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FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES INC /NV/  
Form DEF 14A  
March 15, 2004

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

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

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by  
Rule 14a-6(e)(2))  
 Definitive Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Additional Materials  
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.  
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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.  
 \$125 per Exchange Act Rule O-11(c)(1)(ii), 14a-6(i)(1), 14a-6(i)(2) or  
Item 22(a)(2) of Schedule 14A.  
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and O-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:  
Not applicable

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2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  
Not applicable

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3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to  
Exchange Act Rule O-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is  
calculated and state how it was determined):  
Not applicable

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4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:  
Not applicable

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5) Total fee paid:  
Not applicable

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 Fee paid previously by written preliminary materials.

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

- 1) Amount Previously Paid: Not applicable
- 2) Form Schedule or Registration Statement No.: Not applicable
- 3) Filing Party: Not applicable
- 4) Date Filed: Not applicable

FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.  
ONE COMMUNITY PLACE  
BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA 24605-0989

NOTICE OF 2004  
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To the Stockholders of First Community Bancshares, Inc.:

The ANNUAL MEETING of Stockholders of First Community Bancshares, Inc. will be held at Fincastle Country Club, Bluefield, Virginia, at 3:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday April 27, 2004, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following items as more fully discussed herein.

1. The election of directors to serve as members of the Board of Directors, Class of 2007.
2. The ratification of the 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan
3. The ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, as independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004; and

transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 9, 2004 are entitled to notice of and to vote at such meeting or at any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Robert L. Buzzo  
Robert L. Buzzo, Secretary

IMPORTANT

YOU MAY VOTE BY THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

1. By telephone: (888) 216-1279; or
2. on the internet at [www.proxyvotenow.com/fcb](http://www.proxyvotenow.com/fcb) until 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on April 26, 2004; or
3. Complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy as promptly as possible whether or not you plan to attend the meeting. An addressed return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR PROXY AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE TIME IT IS VOTED.

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## PROXY STATEMENT

### ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004

The Board of Directors of First Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Corporation") solicits the enclosed proxy for use at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Corporation (the "Annual Meeting"), which will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. local time at Fincastle Country Club, Bluefield, Virginia, and at any adjournment thereof.

The expenses of the solicitation of the proxies for the Annual Meeting, including the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing the notice, proxy statement and return envelopes, the handling and tabulation of proxies received, and charges of brokerage houses and other institutions, nominees or fiduciaries for forwarding such documents to beneficial owners, will be paid by the Corporation. In addition to the mailing of the proxy material, solicitation may be made in person, by telephone or by other means by officers, directors or regular employees of the Corporation.

This Proxy Statement and the proxies solicited hereby are being first sent or delivered to stockholders of the Corporation on or about March 20, 2004.

#### VOTING

Shares of common stock (par value \$1 per share) ("Common Stock") represented by proxies in the accompanying form, which are properly executed and returned to the Corporation, will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the stockholder's instructions contained therein. In the absence of contrary instructions, shares represented by such proxies will be voted FOR the election of the nominees as described herein under "Election of Directors," FOR the 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan and FOR ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent public auditors for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Any stockholder has the power to revoke his proxy at any time before it is voted. A proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise by the filing of written notice of revocation with the secretary of the Corporation, by delivering to the Corporation a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. However, if you are a stockholder whose shares are not registered in your own name, you will need additional documentation from your recordholder to vote personally at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has fixed March 9, 2004 as the record date for stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. Shares of Common Stock outstanding on the record date are entitled to be voted at the Annual Meeting and the holders of record will have one vote for each share so held in the matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. Shareholders of the Corporation do not have cumulative voting rights.

The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of the shares of the Common Stock entitled to vote is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast with a quorum present. The three persons who receive the greatest number of votes of the holders of Common Stock represented in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting will be elected directors of the Corporation. The proposal to ratify the 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan requires that the number of votes cast in favor of the proposal exceed the number of votes cast against it. The proposal to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors requires that the number of votes cast in favor of the proposal exceed the number of votes cast against it. Abstentions are considered in determining the presence of a quorum but will not affect the

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vote required for the election of directors or the ratification of the independent auditors. All of the proposals for consideration at the Annual Meeting are considered "discretionary" items upon which brokerage firms may vote in their discretion on behalf of their clients if such clients have not furnished voting instructions; however, under New York Stock Exchange Rule 452 which applies to members of a national securities exchange broker non-votes with respect to an equity compensation plan, such as the 2004 Omnibus Stock Plan, are prohibited. Therefore, brokers will not be able to vote for any stockholders on the proposal to adopt our 2004 Omnibus Stock Plan in the absence of specific instructions from the beneficial owner.

As of the close of business on March 9, 2004, the outstanding shares of the Corporation consisted of 11,242,396 shares of Common Stock.

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### 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Corporation's Board of Directors is comprised of nine directors, including eight non-employee directors, divided into three classes with staggered terms. All directors are elected for three-year terms. All directors have been determined to be independent by the Board of Directors except for Mr. William P. Stafford who is deemed not independent due to his affiliation with and his services as Chairman of the H. P. & Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation, a holder of more than 10% of the outstanding shares of the Corporation, and Mr. John M. Mendez, who is employed by the Corporation as President and Chief Executive Officer.

The nominees for the Board of Directors to serve until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2007 are set forth below. All nominees are currently serving on the Corporation's Board of Directors. In the event any nominee is unable or declines to serve as a director at the time of the Annual Meeting, the proxies will be voted for any nominee who shall be designated by the present Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. In the event that additional persons are nominated for election as directors, the proxy holders intend to vote all proxies received by them for the nominees listed below. All nominees named herein have consented to be named and to serve as directors if elected.

No director or executive officer of the Corporation is related to any other director or executive officer of the Corporation by blood, or marriage or adoption, except for Mr. Stafford who is the father of Mr. Stafford, II.

NAME	AGE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT LAST FIVE YEARS; PRINCIPAL DIRECTORSHIPS	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATION SINCE	C DIR
----	---	-----	-----	---
Allen T. Hamner	62	Professor of Chemistry, West Virginia Wesleyan College; Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Member of Audit, Executive and Compensation Committees	1993	2
B. W. Harvey	72	President, Highlands Real Estate Management, Inc. (a Corporation which provides commercial property leasing services); Director and Chairman First Community Bank, N. A.; Financial Expert on Audit Committee, Member of Executive, Bank Loan and Trust Committees	1989	2

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John M. Mendez	49	President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation; Director, Executive Vice President, First Community Bank, N. A.; Past Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary of the Corporation; Past Senior Vice President -- Finance & Chief Administrative Officer, First Community Bank, N. A.	1994	2
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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" EACH OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR.

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CONTINUING DIRECTORS

The following persons will continue to serve as members of the Board of Directors until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in the year of the expiration of their designated terms. The name, age, principal occupation and certain biographical information for each continuing director are presented below:

NAME ----	AGE ---	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT LAST FIVE YEARS; PRINCIPAL DIRECTORSHIPS -----	DIRECTOR OF CORPORATION SINCE -----	C DIR
Robert E. Perkinson, Jr.	56	Mayor of City of Bluefield, WV; Past Vice President-Operations, MAPCO Coal, Inc., Permac, Inc., Race Fork Coal Company, South Atlantic Coal, Inc., (all coal mining operations); Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Chairman of Audit Committee and Member of Bank Loan Committee	1994	2
William P. Stafford	70	President, Princeton Machinery Service, Inc. (a machinery manufacturing and repair company); Chairman of the H. P. & Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation; Chairman of the Board of the Corporation; Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Member of Executive and Bank Loan Committees	1989	2
Harold V. Groome, Jr.	59	Chairman, Groome Transportation, Inc.; Chairman, Groome Transportation of Georgia, Inc.; ( a provider of personal and business transportation services); Director, First Community Bank, N. A.	2003	2
I. Norris Kantor	74	Of Counsel, Katz, Kantor & Perkins Attorneys-at-Law; Director of Mercer Realty, Inc., a Real Estate Management Company; Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Member of Bank Loan and Trust Committees	1989	2
A. A. Modena	75	Trustee of United Company Investement Fund (a Mutual Fund), Bristol, VA; Trustee of Bluefield College, Bluefield, VA; Retired	1989	2

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Executive Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation; Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Member of Executive, Nominating and Compensation Committees and Chairman of Bank Trust Committee

William P. Stafford, II	40	Attorney, Brewster, Morhous, Cameron, Mullins, Caruth, Moore, Kersey & Stafford, PLLC; Director, First Community Bank, N. A.; Member of Executive, Compensation and Bank Trust Committees	1994	2
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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT DIRECTORS

The name, age, principal occupation and certain biographical information for each continuing officer are presented below:

NAME ----	AGE ---	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT LAST FIVE YEARS; PRINCIPAL DIRECTORSHIPS -----	DIRECTOR CORPORATION SINCE -----
Robert L. Buzzo	53	President of First Community Bank, N. A.; Vice President and Secretary of the Corporation; past Chief Executive Officer of First Community Bank -- Bluefield, a division of First Community Bank, N. A.	2000
E. Stephen Lilly	45	Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation; Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of First Community Bank, N. A.; past Vice President-Operations of First Community Bank, N. A.	2000
Robert L. Schumacher	52	Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation; Senior Vice President-Finance and Secretary of First Community Bank, N. A.; Past Senior Vice President-Finance of the Corporation; Past Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer of First Community Bank, N. A.	2000

COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

During 2003, non-employee members of the Board of Directors received a retainer fee of \$700 per month. During 2003, Audit Committee members received a retainer fee of \$1,000 per quarter. Members of the Corporation's Executive Committee also receive a fee of \$250 per meeting unless held in conjunction with monthly board meetings in which case no committee fee is paid. Directors of the Corporation may also be reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred for attendance at Board or committee meetings. Directors who are employees of the Corporation receive no compensation for service on the Board or its committees.

In addition, non-employee directors of the Corporation participate in the 2001 Directors' Stock Option Plan (the "Directors' Option Plan"). The Directors' Option Plan was implemented to facilitate and encourage investment in the

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Corporation's future growth and continued success. No grants were made under the Director's Option Plan in fiscal 2003. In fiscal 2001, non-employee directors were granted options to purchase 45,000 shares of Common Stock. Considering 10% stock dividends distributed in both 2002 and 2003, as well as certain option exercises, the outstanding options exercisable at December 31, 2003 by non-employee directors were 35,140 shares. The exercise price of each option was the market value of a share of Common Stock on the date of grant adjusted for the aforementioned stock dividends. The options are fully vested and must be exercised within 10 years of grant or two years following the director's retirement, whichever occurs first.

### MEETING ATTENDANCE

The Board of Directors held thirteen meetings during 2003. All directors and those nominees, who are currently directors, attended at least 75% of all meetings of the Board and any committee of which they were members. Directors are encouraged to attend annual meetings of the Corporation's stockholders. All of the members of the Board of Directors attended last year's Annual Meeting.

### BOARD COMMITTEES

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has an Audit Committee consisting of Chairman Perkinson and Messrs. Hamner and Harvey, all non-employee members of the Board. Each Audit Committee member is independent under the Nasdaq Stock Market listing standards as well as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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Mr. Stafford served on the Audit Committee during 2002 and through the early part of March, 2003. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, which operates under a Board approved charter, held ten meetings during 2003, reviews and acts on reports to the Board with respect to various auditing and accounting matters, the scope of the audit procedures and the results thereof, the internal accounting and control systems of the Corporation, the nature of service performed for the Corporation by and the fees to be paid to the independent auditors, the performance of the Corporation's independent and internal auditors and the accounting practices of the Corporation. In December of 2003, the Board of Directors designated Mr. Harvey as the Audit Committee's Financial Expert, based upon his qualifications and experience. The Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment of the independent auditors, subject to stockholders' ratification. The 2003 Report of the Audit Committee is presented on page 9 of this Proxy Statement.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors has a Compensation Committee that was formed in May 1999 consisting of non-employee Directors Hamner, Modena, and William P. Stafford, II. The Compensation Committee, which held three meetings in 2003, reviews and considers the form and amount of compensation and contractual employment terms of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation; reviews the compensation of other executive officers and reviews stock-based compensation plans and various non-qualified compensation and retirement programs maintained by the Corporation. Recommendations of the Compensation Committee are made to the Board of Directors. The 2003 Report of the Compensation Committee is presented on page 8 of this Proxy Statement.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Corporation has an Executive Committee

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consisting of Chairman Stafford and Messrs. Hamner, Harvey, Mendez, Modena, and Stafford, II. The Executive Committee held two meetings during 2003. The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the Board on most corporate matters not involving business combinations.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors established a Nominating Committee in 2003. The Nominating Committee assumed certain responsibilities formerly delegated to the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee is comprised of Directors Harvey, Hamner and Modena, all independent directors. The committee operates under a Board approved charter which outlines responsibilities including the review of the composition and qualifications of the Board of Directors, periodic evaluation of the Board and its effectiveness, review of Board membership needs, search, screening and evaluation of director nominees and the evaluation of and response to shareholder proposals regarding board composition and membership when and if presented to the Corporation. A copy of the Nominating Committee Charter is set forth as Annex A hereto.

Nominations to the Board of Directors by stockholders to be considered at the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders shall be made in writing and shall be delivered or mailed to the Corporate Secretary not less than thirty days prior to the 2005 annual meeting. However, in the event that less than thirty days notice of the 2005 annual meeting is given to stockholders, such notice of nomination shall be mailed or delivered to the Corporate Secretary no later than the close of business on the seventh day following the day on which the notice of the meeting was mailed. The notice must set forth the candidate's name, age, business address, residence address, principal occupation or employment, the number of shares beneficially owned by the candidate, qualifications for Board membership and information that would be required to solicit a proxy under federal securities law. In addition, the notice must include the nominating shareholder's name, address, and the number of shares beneficially owned (and the period they have been held).

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The Nominating Committee will consider shareholder recommendations for board candidates when the recommendations are properly submitted. Any shareholder recommendations for candidates to be nominated for board service, which are submitted under the criteria summarized above should be addressed to:

Corporate Secretary  
First Community Bancshares, Inc.  
P.O. Box 989  
Bluefield, Virginia 24605-0989

In evaluating and determining whether to recommend a candidate for nomination to a position on the Corporation's Board, the Nominating Committee will consider criteria as established by the Nominating Committee and used to determine a candidate's suitability for board service, which criteria include at a minimum, high professional ethics and values, relevant experience and a commitment to enhancing shareholder value. In evaluating candidates for nomination, the Nominating Committee utilizes a variety of methods. The Corporation regularly assesses the size of the Board, whether any vacancies are expected due to retirement or otherwise, and the need for particular expertise on the Board. Candidates may come to the attention of the Nominating Committee from current Board members, shareholders, professional search firms, officers or other persons. The Nominating Committee will review all candidates in the same manner regardless of the source of the recommendation.

### TRANSACTIONS WITH DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS



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Some of the directors and officers of the Corporation and members of their immediate families are at present, as in the past, customers of the Corporation's subsidiary bank, and have had and expect to have transactions with the bank. In addition, some of the directors and officers of the Corporation are, as in the past, also officers of or partners in entities that are customers of the bank and have had and expect to have transactions with the bank. Such transactions were made in the ordinary course of business, 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 did not involve more than normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features.

One of the directors, Mr. Stafford, II, is a practicing attorney with Brewster, Morhous, Cameron, Mullins, Caruth, Moore, Kersey & Stafford, PLLC, a Bluefield, West Virginia law firm which provides general legal services to the Corporation. The Corporation paid that firm \$57,948 for these professional services in 2003.

The Corporation is currently in the process of building a bank facility in Princeton, WV at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million and the general contractor for this project is Fredeking Stafford Construction Company, Inc. The majority owner of Fredeking Stafford Construction Company, Inc. is the son of Mr. Stafford and the brother of Mr. Stafford, II. Fredeking Stafford Construction Company, Inc. provided other general contracting services to the Corporation during 2003, for which the Corporation paid \$62,414. Contracts for the largest of these services were awarded through a competitive bidding process.

### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") requires the Corporation's officers, directors and persons who own more than 10% of the Corporation's capital stock (collectively, "Reporting Persons") to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. The Reporting Persons are required by regulation to furnish the Corporation with copies of all forms they file pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act.

Based solely on review of the copies of such forms furnished to the Corporation, or written representations from its officers and directors, the Corporation believes that during, and with respect to, fiscal 2003, the Corporation's officers and directors complied in all respects with the reporting requirements promulgated under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act except for Mr. Harold V. Groome, Jr. who filed a late Form 3 in connection with his appointment to the Board in June of 2003.

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### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK BY CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth as of March 9, 2004, certain information as to the Common Stock beneficially owned by (i) each person or entity, including any "group" as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, who or which was known to the Corporation to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the issued and outstanding Common Stock, (ii) certain directors and executive officers of the Corporation and its major subsidiaries and (iii) all directors and executive officers of the Corporation and its major subsidiaries, as a group. Except as otherwise indicated, the persons named in the table below have sole voting and investment power with respect to the Common Stock shown as beneficially owned by them.

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER OR NUMBER OF PERSONS IN GROUP -----	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP AS OF MARCH 9, 2004 -----	PERCENT OF COMMON STOCK -----
The H. P. & Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation (1)..... P.O. Box 309, Princeton, WV 24740	1,222,100	10.77%
The Company's Directors and Officers:		
Robert L. Buzzo(2).....	13,954	*
Harold V. Groome, Jr.(12).....	29,451	*
Allen T. Hamner(3) (4).....	14,499	*
B. W. Harvey(3) (5).....	18,673	*
I. Norris Kantor(13)(6).....	32,863	*
E. Stephen Lilly(7).....	6,539	*
John M. Mendez(8).....	18,799	*
A. A. Modena(3).....	33,674	*
Robert E. Perkinson, Jr.(3) (9).....	83,486	*
Robert L. Schumacher(10).....	12,815	*
William P. Stafford(11).....	239,014	2.12%
William P. Stafford, II.....	153,775	1.37%
All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (Twelve Persons).....	657,542	5.80%

\* Represents less than 1% of the outstanding shares.

- (1) Information obtained from a Schedule 13G dated March 17, 2003. The H. P. and Anne S. Hunnicutt Foundation ("Foundation") is a private, tax-exempt charitable foundation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation was created by the family of two directors, William P. Stafford and William P. Stafford, II. Neither director exercises voting or dispositive power over the shares held by the Foundation.
- (2) Includes 13,682 shares allocated to Mr. Buzzo's Employee Stock Ownership and Savings Plan ("ESOP") account.
- (3) Includes 6,050 shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options granted under the Directors' Option Plan.
- (4) Includes 4,712 shares held by Mr. Hamner's wife.
- (5) Includes 1,449 shares held by Mr. Harvey's wife.
- (6) Includes 1,403 shares held by Mr. Kantor's wife.
- (7) Includes 3,011 shares allocated to Mr. Lilly's ESOP account.
- (8) Includes 17,423 shares allocated to Mr. Mendez's ESOP account.

- (9) Includes 21,863 shares held by the Robert E. Perkinson, Sr. Trust, 5,138 shares held by the Robert E. Perkinson, Jr. Trust in which Mr. Perkinson is deemed to share beneficial ownership and 5,171 shares held as agent for Mr. Perkinson's wife. Mr. Perkinson is co-trustee of the Robert E. Perkinson, Sr. Trust and holds a remainder interest therein with two of his siblings, and he is co-trustee and sole beneficiary of the Robert E. Perkinson, Jr.

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Trust.

- (10) Includes 12,241 shares allocated to Mr. Schumacher's ESOP account.
- (11) Includes 35,561 shares held by Stafford Farms LLC as to which Mr. Stafford is deemed to share beneficial ownership. Also includes 162,632 shares held jointly by Mr. Stafford and his wife, and 1,901 shares held by Mr. Stafford's wife.
- (12) Includes 7,746 shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options granted under The Commonwealth Bank Option Plan.
- (13) Includes 4,890 shares issuable upon exercise of currently exercisable options granted under the Directors' Option Plan.

### REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Board of Directors maintains a Compensation Committee (the "Committee") whose role is the establishment and management of employment terms and the form and levels of compensation paid to the President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"). The Committee also periodically reviews the compensation of other executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table subject to primary salary administration for these officers by the CEO.

Other responsibilities of the Compensation Committee include the development of proposed contractual terms of employment and establishment of a framework for a competitive compensation package for the CEO and long-term compensation programs for all executive officers that adequately reward performance and provide incentives for retention. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Compensation Committee considers: i) the need to retain competent and effective management personnel; ii) competitive terms and levels of compensation relative to other companies of comparable size and operation within the commercial banking industry; iii) past performance of the CEO as measured against predetermined goals and objectives; iv) comparative performance of the CEO as benchmarked against peer groups of comparable commercial banks; and v) the achievement of overall corporate goals.

The Committee establishes current compensation based primarily on review of competitive salary practices by similarly sized banking organizations locally and nationally giving appropriate weight to regional differences in cost of living and contrasting relative performance of the Corporation and the designated peer group. In performing this analysis, the Committee utilized the Sheshunoff Executive Compensation Survey and the 2003 SNL Executive Compensation Review as well as compensation data from other specifically identified banking peers.

In review of cash compensation of the CEO for the 2003 fiscal year, the committee awarded a merit increase which resulted in a total increase in base compensation from \$244,800 to \$274,800 annually. This salary adjustment was effective January 1, 2003.

In 2003 there were no recommended changes in the employment contract of the CEO. The CEO employment contract is for a three year term and renews annually. The contract provides for salary continuation for a period of 35 months in the event of termination within three years of a change in control of ownership. The contract also provides for salary continuation for a period of 30 months in the event of termination without cause, absent a change in control of ownership

For 2003 the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors a tiered incentive compensation strategy for the CEO based upon the Corporation's ability to meet specific financial benchmarks. The actual bonus payment to the CEO in the first quarter of 2003 was \$125,000.

This report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") or the Exchange Act, unless the Corporation specifically incorporates this report by reference and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

Allen T. Hamner  
A. A. Modena  
William P. Stafford, II.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

No member of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is an officer or employee of the Corporation. No member of the Committee or executive officer of the Corporation has a relationship that would constitute an interlocking relationship with executive officers or directors of another entity.

#### REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Board is responsible for providing independent, objective oversight of the Corporation's accounting functions, financial reporting process and internal controls. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, which has been revised and approved by the Corporation's Board of Directors to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The responsibilities of the Audit Committee include the appointment of an accounting firm to be engaged as the Corporation's independent auditors for the purpose of performing an audit of the Corporation's financial statements and expressing an opinion as to the conformity of such financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted within the United States. Additionally, and as appropriate, the Audit Committee reviews, evaluates, discusses, and consults with management, internal audit personnel and the independent auditors regarding the following:

- the plan for, and independent auditors' report on, each audit of the Corporation's financial statements
- the Corporation's financial disclosure documents, including all financial statements and reports sent to shareholders
- changes in the Corporation's accounting practices, principles, controls or methodologies, or in its financial statements
- significant developments in accounting rules
- the adequacy of the Corporation's internal accounting controls, and accounting, financial and auditing personnel
- the establishment and maintenance of an environment at the Corporation that promotes ethical behavior

The Audit Committee Charter incorporates standards set forth in Securities and Exchange Commission regulations and the listing standards of the National Association of Securities Dealers. After appropriate review and discussion, the Audit Committee determined that the Committee fulfilled its responsibilities under the Audit Committee Charter in 2003.

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The Audit Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board that the Corporation's financial statements be included in its annual report. The Committee held ten meetings during the fiscal year 2003 and took a number of steps in making the independent auditor recommendation. First, the Audit Committee discussed with its independent auditors those matters the independent auditor communicated to and discussed with the Audit Committee under applicable auditing standards, including information regarding the scope and results of the audit. These communications and discussions are intended to assist the Audit Committee in overseeing the financial reporting and disclosure process. Second, the Audit Committee discussed the external auditor's independence with that firm and received a letter from the external auditor concerning independence as required under applicable independence standards for auditors of public companies. This discussion and disclosure informed the Audit Committee of the external auditors' independence, and assisted the Audit Committee in evaluating such independence. Finally, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed, with the Corporation

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management and the accounting firm, the Corporation's audited consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2003 and consolidated statement of income, cash flows and stockholders' equity for the year then ended. Based on discussions with the external auditors concerning the audit, the independence discussions, and the financial statement review, and such other matters deemed relevant and appropriate by the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board (and the Board approved) that these financial statements be included in the Corporation's 2003 Annual Report to Shareholders and incorporated by reference in its Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This report shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, unless the Corporation specifically incorporates this report by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

Robert E. Perkinson, Jr., Audit  
Committee Chair  
B. W. Harvey, Audit Committee Member  
Allen T. Hamner, Audit Committee  
Member

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003, 2002 AND 2001

The following Summary Compensation Table sets forth information concerning compensation for services in all capacities awarded to, earned by, or paid to the Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer and to other executive officers of the Corporation whose salary and bonus exceeded \$100,000 during the year ended December 31, 2003.

#### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL/ CAPACITIES SERVED	YEAR	SALARY	BONUS	OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION (1)	LONG-TERM COMPENSATION	
					SECURITIES OPTIONS	PAYOUT LTIP PAYOUT
-----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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John M. Mendez.....	2003	\$266,932	\$125,000	\$ --	\$14,108	\$ --
President &	2002	\$228,184	\$ 36,000	\$ --	14,108	\$ --
Chief Executive Officer	2001	\$224,105	\$ 30,000	\$ --	14,108	\$ --
of the Corporation;						
Executive Vice President of						
First Community Bank, N. A.						
Robert L. Buzzo.....	2003	\$149,200	\$ 20,000	\$ --	7,565	\$ --
Vice President and	2002	\$135,678	\$ 11,221	\$ --	7,565	\$ --
Secretary of the	2001	\$122,069	\$ 14,751	\$ --	7,565	\$ --
Corporation; President of						
First Community Bank, N. A.;						
Chief Executive Officer of						
the Bluefield Division of						
First Community Bank, N. A.						
E. Stephen Lilly.....	2003	\$162,200	\$ 25,000	\$ --	\$ 7,550	\$ --
Chief Operating Officer	2002	\$138,669	\$ 14,632	\$ --	7,550	\$ --
of the Corporation;	2001	\$121,618	\$ 30,092	\$ --	7,550	\$ --
Senior Vice President &						
Chief Operating Officer of						
First Community Bank, N. A.						
Robert L. Schumacher.....	2003	\$124,000	\$ 20,000	\$ --	9,266	\$ --
Chief Financial Officer	2002	\$104,391	\$ 10,827	\$ --	9,266	\$ --
of the Corporation;	2001	\$ 99,047	\$ 8,622	\$ --	9,266	\$ --
Senior Vice						
President-Finance and						
Secretary of First Community						
Bank, N. A.						

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- (1) The Corporation provides perquisites to the named officers, comprised of dues for country club membership and the personal use of Corporation vehicles. The value of such benefits do not exceed the lesser of \$50,000 or 10% of salary and bonus for any of the named officers.
- (2) Includes \$12,000, \$7,200, \$7,800 and \$6,000 in 401(k) matching contributions for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003. Includes \$11,000, \$10,271, \$11,000 and \$8,525 in ESOP contributions for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003. Includes \$12,000, \$7,200, \$7,800 and \$6,000 in 401(k) deferrals for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003. Includes \$7,998, \$10,800, \$7,800 and \$6,000 in Wrap Plan deferrals for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003. Includes \$19,550, \$4,005, \$4,718 and \$3,300 in Wrap Plan contributions for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003. Includes \$41,950, \$19,378, \$14,705 and \$2,232 in benefit accrual vesting of Executive Supplemental Retirement and Retention program benefits for Messrs. Mendez, Buzzo, Lilly and Schumacher, respectively, for 2003.

STOCK OPTIONS

In 1999, the Corporation instituted a Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") to encourage and facilitate investment in the Common Stock of the Corporation by key executives and to assist in the long-term retention of service by those executives. The Plan covers key executives as determined by the Corporation's Board of Directors from time to time. Options under the Plan were granted in the form of non-statutory stock options with the aggregate number of shares of

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common stock available for grant under the Plan set at 332,750 shares. Total options granted under the Plan at December 31, 2003 represent the right to acquire an aggregate of 309,349 shares. Under the Plan, an optionee is deemed to have been granted options in five annual installments on January 1 of each year beginning January 1, 1999 and continued through 2003. All stock options granted pursuant to the Plan vest ratably on the first through the seventh anniversary dates of the deemed grant date. The option price of each stock option is equal to the fair market value of the Corporation's Common Stock on the date of each deemed grant during the five-year grant period. Vested stock options granted pursuant to the Plan are exercisable for a period of five years after the date of the grantee's retirement (provided retirement occurs at or after age 62), disability, or death. If employment is terminated other than by retirement at or after age 62, disability, or death, vested options must be exercised within 90 days after the effective date of termination. Any option not exercised within such period will be deemed cancelled.

In the event of a change of control or upon dissolution of the Corporation, the stock options granted under the Plan continue to vest and are exercisable in accordance with the terms of the original grant. Change of control provisions further provide that any optionee who is terminated without cause by the Corporation, its successor or affiliate during the 12 months preceding, or at any time following a change of control, and any participant who remains employed by the Corporation or any affiliate during the 90-day period following a change of control and thereafter resigns, shall continue to receive grants on the deemed grant dates and vest as if the optionee continued to be employed, and optionee, or his estate, shall be entitled to exercise such options within five years after death or attainment of age 62, whichever first occurs.

In addition, the 2003 acquisition of The Commonwealth Bank added additional stock options on 120,155 shares (124,380 shares adjusted by the merger conversion factor of .9015 and the 10% stock dividend in 2003). These options included awards to employees and directors and were issued by The Commonwealth Bank in 12 grants beginning in 1994 and ending in 2002 with adjusted exercise prices ranging from \$4.75 to \$17.40. These options are fully vested and are exercisable for up to ten years following the grant date. At December 31, 2003, 70,320 options shares were outstanding and exercisable under the former Commonwealth Plan.

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The following table (on the next page) details options deemed granted to Executive Officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table and other officers during 2003 under the above-referenced 1999 Plan.

OPTIONS DEEMED GRANTED IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

NAME	INDIVIDUAL GRANTS IN 2003				
	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED (1)	% OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN FISCAL YEAR	EXERCISE OR BASE PRICE (\$/SH) (1)	EXPIRATION DATES (2)	GRANT PRESENT
John M. Mendez.....	14,108	19.55%	29.15	03/01/22	\$ 99
Robert L. Buzzo.....	7,565	10.48%	29.15	04/01/17	\$ 53
E. Stephen Lilly.....	7,550	10.46%	29.15	07/01/25	\$ 53
Robert L. Schumacher.....	9,266	12.84%	29.15	04/01/18	\$ 65

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18 Optionees

(including the 4 listed

above)..... 72,153 100.00% 29.15 From 05/01/10 \$508  
To 05/01/43

- (1) Plan participants may use previously owned shares to pay for an option's exercise price. Additionally, plan participants may have the Corporation withhold their shares due upon exercise of an option to satisfy their required tax withholding obligations.
- (2) Options expire 5 years after the executive's retirement date, death or disability. In the event of termination other than retirement, death or disability, options must be exercised within 90 days of effective date of termination. If not exercised within that period, options are deemed cancelled. For purposes of this table, retirement age is assumed to be age 62. All executive options vest ratably over the seven year period following the date of deemed grant as described above.
- (3) The grant date present value of options was determined using the Black-Scholes model with the following assumptions: risk-free interest rate of 4.03%, dividend yield of 2.96%, expected volatility of the market price of the Corporation's common stock of 22.8%, and average anticipated time to exercise of 11.97 years.

OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

The following table sets forth certain information concerning exercises of stock options by the executive officers listed in the Summary Compensation Table during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 and options held at December 31, 2003.

OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

NAME	SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE	VALUE REALIZED	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT YEAR END		VALUE OF UNEXERCISED IN-THE-MONEY OPTIONS AT YEAR END
			EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE	EXERCISABLE
John M. Mendez.....	--	--	--	70,540	--
Robert L. Buzzo.....	--	--	--	37,825	--
E. Stephen Lilly.....	--	--	--	37,750	--
Robert L. Schumacher.....	--	--	--	46,330	--

- (1) Represents the market value per share of Common Stock at fiscal year-end based on its closing price of \$33.16 at December 31, 2003, minus the exercise price per share of the options outstanding times the number of shares of Common Stock represented by such options.

WRAP PLAN

The Corporation maintains a non-qualified Supplemental 401(k) Plan ("Wrap Plan") for the purpose of providing deferred compensation which cannot be accumulated under the Qualified ESOP/401(k) Combined Plan provisions above because of deferral and covered compensation limitations on tax-qualified pension plan benefits.



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The Corporation makes a non-qualified matching credit on employee contributions at the rate established in the 401(k) Plan (100% in 2003) of up to 6% of compensation deferred and also makes contributions in lieu of Qualified ESOP contributions for compensation in excess of the \$200,000 compensation limit. Contributions under the Wrap Plan in 2003 for the covered persons are included in the Summary Compensation Table and are as follows: Mendez -- \$19,550; Buzzo -- \$4,005; Lilly -- \$4,718; and Schumacher -- \$3,300.

### EXECUTIVE RETENTION PLAN

In 1999, the Corporation established an Executive Retention Plan for key members of senior management, including the individuals named in the Summary Compensation Table. This Plan provides for a benefit at normal retirement (age 62) targeted at 15% of final compensation projected at an assumed 3% salary progression rate. Benefits under the Executive Retention Plan become payable at Normal Retirement age 62 or at Early Retirement age 60. Actual benefits payable under the Executive Retention Plan are dependent on an indexed retirement benefit formula that accrues benefits equal to the aggregate after-tax income of associated life insurance contracts less the Corporation's tax-effected cost of funds for that plan year. Benefits under the Executive Retention Plan are dependent on the performance of the insurance contracts and are not guaranteed by the Corporation.

In connection with the Executive Retention Plan, the Corporation has also entered into Life Insurance Endorsement Method Split Dollar Agreements (the "Agreements") with the executives covered under the Retention Plan. Under the Agreements, the Corporation shares 80% of death benefits (after recovery of cash surrender value) with the designated beneficiaries of the executives under life insurance contracts referenced in the Executive Retention Plan. The Corporation as owner of the policies retains a 20% interest in life proceeds and a 100% interest in the cash surrender value of the policies.

The Executive Retention Plan also contains provisions for change of control, as defined, which allow the executives to retain benefits under the Plan in the event of a termination of service, other than for cause, during the twelve months prior to a change in control or anytime thereafter, unless the executive voluntarily terminates his employment within 90 days following the change in control.

During 2003 the vesting schedule under the plan was amended to provide for graded vesting of benefits. Benefits under the Executive Retention Plan, which begin to accrue with respect to years of service under the Plan, vest 25% after five years, 50% after ten years, 75% after 15 years, and an additional 5% per year thereafter, with vesting accelerated to 100% at age 62. Prior to the amendment, the Plan provided no benefits if termination of employment occurred prior to age 62.

### DIRECTORS' SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN

In 2001, the Corporation established a Directors' Supplemental Retirement Plan for its non-employee Directors. This Plan provides for a benefit upon retirement from service on the Board at specified ages depending upon length of service or death. Benefits under the Supplemental Retirement Plan become payable at age 70, 75 and 78 depending upon the individual director's age and original date of election to the Board. Actual benefits payable under the Supplemental Retirement Plan are dependent on an indexed retirement benefit formula that accrues benefits equal to the aggregate after-tax income of associated life insurance contracts less the Corporation's tax-effected cost of funds for that plan year. Benefits under the Supplemental Retirement Plan are dependent on the performance of the insurance contracts and are not guaranteed by the

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Corporation.

In connection with the Directors' Supplemental Retirement Plan, the Corporation has also entered into Life Insurance Endorsement Method Split Dollar Agreements (the "Agreements") with certain directors covered under the Plan. Under the Agreements, the Corporation shares 80% of death benefits (after recovery of cash surrender value) with the designated beneficiaries of the executives under life insurance contracts referenced in the Supplemental Retirement Plan. The Corporation as owner of the policies retains a 20% interest in life proceeds and a 100% interest in the cash surrender value of the policies.

The Supplemental Retirement Plan also contains provisions for change of control, as defined, which allow the Directors to retain benefits under the Plan in the event of a termination of service, other than for cause, during

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the twelve months prior to a change in control or anytime thereafter, unless the Director voluntarily terminates his service within 90 days following the change in control.

Because the Supplemental Retirement Plan was designed to retain the future services of Directors, no benefits are payable under the Plan in the event of voluntary or involuntary termination prior to retirement age as defined in the Plan document.

### INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND CERTAIN OFFICERS

During 2003 the Corporation and its subsidiary bank adopted Indemnification Agreements for all Directors and Certain Officers, which provide a process for the request and grant of indemnification under circumstances provided for under the Corporation Articles of Association and By-laws. The agreements spell out notice provisions, rights and responsibilities of the Corporation and the indemnitee. The full text of one of these agreements for the Corporation and one for its banking subsidiary are included as Exhibits 10.10 and 10.11 of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2003.

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### COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE CORPORATION

The following chart was compiled by SNL Securities, LC and compares cumulative total shareholder return on the Corporation's Common Stock for the five-year period ended December 31, 2003 with cumulative total shareholder return of: (1) The Standard & Poor's 500 market index ("S&P 500"); and (2) a group of 23 Peer Bank Holding Companies (Asset Size & Regional Peer Group).

#### FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on December 31, 1998 in the Corporation's common stock and each of the comparative investments with dividends from each of the investments reinvested at year-end in additional shares of stock at the then current market value.

Performance Graph

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INDEX	PERIOD ENDING				
	12/31/98	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02
First Community Bancshares, Inc.	100.00	81.41	83.85	144.58	171.54
S&P 500*	100.00	121.11	110.34	97.32	75.75
Asset Size & Regional Peer Group**	100.00	82.35	73.54	90.30	123.96

\* Source: CRSP, Center for Research in Security Prices, Graduate School of Business, The University of Chicago 2004. Used with permission. All rights reserved. crsp.com.

\*\* The Asset Size & Regional Peer Group consists of banks that are traded on the NASDAQ, pink sheet, and bulletin board exchanges, have total assets between \$1B and \$5B, and are in the Southeast region.

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2. RATIFICATION OF 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

At its regularly scheduled meeting in January, 2004 the Board of Directors adopted the 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan ("2004 Plan") of the Corporation subject to approval by the stockholders of the Corporation at the Annual Meeting. The following general description of certain features of the 2004 Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the governing 2004 Plan document, a copy of which is attached hereto as Annex B.

PURPOSE OF THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

The purposes of the 2004 Plan are to enable the Corporation to promote the long-term success of the Corporation and create shareholder value by (a) encouraging officers, employees, directors and individuals performing services for the Corporation as consultants or independent contractors to focus on critical long-range objectives, (b) encouraging the attraction and retention of officers, employees, directors, consultants and independent contractors with exceptional qualifications, and (c) linking officers, employees, directors, consultants and independent contractors directly to shareholder interests through ownership of the Corporation. The 2004 Plan seeks to achieve these purposes by providing for Awards in the form of options to purchase shares of the Corporation and outright grants of shares to designated individuals. The 2004 Plan has been prepared to comply with all applicable tax and securities laws, including Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act and state and Federal tax laws.

DESCRIPTION OF THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

GENERAL

The following general description of certain features of the 2004 Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the 2004 Plan which will be made available upon request. Officers, directors, employees and other persons who are designated by the Compensation Committee will be eligible to receive, at no cost to them, awards under the 2004 Plan (the "2004 Optionees"). Each award granted pursuant to the 2004 Option Plan shall be evidenced by an instrument in such form as the Compensation Committee shall from time to time approve. It is anticipated that awards granted under the 2004 Option Plan would constitute

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either Incentive Stock Options (options meeting the requirements under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), Non-Qualified Stock Options, Restricted Stock Awards or Performance Awards. Option shares may be paid for in cash, shares of Common Stock, or a combination of both. Restricted Stock Award shares would, upon the lapse of any applicable restrictions imposed under the instrument, be made available to the grantee. The Corporation will receive no monetary consideration for the granting of awards under the 2004 Option Plan. Further, the Corporation will receive no consideration other than the option exercise price per share for Common Stock issued to 2004 Optionees upon the exercise of their options.

Shares issuable under the 2004 Option Plan may be from authorized but unissued shares, treasury shares or shares purchased in the open market. An award which expires, becomes unexercisable, or is forfeited for any reason prior to its exercise or the lapse of any applicable restrictions will again be available for issuance under the 2004 Option Plan. No award or any right or interest therein is assignable or transferable except by will or the laws of descent and distribution. The 2004 Option Plan shall continue in effect for a term of ten years from the 2004 Option Plan effective date.

### TYPES OF OPTIONS AND AWARDS

The Compensation Committee may grant Incentive Stock Options, Non-Qualified Stock Options, Restricted Stock Awards or Performance Awards. In general, if a 2004 Optionee ceases to serve as an employee of the Corporation for any reason other than death, retirement or termination of employment due to disability, an exercisable Incentive Stock Option may continue to be exercisable for three months but in no event after the expiration date of the option, except as may otherwise be determined by the Compensation Committee at the time of the award. In the event of the death of a 2004 Optionee during employment or termination of employment due to retirement or disability, an exercisable Incentive Stock Option or Non-Qualified Stock Option will continue to be exercisable for twelve months, to the extent exercisable by the 2004 Optionee immediately prior to the 2004

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Optionee's death or termination of employment due to retirement or disability but only if, and to the extent that, a 2004 Optionee was entitled to exercise such Incentive Stock Options or Non-Qualified Stock Options on the date of death or termination of employment due to retirement or disability. Under no circumstances, however, shall the options of a 2004 Optionee remain exercisable beyond the remaining term of such options.

The exercise price for the purchase of Common Stock subject to an Incentive Stock Option may not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock covered by the option on the date of grant of such option. No more than \$100,000 of Incentive Stock Options can become exercisable for the first time in any one year for any one person. The Compensation Committee may impose additional conditions upon the right of a 2004 Optionee to exercise any option granted hereunder which are not inconsistent with the terms of the 2004 Option Plan or the requirements for qualification as an Incentive Stock Option, if such option is intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option. The exercise price for the purchase of Common Stock subject to a Non-Qualified Stock Option may be equal to, below or above the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock covered by the option on the date of grant of such option and shall be set forth in the individual award agreement governing the terms of the award. No shares of Common Stock shall be issued upon the exercise of an option until full payment therefore has been received by the Corporation, and no 2004 Optionee shall have any of the rights of a stockholder of the Corporation until shares of Common Stock are issued to such 2004.

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The 2004 Option Plan provides that the Board of Directors of the Corporation may authorize the Compensation Committee to direct the execution of an instrument providing for the modification, extension or renewal of any outstanding option, provided that no such modification, extension or renewal shall confer on the 2004 Optionee any right or benefit which could not be conferred on the 2004 Optionee by the grant of a new option at such time, and shall not materially decrease the 2004 Optionee's benefits under the option without the 2004 Optionee's consent, except as otherwise provided under the 2004 Option Plan.

### NUMBER OF SHARES COVERED BY THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

A total of 200,000 shares of Common Stock, which is equal to 1.78% of the outstanding stock is reserved for future issuance pursuant to the 2004 Plan. If any recapitalization, reclassification, stock dividend, stock split, reverse stock split, or other distribution with respect to the Common Stock or other change in corporate structure affecting the Common Stock occurs, the Board of Directors may, in the manner and to the extent it deems appropriate and equitable and consistent with the terms of the 2004 Plan, cause an adjustment to be made in (i) the maximum number of shares available under the 2004 Plan; (ii) the number of shares or other rights subject to outstanding Awards; (iii) the price for each share or other right subject to an outstanding Award; or (4) any of the terms affected by the event.

### AWARD GRANTS UNDER THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

The Board or the Compensation Committee shall from time to time determine the officers, directors, employees and other persons who shall be granted options, Restricted Stock Awards or Performance Awards under the 2004 Option Plan, the number of options or restricted or performance shares to be granted to any individual, and with respect to options, whether the options granted will be Incentive Stock Options and/or Non-Qualified Stock Options. In selecting 2004 Optionees and in determining the number of options to be granted, the Board or the Compensation Committee may consider the nature of the services rendered by each such individual, each individual's current and potential contribution to the Corporation and such other factors as may be deemed relevant. The 2004 Optionees may, if otherwise eligible, be granted additional options subject to any applicable statutory limitations on such grants.

Option awards shall become vested so that 25% of an option award shall vest as of the date of the grant and 25% of the option award shall vest on each one year anniversary thereafter so that 100% of the option award shall be vested as of the third anniversary of the grant, unless otherwise determined in the discretion of the Board and memorialized in the governing stock award agreement. No vesting shall occur on or after the date that an optionee's employment or personal services contract with the Corporation terminates for any reason other than his death, retirement or termination of employment due to disability. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of an optionee's death during employment or termination of employment due to disability, any awards granted to

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him not yet vested on that date shall become 100% vested as of such date and shall be exercisable by the optionee or his personal representative in accordance with the terms of the 2004 Option Plan. In the event of a 2004 Optionee's retirement, any awards granted to him not yet vested on that date shall become 100% vested and exercisable only if the grant date of such awards precedes the optionee's date of retirement by two or more years.

### ADJUSTMENTS

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Subject to any required action by the stockholders of the Corporation, within the sole discretion of the Compensation Committee, the aggregate number of shares of Common Stock for which options may be granted hereunder or the number of shares of Common Stock represented by each outstanding option will be proportionately adjusted for any increase or decrease in the number of issued and outstanding shares of Common Stock resulting from a subdivision or consolidation of shares or the payment of a stock dividend or any other increase or decrease in the number of shares of Common Stock effected without the receipt or payment of consideration by the Corporation. However, no action may be taken by the Compensation Committee which would cause Incentive Stock Options granted pursuant to the 2004 Option Plan to fail to meet the

### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

The Board of Directors may alter, suspend or discontinue the 2004 Option Plan, except that no action of the Board shall increase the maximum number of shares of Common Stock issuable under the 2004 Option Plan, materially increase the benefits accruing to 2004 Optionees under the 2004 Option Plan or materially modify the requirements for eligibility for participation in the 2004 Option Plan unless such action of the Board shall be subject to approval or ratification by the stockholders of the Corporation.

### POSSIBLE DILUTIVE EFFECTS OF THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

The Common Stock to be issued upon the exercise of options awarded under the 2004 Option Plan may either be authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock or shares purchased in the open market. Because the stockholders of the Corporation do not have preemptive rights, to the extent that the Corporation funds the 2004 Option Plan, in whole or in part, with authorized but unissued shares, the interests of current stockholders may be diluted. The Corporation can avoid dilution resulting from awards under the 2004 Option Plan by delivering shares repurchased in the open market upon the exercise of options.

### FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES TO PARTICIPANTS IN 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN

The following is a brief summary of certain of the Federal income tax consequences of certain transactions under the 2004 Option Plan. This summary is not intended to be exhaustive and does not describe state or local tax consequences.

Non-qualified stock options. Non-qualified stock options granted under the 2004 Option Plan do not qualify as "incentive stock options" and will not qualify for any special tax benefits to the 2004 Optionee. A 2004 Optionee generally will not recognize any taxable income at the time he or she is granted a Non-qualified option. However, upon its exercise, the 2004 Optionee will recognize ordinary income for Federal income tax purposes measured by the excess of the then fair market value of the shares over the exercise price. The income realized by the 2004 Optionee will be subject to income and other employee withholding taxes. The 2004 Optionee's basis for determination of gain or loss upon the subsequent disposition of shares acquired upon the exercise of a Non-qualified stock option will be the amount paid for such shares plus any ordinary income recognized as a result of the exercise of such option. Upon disposition of any shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of a Non-qualified stock option, the difference between the sale price and the 2004 Optionee's basis in the shares will be treated as a capital gain or loss and generally will be characterized as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year at their disposition. In general, there will be no Federal income tax deduction allowed to the Corporation upon the grant or termination of a Non-qualified stock option or a sale or disposition of the shares acquired upon the exercise of a Non-qualified stock option. However, upon the exercise of a Non-qualified stock option, the Corporation will be entitled to a deduction for Federal income tax

purposes equal to the amount of ordinary income that an 2004 Optionee is required to recognize as a result of the exercise, provided that the deduction is not otherwise disallowed under the Code.

**Incentive Stock Options.** If an option granted under the 2004 Option Plan is treated as an incentive stock option, the 2004 Optionee will not recognize any income upon either the grant or the exercise of the option, and the Corporation will not be allowed a deduction for Federal tax purposes. Upon a sale of the shares, the tax treatment to the 2004 Optionee and the Corporation will depend primarily upon whether the 2004 Optionee has met certain holding period requirements at the time he or she sells the shares. In addition, as discussed below, the exercise of an incentive stock option may subject the 2004 Optionee to alternative minimum tax liability. If a 2004 Optionee exercises an incentive stock option and does not dispose of the shares received within two years after the date of such option or within one year after the transfer of the shares to him or her, any gain realized upon the disposition will be characterized as long-term capital gain and, in such case, the Corporation will not be entitled to a Federal tax deduction.

If the 2004 Optionee disposes of the shares either within two years after the date the option is granted or within one year after the transfer of the shares to him or her, such disposition will be treated as a disqualifying disposition and an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise minus the purchase price, or (2) the amount realized on the disposition minus the purchase price, will be taxed as ordinary income to the 2004 Optionee in the taxable year in which the disposition occurs. However, in the case of gifts, sales to related parties, and certain other transactions, the full difference between the fair market value of the stock and the purchase price will be treated as compensation income. The excess, if any, of the amount realized upon disposition over the fair market value at the time of the exercise of the option will be treated as long-term capital gain if the shares have been held for more than one year following the exercise of the option.

The exercise of an incentive stock option may subject an 2004 Optionee to alternative minimum tax liability because the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time an incentive stock option is exercised over the purchase price of the shares is included in income for purposes of the alternative minimum tax even though it is not included in taxable income for purposes of determining the regular tax liability of an employee. Consequently, an 2004 Optionee may be obligated to pay alternative minimum tax in the year he or she exercises an incentive stock option.

In general, there will be no Federal income tax deductions allowed to the Corporation upon the grant, exercise or termination of an incentive stock option. However, in the event an 2004 Optionee sells or disposes of stock received on the exercise of an incentive stock option in a disqualifying disposition, the Corporation will be entitled to a deduction for Federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the ordinary income, if any, recognized by the 2004 Optionee upon disposition of the shares, provided that the deduction is not otherwise disallowed under the Code.

**Restricted Shares.** A recipient of a Restricted Share Award generally will be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on the fair market value of the Restricted Shares reduced by any amount paid by the recipient at such time as the shares are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture or restrictions on transfer for purposes of Section 83 of the Code. However, a recipient who so elects under Section 83(b) of the Code within 30 days of the

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date of transfer of the shares will recognize ordinary income on the date of transfer of the shares equal to the excess of the fair market value of the share (determined without regard to the risk of forfeiture or restrictions on transfer) over any purchase price paid for the shares. If a Section 83(b) election has not been made, any non-restricted dividends received with respect to Restricted Shares that are subject at that time to a risk of forfeiture or restrictions on transfer generally will be treated as compensation that is taxable as ordinary income to the recipient.

Performance Shares. A recipient of a Performance Share Award generally will be subject to tax at ordinary income rates on the fair market value of the Performance Shares reduced by any amount paid by the recipient at such time as the shares are awarded.

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### STOCKHOLDER RATIFICATION

Stockholder ratification of the 2004 Option Plan is being sought to qualify the 2004 Option Plan for the granting of Incentive Stock Options in accordance with the Code, to enable 2004 Optionees to qualify for certain exempt transactions related to the short-swing profit recapture provisions of Section 16(b) of the 1934 Act, to meet the requirements under the rules of the Nasdaq National Market for continued listing of the Corporation's Common Stock and to meet the requirements for the tax-deductibility of certain compensation items under Section 162(m) of the Code. An affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the total votes cast at the Meeting in person or by proxy is required to constitute stockholder ratification of this proposal.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF THE 2004 OMNIBUS STOCK PLAN.

### 3. RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Stockholders are being asked to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, as independent auditors of the Corporation and its subsidiaries for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004. Ernst & Young served as independent auditors for the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003. Ernst & Young has no relationship with the Corporation or its subsidiaries except in its capacity as proposed Independent Auditor. In connection with its audit of the Corporation's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2004, Ernst & Young will review the Corporation's annual report to stockholders and its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and will conduct reviews of quarterly reports to stockholders.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has recommended to the Board of Directors that Ernst & Young be appointed as independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004. The Board of Directors has made that appointment and recommends that the stockholders ratify the selection of Ernst & Young as independent auditors for the ensuing year.

A representative of Ernst & Young is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to stockholders' questions and to make a statement if the representative so desires.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF ERNST & YOUNG AS THE CORPORATION'S INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004.

FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT



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Fees for professional services provided by Ernst & Young LLP, the Corporation's independent auditor and principal accountant, for the respective fiscal years ended December 31 are set forth below:

	2003	2002
	-----	-----
Audit Fees.....	\$274,290	\$200,375
Audit-Related Fees.....	\$ 3,390	\$ 4,203
All Other Fees.....	--	--
Tax Fees.....	--	--

Fees for audit services include fees associated with the annual audit, the reviews of the Corporation's quarterly reports on Forms 10-Q and annual report on Form 10-K, review of other documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and required statutory audits. Audit related fees primarily include fees paid for certain accounting consultations. As indicated above, no fees were paid related to tax or any other services.

### PRE-APPROVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy that requires advance approval of all audit, audit-related, tax services, and other services performed by the independent auditor. The policy provides for pre-approval by the Audit Committee of specified audit and non-audit services. Unless the specific service has been previously pre-

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approved with respect to that year, the Audit Committee must approve the permitted service before the independent auditor is engaged to perform it. The Audit Committee has delegated to the Chair of the Audit Committee authority to approve permitted services provided that the Chair reports any decisions at its next scheduled meeting.

### OTHER MATTERS

All properly executed proxies received by the Corporation will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the specifications contained thereon. The Board of Directors knows of no other matter that may properly come before the Annual Meeting for action. However, if any other matter does properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named in the proxy materials enclosed will vote in accordance with their judgment upon such matter.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

A copy of the Corporation's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 accompanies this Proxy Statement. Such report is not part of the proxy solicitation materials.

Upon receipt of a written request, the Corporation will furnish to any stockholder without charge a copy of the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2003 required to be filed under the Exchange Act. Such written requests should be directed to the Chief Financial Officer, First Community Bancshares, Inc., P. O. Box 989, One Community Place, Bluefield Virginia 24605. The Form 10-K is not part of the proxy solicitation materials.

### STOCKHOLDERS' PROPOSALS

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Shareholders may communicate with the Board of Directors, including the non-management director, by sending a letter to the First Community Bancshares, Inc. Board of Directors, c/o Corporate Secretary, First Community Bancshares, Inc., P.O. 989, Bluefield, Virginia 24605-0989. The Corporate Secretary has the authority to disregard any inappropriate communications or to take other appropriate actions with respect to any such inappropriate communications. If deemed an appropriate communication, the Corporate Secretary will submit your correspondence to the Chairman of the Board or to any specific director to whom the correspondence is directed.

If any stockholder intends to include a proposal in the Corporation's proxy statement for the 2005 Annual Meeting, such proposal must be submitted to Robert L. Buzzo, Corporate Secretary, First Community Bancshares, Inc., P.O. Box 989, Bluefield, Virginia, 24605-0989 and received by the Corporation at its principal executive offices on or before November 20, 2004. Otherwise, such proposal will not be considered for inclusion in the Corporation's Proxy Statement for such meeting. In order to be considered for possible action by stockholders at the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders, stockholder proposals not included in the Corporation's proxy statement must be submitted to Robert L. Buzzo, Corporate Secretary, at the address set forth above, no later than February 3, 2005.

You are urged to properly complete, execute and return the enclosed form of proxy or vote via the Internet or toll free number provided elsewhere in the proxy material.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Robert L. Buzzo  
Robert L. Buzzo, Secretary to the  
Board

March 20, 2004

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ANNEX A

### FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHARTER

1. MEMBERS. The members of the committee shall be elected by the board and shall serve until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation or removal. All committee members must be independent directors. The committee shall be composed of no less than three members.

#### 2. PURPOSES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The committee helps ensure that the board performs effectively, with specific responsibility for making recommendations to the board on board organization and procedures, performance evaluation of the board, and nomination of directors. This committee works closely with the CEO and the chairman of the board.

#### DUTIES:

1. Review with the board on an annual basis the appropriate skills and characteristics required on the board in the context of the strategic direction of the Corporation.

2. Manage the process whereby the full board annually assesses its

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performance, and then report the results of this evaluation to the board along with any recommendations for improvements.

3. Recommend for board approval a definition of what constitutes an independent director. The definition should be in compliance with relevant standards by regulators and listing bodies.

4. Recommend to the board the existing board members to be re-nominated, after considering the appropriate skills and characteristics required on the board, the current makeup of the board, and the wishes of existing board members to be re-nominated.

5. Review with the board on an annual basis the appropriate skills and characteristics required of new board members.

6. Solicit nominations for new directors and screen the list of potential new directors submitted to it by other directors or any other sources. Decide whether the assistance of a search firm is needed, and, if so, chose the firm. This committee shall have the sole authority to retain and terminate any search firm to be used to identify director candidates, including sole authority to approve the search firm's fees and other retention terms.

7. After a review of board candidates and after considering the advice of the chairman of the board and the CEO, designate which candidates are to be interviewed. Candidates at a minimum are interviewed by the chairman of the nominating committee, the chairman of the board, and the CEO, but may be interviewed by other directors.

8. After the interviews, recommend for board approval any new directors to be nominated. Prior to the final vote of the board on the nomination of a new director, arrange for the selected candidate to meet all existing directors not yet met.

9. Design an orientation program for new directors and consult with them on their progress.

10. Review annually the membership guidelines and committee charter and recommend to the board any needed changes.

11. Keep abreast of the developments in the corporate governance field that might affect the Corporation.

12. Consideration of shareholder communications and proposals, if and when submitted, according to established process and guidelines.

This committee has the power to delegate aspects of its work to subcommittees, with board approval. Furthermore, the board may allocate any of the responsibilities of this committee to a separate committee, provided that the committee is composed of independent directors. Any such committee must have a published committee charter.

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ANNEX B

FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

2004 OMNIBUS STOCK OPTION PLAN

ARTICLE I

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLAN

First Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company" or "Bancshares") hereby establishes the First Community Bancshares, Inc. 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") upon the terms and conditions hereinafter stated. The Purpose of the Plan is to promote the long-term success of the Company and the creation of shareholder value by (a) encouraging officers, employees, directors and individuals performing services for the Company as consultants or independent contractors to focus on critical long-range objectives, (b) encouraging the attraction and retention of officers, employees, directors, consultants and independent contractors with exceptional qualifications, and (c) linking officers, employees, directors, consultants and independent contractors directly to shareholder interests through ownership of the Company. The Plan seeks to achieve this purpose by providing for Awards in the form of options to purchase shares of the Company.

## ARTICLE II

### DEFINITIONS

2.01 "Award" means any stock option granted to a Participant under the Plan.

2.02 "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

2.03 "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

2.04 "Common Stock" means shares of the common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of the Company.

2.05 "Disability" means any physical or mental impairment which qualifies an Employee for disability benefits under any applicable long-term disability plan maintained by the Company or, if no such plan applies, which would qualify such Employee for disability benefits under the Federal Social Security System.

2.06 "Effective Date" means the date upon which the Board approves this Plan.

2.07 "Employee" means any person who is employed by the Company or a subsidiary thereof, and whose wages are reported on a Form W-2. The Company classification as to who is an Employee shall be determinative for purposes of an individual's eligibility under the Plan.

2.08 "Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

2.09 "Fair Market Value" of a share of the Company's Common Stock for all purposes under the Plan on a particular date shall be the most recent valuation adopted by the Board in good faith of the fair market value of each share of the Company's Common Stock; provided that, in the event the Common Stock becomes registered under Section 12 or Section 15 of the Exchange Act, the Fair Market Value of the Company's Common Stock shall be the mean between the high and low sales price per share of Common Stock on such date, or in case no such sale takes place on such date, the last date on which a sale occurred, in either case as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on the Nasdaq market, or if the Common Stock is not listed or admitted for trading or included for quotation, in the over-the-counter market, as reported by the NASD Automatic Quotation System or, if such system is no longer in use, the principal other automated quotations system that may then be in use or, if the Common Stock is not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and asked prices as furnished by a

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professional market maker making a market in the Common Stock, or such other method of valuation as may be selected by the Board in good faith.

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If the relevant date is not a trading day, the determination shall be made as of the next preceding trading day. As used herein, the term "trading day" means a day on which public trading of securities occurs and as reported in the principal consolidated reporting system referred to above, or if the Common Stock is not listed or admitted to trading on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on the Nasdaq National Market, any business day.

2.10 "Grantee" refers to any Participant in the Plan who receives an Award.

2.11 "Incentive Stock Option" means any Award granted under this Plan which the Board intends (at the time it is granted) to be an incentive stock option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code. All Incentive Stock Options issued under this Plan are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 422 of the Code, and the regulations thereunder, and all provisions hereunder shall be read, interpreted and applied with that purpose in mind.

2.12 "Non-Qualified Stock Option" means any Award granted under this Plan which is a stock option but is not an Incentive Stock Option.

2.13 "Officer" means any Employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries who is designated by the Board as a corporate officer.

2.14 "Participant" means any Employee, Officer, director, consultant or independent contractor who is designated by the Board pursuant to Article VI to participate in the Plan.

2.15 "Retirement" means a termination of employment which constitutes a "retirement" under any applicable qualified pension benefit plan maintained by the Company as that term is defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") or if no such plan is maintained by the Company, a termination of employment anytime following attainment of age 65.

2.16 "Sale Event" means the consummation of (i) a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, (ii) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company to an unrelated person or entity, (iii) a merger, reorganization or consolidation in which the holders of the Company's outstanding voting power immediately prior to such transaction do not own a majority of the outstanding voting power of the surviving or resulting entity immediately upon completion of such transaction, or (iv) any other transaction in which the owners of the Company's outstanding voting power prior to such transaction do not own at least a majority of the outstanding voting power of the relevant entity after the transaction, in each case, regardless of the form thereof.

2.17 "Stock Award Agreement" means the written agreement pursuant to Article VI hereof that sets forth the terms, conditions, restrictions and privileges for an Award and that incorporates the terms of the Plan.

### ARTICLE III

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN AND MISCELLANEOUS

3.01 Plan Administration. The Plan shall be administered by the Compensation Committee (the "Committee"). The Committee shall be responsible to the Board for the overall administration and operation of the Plan, although the Committee may, in its discretion, delegate to one or more officers

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responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Plan. The Board shall make all determinations with respect to participation in the Plan by Employees, Officers, directors, consultants or independent contractors of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, and with respect to the extent of that participation. The interpretation and construction of any provision of the Plan by the Board or the Committee shall be final. No member of the Board shall be liable for any action or determination made by him or her in good faith

3.02 Revocation for Misconduct. Any Award, or portion thereof, under this Plan, whether or not vested, made to a Participant who is discharged from the employ of the Company or any of its subsidiaries (or whose personal services contract is terminated in the case of a consultant or independent contractor) shall automatically terminate, rescind and be revoked.

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3.03 Limitation on Liability. No Board or Committee member shall be liable for any action or determination made in good faith with respect to the Plan. To the maximum extent allowed by law and the Company's bylaws, the Board and the Committee shall be indemnified by the Company in respect of all their activities under the Plan.

3.04 Compliance with Law and Regulations. All Awards granted hereunder shall be subject to all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations and to such approvals by any government or regulatory agency as may be required. The Company shall not be required to issue or deliver any certificates for shares of Common Stock prior to the completion of any registration or qualification of or obtaining of consents or approvals with respect to such shares under any Federal or state law or any rule or regulation of any government body, which the Company shall, in its sole discretion, determine to be necessary or advisable.

3.05 Restrictions on Transfer. The Company shall place a legend upon any certificate representing shares acquired pursuant to an Award granted hereunder noting that the transfer of such shall may be restricted as permitted by applicable laws and regulations.

3.06 Market Stand-Off. In connection with any underwritten public offering by the Company of its equity securities pursuant to an effective registration statement filed under the Securities Act, Participants shall not directly or indirectly sell, make any short sale of, loan, hypothecate, pledge, offer, grant or sell any option or other contract for the purchase of, purchase any option or other contract for the sale of, or otherwise dispose of or transfer, or agree to engage in any of the foregoing transactions with respect to, any common stock received pursuant to the Plan without the prior written consent of the Company. Such restriction (the "Market Stand-Off") shall be in effect for a period of time following the date of the final prospectus for the offering as may be requested by the Company or its underwriters. In the event of the declaration of a stock dividend, a spin-off, a stock split, an adjustment in conversion ratio, a recapitalization or a similar transaction affecting the Company's outstanding securities without receipt of consideration, any new, substituted or additional securities which are by reason of such transaction distributed with respect to any common stock subject to the Market Stand-Off, or into which such common stock thereby become convertible, shall immediately be subject to the Market Stand-Off. In order to enforce the Market Stand-Off, the Company may impose stop-transfer instructions with respect to common stock received pursuant to the Plan until the end of the applicable stand-off period.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

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Awards may be granted to such Employees, Officers, directors, consultants or independent contractors as may be designated from time to time by the Board, pursuant to guidelines, if any, which may be adopted by the Committee from time to time.

### ARTICLE V

#### COMMON STOCK AVAILABLE FOR THE PLAN

The aggregate number of shares of Common Stock which may be issued pursuant to this Plan shall be two hundred thousand (200,000). If and to the extent that the number of issued shares of Common Stock shall be increased or reduced by change in par value, split up, reclassification, distribution of a dividend payable in Common Stock, merger, consolidation, reorganization, recapitalization, reincorporation, or the like, the Board may make appropriate adjustment in the number of shares of Common Stock authorized by the Plan and in the number and exercise price of shares covered by outstanding Awards under the Plan. In the event of any adjustment in the number of shares covered by any Award, any fractional shares resulting from such adjustment shall be disregarded and each such Award shall cover only the number of full shares resulting from such adjustment. The Board may make such adjustments, and its determination shall be final, binding and conclusive.

The Board also may adjust the number of shares subject to outstanding Awards and the exercise price and the terms of outstanding Awards to take into consideration material changes in accounting practices or principles, extraordinary dividends, acquisitions or dispositions of stock or property or any other event if it is determined by

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the Board that such adjustment is appropriate in order to prevent dilution or expansion of the rights of Participants, provided that no such adjustment shall be made in the case of an Incentive Stock Option, without the consent of the participant, if such adjustment would constitute a modification, extension or renewal of the Option within the meaning of Section 424(h) of the Code.

No shares shall be the subject of more than one Award at any time, but if an Award as to any shares is surrendered before exercise, or expires or terminates for any reason without having been exercised in full, or for any other reason ceases to be exercisable, the number of shares covered thereby shall again become available for grant under the Plan as if no Awards had been previously granted with respect to such shares.

### ARTICLE VI

#### PARTICIPATION; STOCK AWARD AGREEMENT

The Board shall, in its discretion, determine from time to time which Employees, Officers, directors, consultants or independent contractors will participate in the Plan and receive Awards under the Plan. In making all such determinations there shall be taken into account the duties, responsibilities and performance of each respective Employee, Officer, director, consultant or independent contractor, his or her present and potential contributions to the growth and success of the Company, his or her cash compensation and such other factors as the Board shall deem relevant to accomplishing the purposes of the Plan.

Awards may be granted individually or in tandem with other Awards. All awards are subject to the terms, conditions, restrictions and privileges of the Plan in addition to the terms, conditions, restrictions and privileges for an

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Award contained in the Stock Award Agreement. No Award under this Plan shall be effective unless memorialized in writing by the Committee in a Stock Award Agreement delivered to and signed by the Participant.

### ARTICLE VII

#### AWARDS

7.01 Stock Options. The Board may from time to time grant to eligible participants Awards of Incentive Stock Options or Non-Qualified Stock Options; provided however that Awards of Incentive Stock Options shall be limited to Employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Options intended to qualify as Incentive Stock Options must have an exercise price at least equal to the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock at the time of grant, except as provided in Section 8.05. Non-Qualified Stock Options may have an exercise price that is equal to, below, or above the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock at the time of grant. The exercise price applicable to a particular Award shall be set forth in each individual Award Agreement.

7.02 Restricted Stock. The Board may from time to time grant Restricted Stock Awards to eligible participants in such amounts, on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, including no consideration or such minimum consideration as may be required by law, as it shall determine.

7.03 Performance Awards. The Board may, in its discretion, grant performance awards which become payable on account or attainment of one or more performance goals established by the Board. Performance awards may be paid by the delivery of Common Stock or cash, or any combination thereof, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board.

### ARTICLE VIII

#### OPTIONS AWARDS

##### 8.01 Vesting of Options

(a) General Rules. Incentive Stock Options and Non-Qualified Stock Options granted to Participants shall become vested so that 25% of the Option Award shall vest as of the date of the grant and 25% of the Option Award shall vest on each one year anniversary thereafter, so that 100% of such Option Award shall be vested as

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of the third anniversary of the date of grant, unless otherwise determined in the discretion of the Board and memorialized in the Stock Award Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no vesting shall occur on or after the date that an Employee's employment or personal services contract with the Company or any of its subsidiaries terminates for any reason other than his Death, Disability or Retirement. In determining the number of shares of Common Stock with respect to which such Awards are vested and/or exercisable, fractional shares will be rounded up to the nearest whole number if the fraction is 0.5 or higher, and down if it is less.

(b) Acceleration of Vesting Upon Death, Disability or Retirement. In the event a Participant dies while in the employ of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or terminates employment with the Company or any of its subsidiaries as a result of Disability, any Award(s) granted to such Participant under this Plan not yet vested on such date shall become 100% vested as of such date and be exercisable either by the Participant or the Participant's representative subject to Section 8.03. In the event of a Participant's



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Retirement, any Award(s) granted to such Participant under this Plan not yet vested on such date shall become 100% vested as of such date and become exercisable only if the grant date of such Award(s) precedes the Participant's date of Retirement by two (2) or more years.

### 8.02 Duration of Options.

(a) General Rule. Except as provided in Section 8.05, each Award granted to a Participant shall be exercisable at any time on or after it vests until the earlier of (i) ten (10) years after its date of grant or (ii) the date that is six (6) months (ninety (90) days in the case of Incentive Stock Options granted to Employees) following the last day on which the Participant is employed or renders services for the benefit of the Company or its subsidiaries.

(b) Exception for Termination Due to Death, Disability or Retirement. If a Participant dies while in the employ of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or terminates employment with the Company or any of its subsidiaries as a result of death, Disability or Retirement without having fully exercised his Awards, the Participant or his legal representative or guardian, or the executors, administrators, legatees or distributees of his estate shall have the right, during the twelve (12) month period following the earlier of his death Disability or Retirement, to exercise such Awards to the extent vested on the date of such death, Disability or Retirement. In no event, however, shall any Award be exercisable more than ten (10) years from the date it was granted.

(c) Notice of Disposition; Withholding; Escrow. A Grantee shall immediately notify the Company in writing of any sale, transfer, assignment or other disposition (or action constituting a disqualifying disposition within the meaning of Section 421 of the Code) of any shares of Common Stock acquired through exercise of an Incentive Stock Option, within two (2) years after the grant of such Incentive Stock Option or within one (1) year after the acquisition of such shares, setting forth the date and manner of disposition, the number of shares disposed of and the price at which such shares were disposed. The Company shall be entitled to withhold from any compensation or other payments then or thereafter due to the Grantee such amounts as may be necessary to satisfy any withholding requirements of Federal or state law or regulation and, further, to collect from the Grantee any additional amounts which may be required for such purpose. The Board may, in its discretion, require shares of Common Stock acquired by a Grantee upon exercise of an Incentive Stock Option to be held in an escrow arrangement for the purpose of enabling compliance with the provisions of this Section 8.02(c).

8.03 Nonassignability. Awards shall not be transferable by a Grantee except by will or the laws of descent or distribution, and during a Grantee's lifetime shall be exercisable only by such Grantee or the Grantee's guardian or legal representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, or any other provision of this Plan, a Grantee who holds Non-Qualified Stock Options may transfer such Awards to his or her spouse, lineal ascendants, lineal descendants, or to a duly established trust for the benefit of one or more of these individuals. Awards so transferred may thereafter be transferred only to the Grantee who originally received the grant or to an individual or trust to whom the Grantee would have initially transferred the Award pursuant to this Section 8.03. Awards which are transferred pursuant to this Section 8.03 shall be exercisable by the transferee according to the same terms and conditions as applied to the Grantee.

8.04 Manner of Exercise. To the extent vested and exercisable, awards may be exercised in part or in whole from time to time by execution of a written notice directed to the Company, at the Company's principal place of

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business, accompanied by cash or a check in payment of the exercise price for the number of shares specified and paid for. The Board, may in its discretion, permit a Grantee to exercise vested and exercisable options awarded under this Plan by surrendering an amount of Common Stock already owned by the Grantee equal to the options' exercise price, but only in instances where the shares to be surrendered have been held by the Grantee for a period of at least six (6) months. Subject to the limitations set forth in the Stock Award Agreement, in the event of, and after such time as the Common Stock is listed or admitted to trading on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on the Nasdaq market, the Board may, in its discretion, allow the Grantee may make payment by arranging with a third party broker to sell a number of shares otherwise deliverable to the Grantee and attributable to the exercise of the Award in order to pay the exercise price of the Award.

8.05 \$100,000 Limitation. Notwithstanding any contrary provisions contained elsewhere in this Plan and as long as required by Section 422 of the Code, the aggregate Fair Market Value, determined as of the time an Incentive Stock Option is granted, of the Common Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time by the Grantee during any calendar year, under this Plan and stock options that satisfy the requirements of Section 422 of the Code under any other stock option plan or plans maintained by the Company, shall not exceed \$100,000. To the extent that the aggregate value of shares of common stock to be received by the Grantee for the first time in any one year pursuant to the exercise of an Incentive Stock Option ("ISO Stock") exceeds \$100,000 based on the fair market value of the Common Stock as of the date of the Incentive Stock Option's grant, such excess shall be treated as Common Stock received pursuant to the exercise of a Nonqualified Stock Option ("NQSO Stock"). The Company shall designate which shares of Common Stock to be received by the Grantee will be treated as ISO Stock and which shares of Common Stock, if any, will be treated as NQSO Stock by issuing separate share certificates identifying in the Company's share transfer records which shares are ISO Stock.

8.06 Limitation on Ten Percent Stockholders. The price at which shares of Common Stock may be purchased upon exercise of an Incentive Stock Option granted to an individual who, at the time such Incentive Stock Option is granted, owns, directly or indirectly, more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock issued to stockholders of the Company, shall be no less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the Fair Market Value of a share of the Common Stock of the Company at the time of grant, and such Incentive Stock Option shall by its terms not be exercisable after the expiration of five (5) years from the date such Incentive Stock Option is granted.

### ARTICLE IX

#### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE PLAN

The Board may, by resolution, at any time terminate or amend the Plan with respect to any shares of Common Stock or Awards which have not been granted, but no such action shall adversely affect the rights under any outstanding Award without the holder's consent. If and to the extent necessary to ensure that Incentive Stock Options granted under the Plan remain qualified under Section 422 of the Code, Plan amendments shall be subject to approval by the Company's stockholders who are eligible to vote at a meeting of stockholders.

### ARTICLE X

#### EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Neither the Plan nor any Award hereunder shall create any right on the part of any Employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to continue in such capacity.

ARTICLE XI

WITHHOLDING

The Company may withhold from any cash payment made under this Plan sufficient amounts to cover any applicable withholding and employment taxes, and if the amount of such cash payment is insufficient, the

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Company may require the Grantee to pay to the Company the amount required to be withheld as a condition to delivering the shares acquired pursuant to an Award. The Company also may withhold or collect amounts with respect to a disqualifying disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired pursuant to exercise of an Incentive Stock Option, as provided in Section 8.02(c).

The Board is authorized to adopt rules, regulations or procedures which provide for the satisfaction of a Participant's tax withholding obligation by the retention of shares of Common Stock to which he otherwise would be entitled pursuant to an Award or by the Participant's delivery of previously-owned shares of Common Stock or other property. However, if the Company adopts rules, regulations or procedures which permit withholding obligations to be met by the retention of Common Stock to which a Grantee otherwise would be entitled pursuant to an Award, the fair market value of the Common Stock retained for such purpose shall not exceed the minimum required Federal, state and local tax withholding due upon exercise of the Award.

ARTICLE XII

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PLAN; TERM

12.01 Effective Date of the Plan. This Plan shall become effective on the Effective Date, and Awards may be granted hereunder as of or after the Effective Date and prior to the termination of the Plan, provided that no Incentive Stock Option issued pursuant to this Plan shall qualify as such unless this Plan is approved by the requisite vote of the holders of the outstanding voting shares of the Company at a meeting of stockholders of the Company held within twelve (12) months before or after the Effective Date.

12.02 Term of Plan. Unless sooner terminated, this Plan shall remain in effect for a period of ten (10) years ending on the tenth anniversary of the Effective Date. Termination of the Plan shall not affect any Awards previously granted and such Awards shall remain valid and in effect until they have been fully exercised or earned, are surrendered or by their terms expire or are forfeited.

ARTICLE XIII

GOVERNING LAW

To the extent not governed by Federal law, this Plan shall be construed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused a duly authorized officer to execute this First Community Bancshares, Inc. 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan, and to apply the Corporate seal hereto as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2004.

FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC.

By:

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Name:  
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Title:  
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PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
FIRST COMMUNITY BANCSHARES, INC. - ONE COMMUNITY PLACE, BLUEFIELD, VA 24605  
THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints Steven G. Layfield and Jeffrey L. Farmer, or either of them, attorney and proxy with full power of substitution, to represent the undersigned at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of First Community Bancshares, Inc. (the "Corporation") to be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, at the Fincastle Country Club, Double Gates, Bluefield, Virginia, at 3:00 P.M., local time, and any adjournments thereof, with all power then possessed by the undersigned, and to vote, at that meeting or any adjournment thereof, all shares which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present.

- 1. FOR the election of 3 directors - Class of 2007  
Allen T. Hamner  
B. W. Harvey  
John M. Mendez

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY

You may withhold authority to vote for nominee by lining through or otherwise striking out his name.

- 2. To ratify the 2004 Omnibus Stock Option Plan.

FOR                      AGAINST                      ABSTAIN

- 3. To ratify the selection of the firm of Ernst & Young, L.L.P., Charleston, West Virginia, as independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2004.

SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED, IF AUTHORITY IS NOT WITHHELD OR IF NO CHOICE IS SPECIFIED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3 ABOVE.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF STOCKHOLDER

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF STOCKHOLDER

Please check if you plan to attend Stockholders' Meeting on April 27,

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In lieu of using this proxy card, you may also vote upon the items set forth above by entering your voting instructions by telephone at 1-888-216-1279 or on the world wide web at <https://www.proxyvotenow.com/fcb> until 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on April 26, 2004. If you wish to use this proxy card, please sign your name(s) exactly as shown imprinted hereon. If more than one name appears as part of registration name, all names must sign. If acting in executor, trustee or other fiduciary capacity, please sign as such.