part of a purchasing group for purposes of the preceding sentence if the Participant is an equity participant in the purchasing company or group (except for: (i) passive ownership of less than three percent (3%) of the stock of the purchasing company; or (ii) ownership of equity participation in the purchasing company or group which is otherwise not significant, as determined prior to the Change in Control by a majority of the Nonemployee Directors who were Directors prior to the transaction, and who continue as Directors following the transaction).

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 2.6, with respect to any Award (or portion of an Award) that provides for a deferral of compensation that is subject to Code Section 409A, to the extent necessary to prevent such compensation from being includible in gross income pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1)(A) of that Code Section (and only to that extent), a Change in Control shall be deemed to have occurred only if and when (i) any one or more of the conditions set forth in paragraph (a), (b) and (c) above of this Section 2.6 shall have been satisfied, and (ii) as to the Participant to whom the Award was granted, the event in question also constitutes a change in the ownership or effective control of the corporation, or in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the corporation within the meaning of subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of Code Section 409A.

- 2.7 **CODE** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. References to a particular section of the Code shall include references to any related proposed and final Treasury Regulations and any other related, officially published guidance from the IRS (including without limitation, with respect to Code Section 409A, Notice 2005-1) and to successor provisions of the Code.
- 2.8 **COMMITTEE** means the Human Resources Committee of the Board, as specified in Article 3 herein, or such other committee or person as may administer the Plan or grants of Awards under the Plan in accordance with Article 3 hereof.
- 2.9 **COMPANY** means AmSouth Bancorporation, and also means any Subsidiary and any corporation of which a majority of the voting capital stock is owned directly or indirectly by AmSouth Bancorporation or by any of its Subsidiaries, and any other corporation designated by the Committee as being a Company hereunder (but only during the period of such ownership or designation).
- 2.10 **CORPORATION** means AmSouth Bancorporation, a Delaware corporation.
- 2.11 **COVERED EMPLOYEE** means an Employee who the Committee anticipates at the time an Award is granted to such Employee will be, as of the last day of the Company's taxable year in which a taxable event with respect to such Award may occur, a covered employee, as defined in the regulations promulgated under Code Section 162(m), or any successor statute.
- 2.12 **DIRECTOR** means any individual who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
- 2.13 **DISABILITY** means, unless the applicable Award Agreement provides otherwise, that the Participant (i) has established to the satisfaction of the Committee that the Participant is unable to engage in any

**Table of Contents**

substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months (all within the meaning of Section 22(e)(3) of the Code), and (ii) has satisfied any requirement imposed by the Committee in regard to evidence of such disability. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 2.13, with respect to any Award (or portion of an Award) that provides for a deferral of compensation that is subject to Code Section 409A, to the extent necessary to prevent such compensation from being includible in gross income pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1)(A) of that Code Section (and only to that extent), Disability means a Disability as defined above that also qualifies the Participant as Disabled within the meaning of subparagraph (a)(2)(C) of Code Section 409A.

- 2.14 EFFECTIVE DATE shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Section 1.1 hereof.
- 2.15 EMPLOYEE means any key officer or employee of the Company as determined by the Committee. The grant of an Award to an officer or employee of the Company shall be deemed to constitute a determination by the Committee that such individual is a key officer or employee of the Company for purposes of this Plan. Directors who are not employed by the Company shall not be considered Employees under this Plan.
- 2.16 EXCHANGE ACT means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time, or any successor act thereto.
- 2.17 FAIR MARKET VALUE shall be determined on the basis of the closing sale price of Shares on the date in question as reported by the principal consolidated transactions reporting system for securities listed on the principal securities exchange on which the Shares are traded or, if there is no such sale on the relevant date, then on the last previous day on which a sale was reported.
- 2.18 FREESTANDING SAR means an SAR that is granted independently of any Option, as described in Article 7 herein.
- 2.19 INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION or ISO means an option to purchase Shares granted under Article 6 herein which is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and which is intended to receive the tax treatment applicable to incentive stock options under Code Section 422 if it is exercised during a period in which option exercises are eligible for incentive stock option tax treatment pursuant to Code Section 422(a)(2), 422(c)(6) or 421(c)(1)(A).
- 2.20 INSIDER shall mean an individual who is, on the relevant date, an officer, director or ten percent (10%) beneficial owner of any class of the Corporation's equity securities that is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, all as defined under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.
- 2.21 NONEMPLOYEE DIRECTOR means an individual who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation but who is not an employee of the Company.

2.22	NONQUALIFIED STOCK OPTION or NQSO means an option to purchase Shares granted under Article 6 herein which is not intended to receive the tax treatment applicable to incentive stock options under Code Section 422 if it is exercised during a period in which option exercises are eligible for incentive stock option tax treatment	pursTD>	4,165	4.57%				
Balances due from depository institutions			19,166	22	0.46%	4,135	3	0.29%
HTM:								

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Non taxable (1)		17,757	151	3.40%	12,665	111	3.51%
AFS:							
Taxable		191,603	816	1.70%	238,348	1,197	2.01%
Non taxable (1)		28,774	386	5.37%	34,495	468	5.43%
Other		2,878	3	0.42%	3,952	3	0.30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>626,289</b>	<b>\$ 4,991</b>	<b>3.19%</b>	<b>\$ 658,308</b>	<b>\$ 5,947</b>	<b>3.61%</b>
Savings & interest-bearing							
DDA	\$	359,765	\$ 75	0.08%	\$ 361,124	\$ 68	0.08%
Time deposits		76,691	90	0.47%	93,106	228	0.98%
Borrowings from							
FHLB		37,360	49	0.52%	60,248	56	0.37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>473,816</b>	<b>\$ 214</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>\$ 514,478</b>	<b>\$ 352</b>	<b>0.27%</b>
Net tax-equivalent spread				3.01%			3.34%
Net tax-equivalent margin on earning assets				3.05%			3.40%

(1) All interest earned is reported on a taxable equivalent basis using a tax rate of 34% in 2015 and 2014.

(2) Loan fees of \$94 and \$128 for 2015 and 2014, respectively, are included in these figures.

(3) Includes nonaccrual loans.

## Analysis of Average Balances, Interest Earned/Paid and Yield

(In Thousands)

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2015			Six Months Ended June 30, 2014		
	Average Balance	Interest Earned/Paid	Rate	Average Balance	Interest Earned/Paid	Rate
Loans (2)(3)	\$ 364,287	\$ 7,366	4.04%	\$ 368,217	\$ 8,417	4.57%
Balances due from depository institutions	17,153	35	0.41%	5,651	7	0.25%
HTM:						
Non taxable (1)	17,766	302	3.40%	12,461	218	3.50%
AFS:						
Taxable	190,773	1,640	1.72%	238,986	2,405	2.01%
Non taxable (1)	29,884	797	5.33%	34,813	940	5.40%
Other	2,601	7	0.54%	3,849	4	0.21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 622,464</b>	<b>\$ 10,147</b>	<b>3.26%</b>	<b>\$ 663,977</b>	<b>\$ 11,991</b>	<b>3.61%</b>
Savings & interest-bearing DDA	\$ 370,754	\$ 145	0.08%	\$ 376,127	\$ 137	0.07%
Time deposits	75,776	184	0.49%	96,412	395	0.82%
Borrowings from FHLB	29,524	95	0.64%	50,333	106	0.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 476,054</b>	<b>\$ 424</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>\$ 522,872</b>	<b>\$ 638</b>	<b>0.24%</b>
Net tax-equivalent spread			3.08%			3.37%
Net tax-equivalent margin on earning assets			3.12%			3.42%

(1) All interest earned is reported on a taxable equivalent basis using a tax rate of 34% in 2015 and 2014.

(2) Loan fees of \$184 and \$256 for 2015 and 2014, respectively, are included in these figures.

(3) Includes nonaccrual loans.

## Analysis of Changes in Interest Income and Interest Expense

(In Thousands)

	For the Quarter Ended			
	June 30, 2015 compared with June 30, 2014			
	Volume	Rate	Rate/Volume	Total
<b>Interest earned on:</b>				
Loans	\$ 16	\$ (566)	\$ (2)	\$ (552)
Balances due from financial institutions	11	2	6	19
<b>Held to maturity securities:</b>				
Non taxable	44	(3)	(1)	40
<b>Available for sale securities:</b>				
Taxable	(235)	(182)	36	(381)
Non taxable	(78)	(5)	1	(82)
Other	(1)	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (243)</b>	<b>\$ (753)</b>	<b>\$ 40</b>	<b>\$ (956)</b>
<b>Interest paid on:</b>				
<b>Savings &amp; interest-bearing</b>				
DDA	\$	\$ 7	\$	\$ 7
Time deposits	(40)	(119)	21	(138)
Borrowings from FHLB	(21)	23	(9)	(7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (61)</b>	<b>\$ (89)</b>	<b>\$ 12</b>	<b>\$ (138)</b>

## Analysis of Changes in Interest Income and Interest Expense

(In Thousands)

	For the Six Months Ended			
	June 30, 2015 compared with June 30, 2014			
	Volume	Rate	Rate/Volume	Total
<b>Interest earned on:</b>				
Loans	\$ (90)	\$ (971)	\$ 10	\$ (1,051)
Balances due from financial institutions	14	5	9	28
<b>Held to maturity securities:</b>				
Non taxable	93	(6)	(3)	84
<b>Available for sale securities:</b>				
Taxable	(485)	(351)	71	(765)
Non taxable	(133)	(12)	2	(143)
Other	(1)	6	(2)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (602)</b>	<b>\$ (1,329)</b>	<b>\$ 87</b>	<b>\$ (1,844)</b>
<b>Interest paid on:</b>				
<b>Savings &amp; interest-bearing</b>				
DDA	\$ (2)	\$ 10	\$	\$ 8
Time deposits	(85)	(160)	34	(211)
Borrowings from FHLB	(44)	56	(23)	(11)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (131)</b>	<b>\$ (94)</b>	<b>\$ 11</b>	<b>\$ (214)</b>

**Provision for Loan Losses**

In the normal course of business, the Company assumes risk in extending credit to its customers. This credit risk is managed through compliance with the loan policy, which is approved by the Board of Directors. The policy establishes guidelines relating to underwriting standards, including but not limited to financial analysis, collateral valuation, lending limits, pricing considerations and loan grading. The Company's Loan Review and Special Assets Departments play key roles in monitoring the loan portfolio and managing problem loans. New loans and, on a periodic basis, existing loans are reviewed to evaluate compliance with the loan policy. Loan customers in concentrated industries such as gaming and hotel/motel, as well as the exposure for out of area; residential and land development; construction and commercial real estate loans, and their direct and indirect impact on its operations are evaluated on a monthly basis. Loan delinquencies and deposit overdrafts are closely monitored in order to identify developing problems as early as possible. Lenders experienced in workout scenarios consult with loan officers and customers to address non-performing loans. A watch list of credits which pose a potential loss to the Company is prepared based on the loan grading system. This list forms the foundation of the Company's allowance for loan loss computation.

Management relies on its guidelines and existing methodology to monitor the performance of its loan portfolio and identify and estimate potential losses based on the best available information. The potential effect of the continuing decline in real estate values and actual losses incurred by the Company were key factors in our analysis. Much of the Company's loan portfolio is collateral-dependent, requiring careful consideration of changes in the value of the collateral.



The Company's analysis includes evaluating the current values of collateral securing all nonaccrual loans. Even though nonaccrual loans were \$28,989,000 and \$33,298,000 at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, specific reserves of only \$3,169,000 and \$2,507,000, respectively, have been allocated to these loans as collateral values appear sufficient to cover loan losses or the loan balances have been charged down to their realizable value.

The Company's on-going, systematic evaluation resulted in the Company recording a provision for loan losses of \$1,536,000 and \$537,000 for the second quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$2,522,000 and \$1,074,000 for the first two quarters of 2015 and 2014, respectively. As a result of receiving new information during the first half of 2015, the Company updated the evaluation of the collateral value and recorded a loan loss provision on an out-of-area residential development. The allowance for loan losses as a percentage of loans was 2.64% and 2.54% at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. The Company believes that its allowance for loan losses is appropriate as of June 30, 2015.

The allowance for loan losses is an estimate, and as such, events may occur in the future which may affect its accuracy. The Company anticipates that it is possible that additional information will be gathered in future quarters which may require an adjustment to the allowance for loan losses. Management will continue to closely monitor its portfolio and take such action as it deems appropriate to accurately report its financial condition and results of operations.

#### **Non-interest income**

##### Quarter Ended June 30, 2015 as Compared with Quarter Ended June 30, 2014

Non-interest income decreased \$475,000 for the second quarter of 2015 as compared with the second quarter of 2014 primarily as the result of the decrease in service charges on deposit accounts of \$469,000. More specifically, ATM fee income decreased \$399,000 as the Company's off-site ATMs at two casinos transferred to other vendors.

##### Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 as Compared with Six Months Ended June 30, 2014

Non-interest income decreased \$751,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014. Trust department income and fees increased while service charges on deposit accounts, income from other investments and other income decreased in 2015 as compared with 2014.

Trust department income and fees increased \$83,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014 as a result of the increase on market value, on which fees are based, of personal trust accounts.

Service charges decreased by \$831,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014. ATM fee income decreased \$726,000 as the Company's off-site ATMs at two casinos transferred to other vendors.

The Company realized a loss from operations of its investment in a low income housing partnership in 2015 as compared with income from operations in 2014 as a result of decreased occupancy.

Other income increased \$101,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014 due to the recognition of a deferred gain of \$100,000 from the sale of a loan.

#### **Non-interest expense**

##### Quarter Ended June 30, 2015 as Compared with Quarter Ended June 30, 2014



Total non-interest expense decreased \$573,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014. Salaries and employee benefits decreased \$266,000; equipment rentals, depreciation and maintenance decreased \$155,000; FDIC and state banking assessments decreased \$50,000; ATM expense decreased \$278,000, other real estate expense increased \$120,000 and other expenses increased \$105,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014.

Salaries and employee benefits decreased in 2015 as the Company updated the estimates of costs associated with its deferred compensation plans in 2014.

Equipment rentals, depreciation and maintenance decreased in 2015 as 2014 results included additional servicing costs associated with bank-wide hardware and software conversion costs.

FDIC and state banking assessments decreased in 2015 as FDIC assessments fluctuated based on the average assets of the bank subsidiary and state assessments fluctuated based on the budget needs of the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance.

ATM expenses decreased in 2015 as a result of decreased ATM activity in the current year as a result of off-site ATMs at two casinos transferring to other vendors.

ORE expense increased in 2015 as compared with 2014 due to increased writedowns of other real estate based on updated values.

Other expenses increased in 2015 primarily as a result of increased legal fees associated with non-performing loans of \$54,000 as compared with 2014.

Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 as Compared with Six Months Ended June 30, 2014

Total non-interest expense decreased \$463,000 for the first two quarters of 2015 as compared with the first two quarters of 2014. Salaries and employee benefits decreased \$440,000; equipment rentals, depreciation and maintenance decreased \$154,000; ATM expense decreased \$590,000, other real estate expense increased \$373,000 and other expenses increased \$363,000 in 2015 as compared with 2014.

Salaries and employee benefits decreased in 2015 as the Company updated the estimates of costs associated with its deferred compensation plans in 2014.

Equipment rentals, depreciation and maintenance decreased in 2015 as 2014 results included additional servicing costs associated with bank-wide hardware and software conversion costs.

ATM expenses decreased in 2015 as a result of decreased ATM activity in the current year as a result of off-site ATMs at two casinos transferring to other vendors.

ORE expense increased in 2015 as compared with 2014 due to increased writedowns of other real estate based on updated values.

Other expenses increased in 2015 primarily as a result of increased legal fees associated with non-performing loans of \$259,000 as compared with 2014.

**Income Taxes**

At December 31, 2014, the Company established a full valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets. Until such time as the Company returns to sustained earnings, and it is determined that it is more likely than not that the deferred tax asset will be realized, no income tax benefit or expense will be recorded.

Income taxes were impacted by non-taxable income and federal tax credits during the three months and six months ended June 30, 2014, as follows (in thousands except rate):

	Quarter Ended June 30, 2014		Six Months Ended June 30, 2014	
	Tax	Rate	Tax	Rate
Taxes at statutory rate	\$ 34	34	\$ 201	34
Increase (decrease) resulting from:				

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Tax-exempt interest income	(130)	(130)	(260)	(44)
Income from BOLI	(43)	(43)	(83)	(14)
Federal tax credits	(74)	(74)	(148)	(25)
Other	(22)	(22)	(34)	(6)
Total income tax benefit	\$ (235)	(235)	\$ (324)	(55)

## FINANCIAL CONDITION

Cash and due from banks increased \$9,836,000 at June 30, 2015, compared with December 31, 2014 in the management of the bank subsidiary's liquidity position.

Other real estate ( ORE ) increased \$4,116,000 at June 30, 2015 as compared with December 31, 2014. Loans totaling \$6,337,000 were transferred into ORE while \$1,755,000 was sold for a loss of \$55,000 and writedowns of ORE to fair value were \$411,000 during the first two quarters of 2015.

Total deposits increased \$20,625,000 at June 30, 2015, as compared with December 31, 2014. Typically, significant increases or decreases in total deposits and/or significant fluctuations among the different types of deposits from quarter to quarter are anticipated by Management as customers in the casino industry and county and municipal entities reallocate their resources periodically.

Borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank decreased \$7,133,000 at June 30, 2015 as compared with December 31, 2014 based on the liquidity needs of the bank subsidiary.

## SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY AND CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Strength, security and stability have been the hallmark of the Company since its founding in 1985 and of its bank subsidiary since its founding in 1896. A strong capital foundation is fundamental to the continuing prosperity of the Company and the security of its customers and shareholders.

New rules relating to risk-based capital requirements and the method for calculating components of capital and of computing risk-weighted assets to make them consistent with agreements that were reached by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act became effective for the Company on January 1, 2015. The rules establish a new common equity Tier 1 minimum capital requirement, increase the minimum capital ratios and assign a higher risk weight to certain assets based on the risk associated with these assets.

As of June 30, 2015, the most recent notification from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the bank subsidiary as well capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. To be categorized as well capitalized as of March 31, 2015, the bank subsidiary must have a Total risk-based capital ratio of 10.00% or greater, a Common Equity Tier 1 Capital ratio of 6.50% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 8.00% or greater and a Leverage capital ratio of 5.00% or greater. There are no conditions or events since that notification that Management believes have changed the bank subsidiary's category.

The Company's actual capital amounts and ratios and required minimum capital amounts and ratios as of June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, are as follows (in thousands):

	Actual Amount	Ratio	For Capital Adequacy Purposes Amount	Ratio
June 30, 2015 :				
Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	\$ 97,764	20.42%	\$ 38,292	8.00%
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Asset)	91,737	19.17%	21,539	4.50%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	91,737	19.17%	28,719	6.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Average Assets)	91,737	13.01%	28,215	4.00%

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December 31, 2014:

Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	\$ 100,243	21.95%	\$ 36,528	8.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	94,493	20.70%	18,264	4.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Average Assets)	94,493	13.29%	28,437	4.00%

The actual capital amounts and ratios and required minimum capital amounts and ratios for the Bank as of June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, are as follows (in thousands):

	Actual		For Capital Adequacy Purposes		To Be Well Capitalized	
	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio	Amount	Ratio
<b>June 30, 2015 :</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	\$ 94,115	19.81%	\$ 38,005	8.00%	\$ 47,507	10.00%
Common Equity Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	88,132	18.55%	21,378	4.50%	30,879	6.50%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	88,132	18.55%	28,504	6.00%	38,005	8.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Average Assets)	88,132	12.54%	28,103	4.00%	35,128	5.00%
<b>December 31, 2014:</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	\$ 96,427	21.28%	\$ 36,247	8.00%	\$ 45,309	10.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk Weighted Assets)	90,720	20.02%	18,124	4.00%	27,186	6.00%
Tier 1 Capital (to Average Assets)	90,720	13.15%	27,599	4.00%	34,499	5.00%

In addition to monitoring its risk-based capital ratios, the Company also determines the primary capital ratio on a quarterly basis. This ratio was 14.90% at June 30, 2015, which is well above the regulatory minimum of 6.00%. Management continues to emphasize the importance of maintaining the appropriate capital levels of the Company and has established the goal of maintaining its primary capital ratio at 8.00%, which is the minimum requirement for classification as being well-capitalized by the banking regulatory authorities.

## LIQUIDITY

Liquidity represents the Company's ability to adequately provide funds to satisfy demands from depositors, borrowers and other commitments by either converting assets to cash or accessing new or existing sources of funds. Management monitors these funds requirements in such a manner as to satisfy these demands and provide the maximum earnings on its earning assets. The Company manages and monitors its liquidity position through a number of methods, including through the computation of liquidity risk targets and the preparation of various analyses of its funding sources and utilization of those sources on a monthly basis. The Company also uses proforma liquidity projections which are updated on a monthly basis in the management of its liquidity needs and also conducts periodic contingency testing on its liquidity plan.

Deposits, payments of principal and interest on loans, proceeds from maturities of investment securities and earnings on investment securities are the principal sources of funds for the Company. Borrowings from the FHLB, federal funds sold and federal funds purchased are utilized by the Company to manage its daily liquidity position. The Company has also been approved to participate in the Federal Reserve Bank's Discount Window Primary Credit Program, which it intends to use only as a contingency.

## REGULATORY MATTERS

During 2009, Management identified opportunities for improving risk management, addressing asset quality concerns, managing concentrations of credit risk and ensuring sufficient liquidity at the Bank as a result of its own investigation as well as examinations performed by certain bank regulatory agencies. In concert with the regulators, the Company and the Bank identified specific corrective steps and actions to enhance its risk management, asset quality and liquidity policies, controls and procedures. The Company and the Bank may not declare or pay any cash dividends without the prior written approval of their regulators.



**Item 4: Controls and Procedures**

As of June 30, 2015, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e)). Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period ended June 30, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.



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## PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

### Item 1: Legal Proceedings

The Bank is involved in various legal matters and claims which are being defended and handled in the ordinary course of business. None of these matters is expected, in the opinion of Management, to have a material adverse effect upon the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

### Item 5: Other Information

None.

### Item 6 - Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

#### (a) Exhibits

- Exhibit 31.1: Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002
- Exhibit 31.2: Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002
- Exhibit 32.1: Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. ss. 1350
- Exhibit 32.2: Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. ss. 1350
- Exhibit 101 The following materials from the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2015, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statements of Condition at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations for the quarters and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the quarters and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, (iv) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for the six months ended June 30, 2015, (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 and (vi) Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

#### (b) Reports on Form 8-K

A Form 8-K was filed on April 22, 2015 and April 23, 2015 and July 30, 2015.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirement of Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

PEOPLES FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: August 5, 2015

By: /s/ Chevis C. Swetman  
Chevis C. Swetman

Chairman, President and Chief Executive  
Officer

(principal executive officer)

Date: August 5, 2015

By: /s/ Lauri A. Wood  
Lauri A. Wood

Chief Financial Officer and Controller

(principal financial and accounting officer)