

SCBT FINANCIAL CORP  
Form DEF 14A  
March 23, 2009

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
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**SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

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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)

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- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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## SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION

520 Gervais Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To be held April 28, 2009

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#### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of SCBT Financial Corporation, a South Carolina corporation (the "Company"), will be held at the Company's headquarters in the Dorchester-Jasper Room on the second floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina at 2:00 p.m., on April 28, 2009, for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect four directors of the Company to serve three-year terms;
- (2) To ratify the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, as independent registered public accounting firm for the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009;
- (3) To approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as determined by the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors (this is a non-binding, advisory vote); and
- (4) To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only record holders of Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on March 13, 2009, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

You are cordially invited and urged to attend the Annual Meeting in person. **WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PROMPTLY VOTE BY TELEPHONE, INTERNET, OR BY MAIL ON THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED, FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROXY CARD FOR WHICHEVER VOTING METHOD YOU PREFER. IF YOU VOTE BY MAIL, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND PROMPTLY RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED SELF-ADDRESSED, POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING YOUR PROXY, PLEASE CALL THE COMPANY AT 800-277-2175. IF YOU ARE A RECORD SHAREHOLDER, ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING AND DESIRE TO REVOKE YOUR PROXY AND VOTE IN PERSON, YOU MAY DO SO. IN ANY EVENT, A PROXY MAY BE REVOKED BY A RECORD HOLDER AT ANY TIME BEFORE IT IS EXERCISED.**

**THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" APPROVAL OF ALL THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED.**

By Order of the Board of Directors

Renee R. Brooks  
Secretary

Columbia, South Carolina  
March 24, 2009

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**SCBT FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
**520 Gervais Street**  
**Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**PROXY STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**  
**to be Held April 28, 2009**

This Proxy Statement is furnished to shareholders of SCBT Financial Corporation, a South Carolina corporation (herein, unless the context otherwise requires, together with its subsidiaries, the "Company"), in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Company's board of directors for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the Company's headquarters in the Dorchester-Jasper Room on the second floor, 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina at 2:00 p.m., on April 28, 2009 or any adjournment thereof (the "Annual Meeting"), for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. Directions to the Company's headquarters can be obtained by contacting Keith Rainwater at 803-231-3539.

Solicitation of proxies may be made in person or by mail, telephone or other means by directors, officers and regular employees of the Company. The Company may also request banking institutions, brokerage firms, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries to forward solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of Common Stock of the Company held of record by such persons, and the Company will reimburse the reasonable forwarding expenses. The cost of solicitation of proxies will be paid by the Company. This Proxy Statement was first mailed to shareholders on or about March 26, 2009.

The Company has its principal executive offices at 520 Gervais Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Company's mailing address is P.O. Box 1030, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, and its telephone number is 800-277-2175.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report to Shareholders (which includes the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K containing, among other things, the Company's fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 financial statements) accompanies this proxy statement. Such Annual Report to Shareholders does not form any part of the material for the solicitation of proxies.

**REVOCATION OF PROXY**

Any record shareholder returning the accompanying proxy may revoke such proxy at any time prior to its exercise (a) by giving written notice to the Company of such revocation, (b) by voting in person at the meeting, or (c) by executing and delivering to the Company a later dated proxy. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not in itself constitute revocation of a proxy. Any written notice or proxy revoking a proxy should be sent to SCBT Financial Corporation, P.O. Box 1030, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, Attention: Renee R. Brooks. Written notice of revocation or delivery of a later dated proxy will be effective upon receipt thereof by the Company.

**QUORUM AND VOTING**

The Company's only voting security is its \$2.50 par value Common Stock ("Common Stock"), each share of which entitles the holder thereof to one vote on each matter to come before the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on March 13, 2009 (the "Record Date"), the Company had issued and outstanding 11,322,178 shares of Common Stock, which were held of record by approximately 6,200 persons. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to notice of and to vote on matters that come before the Annual Meeting. Notwithstanding the Record Date specified above, the Company's stock transfer books will not be closed and shares of the Common

Stock may be transferred subsequent to the Record Date. However, all votes must be cast in the names of holders of record on the Record Date.

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. If a share is represented for any purpose at the Annual Meeting by the presence of the registered owner or a person holding a valid proxy for the registered owner, it is deemed to be present for the purposes of establishing a quorum. Therefore, valid proxies which are marked "Abstain" or "Withhold" or as to which no vote is marked, including proxies submitted by brokers who are the record owners of shares but who lack the power to vote such shares (so-called "broker non-votes"), will be included in determining the number of votes present or represented at the Annual Meeting. If a quorum is not present or represented at the meeting, the shareholders entitled to vote, present in person or represented by proxy, have the power to adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is present or represented. If any such adjournment is for a period of less than 30 days, no notice, other than an announcement at the meeting, will be given of the adjournment. If the adjournment is for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting will be given in accordance with the Bylaws. Directors, officers and regular employees of the Company may solicit proxies for the reconvened meeting in person or by mail, telephone or other means. At any such reconvened meeting at which a quorum is present or represented, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the meeting as originally noticed. Once a quorum has been established, it will not be destroyed by the departure of shares prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

Provided a quorum is established at the meeting, directors will be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. Shareholders of the Company do not have cumulative voting rights.

All other matters to be considered and acted upon at the Annual Meeting, including the proposal to ratify the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, as independent registered public accounting firm and the non-binding, advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, require that the number of shares of Common Stock voted in favor of the matter exceed the number of shares of Common Stock voted against the matter, provided a quorum has been established. Abstentions, broker non-votes and the failure to return a signed proxy will have no effect on the outcome of such matters.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS  
FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 28, 2009**

The Company's Proxy, Proxy Statement (providing important shareholder information for the Annual Meeting), and 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders (which includes its 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K) accompany this Notice. **The proxy statement and 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders are available at <http://www.snl.com/irweblinkx/docs.aspx?iid=1019950>.**

**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE PROXIES**

Each proxy, unless the shareholder otherwise specifies therein, will be voted "**FOR**" the following proposals as recommended by the Board of Directors:

1. The election of the persons named in this Proxy Statement as the board of directors' nominees for election to the board of directors; and
2. The ratification of the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009; and
3. The approval of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as determined by the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors (this is a non-binding, advisory vote).

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In each case where the shareholder has appropriately specified how the proxy is to be voted, it will be voted in accordance with his specifications. As to any other matter of business that may be brought before the Annual Meeting, a vote may be cast pursuant to the accompanying proxy in accordance with the best judgment of the persons voting the same. However, the board of directors does not know of any such other business.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Any shareholder of the Company desiring to include a proposal in the Company's 2010 proxy materials for action at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must deliver the proposal to the executive offices of the Company no later than November 15, 2009 if such proposal is to be considered for inclusion in the 2010 proxy materials. Only proper proposals that are timely received will be included in the Company's 2010 Proxy Statement and Proxy. In addition, a shareholder who desires to nominate a person for election to the board of directors of the Company or to make any other proposal for consideration by shareholders at a shareholders' meeting must deliver notice of such proposed action to the secretary of the Company no less than 45 days before such meeting. For a nominee for director, such notice should be addressed to the governance committee of the Company at P.O. Box 1030, Columbia, South Carolina 29202. The recommendation must set forth the name and address of the shareholder or shareholder group making the nomination; the name of the nominee; his or her address; the number of shares of Company stock owned by the nominee; any arrangements or understandings regarding nomination; the five-year business experience of the recommended candidate; legal proceedings within the last five years involving the candidate; a description of transactions between the candidate and the Company valued in excess of \$120,000 and other types of business relationships with the Company; a description of any relationships or agreements between the recommending shareholder or group and the candidate regarding nomination; a description of known relationships between the candidate and the Company's competitors, customers, business partners or other persons who have a business relationship with the Company; and a statement of the recommended candidate's qualifications for board membership. For any other shareholder proposal, such notice must set forth the name and address of the shareholder making the proposal and the text of the resolution to be voted on.

The Company does not have a formal process by which shareholders may communicate with the board of directors. Historically, however, the chairman of the board or the governance committee has undertaken responsibility for responding to questions and concerns expressed by shareholders. In the view of the board of directors, this approach has been sufficient to ensure that questions and concerns raised by shareholders are adequately addressed. Any shareholder desiring to communicate with the board may do so by writing to the secretary of the Company at P.O. Box 1030, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN PARTIES

The following table sets forth the number and percentage of outstanding shares that exceed 5% beneficial ownership by any single person or group, as known by the Company:

<b>Title of Class</b>	<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount of Beneficial Ownership(1)</b>	<b>Percent of Shares Outstanding</b>
Common Stock	Wellington Management Company, LLP 75 State Street, Boston, MA 02109	778,919	6.93%

- (1) Beneficial ownership of Wellington Management Company, LLP is based on its Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 17, 2009. Wellington Management Company, LLP reported that it has shared power to vote or to direct the vote of 643,448 shares and shared power to dispose or direct the disposition of 731,681 shares.

**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The following table sets forth, as of March 13, 2009, the number and percentage of outstanding shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by (i) each director and nominee for director of the Company, (ii) each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table, and (iii) all executive officers and directors of the Company as a group.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership		
	Common Shares Beneficially Owned(1)	Common Shares Subject to a Right to Acquire(2)	Percent of Shares Outstanding
Jimmy E. Addison	2,727	500	0.0%
Luther J. Battiste, III	4,121	2,818	0.1%
Richard C. Mathis(4)(6)	27,355	9,952	0.3%
Thomas S. Camp(4)(6)	15,426	18,886	0.3%
Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.(5)	22,060	1,025	0.2%
M. Oswald Fogle	21,481	3,777	0.2%
Dwight W. Frierson(5)	18,670	5,133	0.2%
Robert R. Hill, Jr.(4)(6)	89,753	30,046	1.1%
Robert R. Horger(4)(6)	44,612	34,315	0.7%
Harry M. Mims, Jr.	39,940	3,519	0.4%
Ralph W. Norman	10,983	1,550	0.1%
Alton C. Phillips	10,344		0.1%
John C. Pollok(3)(4)(6)	45,325	29,395	0.7%
James W. Roquemore(3)(5)	31,437	4,196	0.3%
Thomas E. Suggs	4,853	4,014	0.1%
Susie H. VanHuss	4,429	1,025	0.0%
John F. Windley(4)(6)	10,743	14,433	0.2%
John Williamson, III	59,695	3,546	0.6%
All directors and executive officers as a group (21 persons)(2)(4)(6)	563,031	189,404	6.6%

- (1) As reported to the Company by the directors, nominees and executive officers.
- (2) Based on the number of shares acquirable by directors and executive officers through vested stock options within 60 days of the Record Date of March 13, 2009.
- (3) Excludes shares owned by or for the benefit of family members of the following directors and executive officers, each of whom disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares: Mr. Pollok, 570 shares and Mr. Roquemore, 9,544 shares.
- (4) Includes shares held as of December 31, 2008 by the Company under the Company's Employee Savings Plan, as follows: Mr. Camp, 640 shares; Mr. Hill, 7,804; Mr. Horger, 1,586 shares; Mr. Mathis, 2,929 shares; Mr. Pollok, 5,377 shares; Mr. Windley, 1,201 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 27,393 shares.
- (5) For Mr. Frierson, includes 7,039 shares owned by Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Orangeburg, of which Mr. Frierson is a management affiliate. Mr. Frierson may direct the voting and disposition of these shares on that company's behalf. For Mr. Floyd, includes 1,007 shares owned by Dalton B. Floyd, LP, of which Mr. Floyd is a partial owner and has the ability to direct the voting and disposition of the shares. For Mr. Roquemore, includes 12,483 shares owned by Patten Seed Company, of which Mr. Roquemore is a 29% owner and management affiliate, and 5,000 shares owned by Lakeshore Partnership, of which Mr. Roquemore is a partial owner and has the ability to direct the voting and disposition of the shares.



(6)

Includes shares of restricted stock, as to which the executive officers have full voting privileges. The shares are as follows: Mr. Camp, 5,529 shares; Mr. Hill, 44,481 shares; Mr. Horger, 1,626 shares; Mr. Mathis, 2,279 shares; Mr. Pollok, 33,025 shares; Mr. Windley, 3,654 shares; and all directors and executive officers as a group, 112,286 shares. These restricted stock shares are not currently vested.

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Articles of Incorporation of the Company provide for a maximum of twenty directors, to be divided into three classes each serving three-year terms, with the classes as equal in number as possible. The board of directors has currently established the number of directors at 14, effective at the Annual Meeting. **PROPOSAL 1: Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., M. Oswald Fogle, Dwight W. Frierson, and Thomas E. Suggs, all of whom currently are directors of the Company and whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting, have been nominated by the board of directors for re-election by the shareholders.**

The board unanimously recommends a vote **FOR** these nominees.

The table below sets forth name of each director, age, when first elected and current term expiration of SCBT Financial Corporation.

Name	Age	First Elected Director	Current Term Expires	Nominee for New Term	Business Experience for the Past Five Years
Robert R. Horger <i>Chairman SCBT Employee</i>	58	1991	2010		Chairman of SCBT Financial Corporation and SCBT, N.A. since 1998. He also has served as Vice Chairman of SCBT Financial Corporation and SCBT, N.A. from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Horger is an attorney with Horger, Barnwell and Reid in Orangeburg, S.C.
Robert R. Hill, Jr. <i>Chief Executive Officer SCBT Employee</i>	42	1996	2011		President and Chief Executive Officer of SCBT Financial Corporation since November 6, 2004. Prior to that time, Mr. Hill served as President and Chief Operating Officer of SCBT, N.A. from 1999 to November 6, 2004. Mr. Hill joined the Company in 1995.
Jimmy E. Addison	48	2007	2010		Chief Financial Officer of SCANA Corporation, the holding company of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company and other utility-related concerns. He also serves on the Business Partnership Foundation of the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina and serves as Treasurer of the Southeastern Electric Exchange.
Luther J. Battiste, III	59	2001	2011		Managing shareholder of the law firm Johnson, Toal and Battiste, P.A., Columbia, S.C. and Orangeburg, S.C.

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Name	Age	First Elected Director	Current Term Expires	Nominee for New Term	Business Experience for the Past Five Years
Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.	70	2006	2009		Attorney with the Floyd Law Firm in Surfside Beach, S.C. Formerly served as Chairman and General Counsel of SunBank, N.A. and Sun Bancshares, Inc. from 1999 to 2005, when that company was acquired by SCBT Financial Corporation.
M. Oswald Fogle	64	2001	2009		Plant manager of Roseburg Forest Products in Orangeburg, S.C., a company engaged in the lamination of boards and general warehousing.
Dwight W. Frierson	52	1996	2009		Vice Chairman of the Board, SCBT Financial Corporation and South Carolina Bank and Trust, N.A. He is also Vice President and General Manager of Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Orangeburg, S.C.
Harry M. Mims, Jr.	67	1988	2010		President of J.F. Cleckley & Company, a company engaged in site development.
Ralph W. Norman	55	1996	2011		President of Warren Norman Co., Inc., a real estate development firm.
Alton C. Phillips	45	2007	2011		President of Carolina Eastern, Inc., a Charleston, SC based company that markets and distributes fertilizers, chemicals and seed.
James W. Roquemore	54	1994	2010		Chief Executive Officer of Patten Seed Company, Inc. of Lakeland, GA and General Manager of Super-Sod/Carolina, a company that produces and markets turf, grass, sod and seed.
Thomas E. Suggs	59	2001	2009		President and Chief Executive Officer of Keenan and Suggs, Inc., an insurance brokerage and consulting firm.
Susie H. VanHuss	69	2004	2011		Retired in 2006 as Executive Director of the University of South Carolina Foundations; Professor Emeritus of Management in the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. As Executive Director, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the USC Educational Foundation and the USC Development Foundation, both 501(C)(3) non-profit South Carolina corporations. She is also an author for South Western Publishing Company. From May 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009 she served as interim President and CEO of Central Carolina Community Foundation a 501(C)(3) non-profit South Carolina corporation.

Name	Age	First Elected Director	Current Term Expires	Nominee for New Term	Business Experience for the Past Five Years
John W. Williamson, III	60	2001	2010		President of J.W. Williamson Ginnery, Inc., which is a partner in Carolina Eastern-Williamson Lynchburg Grain Company and Carolina Soy. Also serves as Chairman of the Jackson Companies, which operate a camping resort, golf community, and commercial development group in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

There are no family relationships among any of the directors and executive officers of the Company.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

During 2008, the board of directors of the Company held eight meetings. All directors attended at least 75% of the aggregate of (a) the total number of meetings of the board of directors held during the period for which he or she served as a director, and (b) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the board of directors of the Company on which he or she served.

There is no formal policy regarding attendance at annual shareholder meetings; however, such attendance has always been strongly encouraged. Last year, all directors active at that time attended the 2008 Annual Shareholders' Meeting, except Thomas E. Suggs and Cathy C. Yeadon.

The board of directors has adopted a Code of Ethics for Financial Professionals that is applicable to the Company's chief executive officer, chief financial officer, controller, financial reporting manager and all managers reporting to these individuals who are responsible for accounting and financial reporting. The Code of Ethics for Financial Professionals was filed as Exhibit 14 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

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The board of directors of the Company maintains executive, audit, compensation, governance, policy and trust asset management committees. The composition and frequency of meetings for these committees during 2008 were as follows:

Name	Independent Under NASDAQ Requirements	Committees of the Board of Directors				
		Executive (9 meetings)	Audit (8 meetings)	Compensation (9 meetings)	Governance (3 meetings)	Policy (4 meetings)
Robert R. Horger	No	Chair				
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	No					
Jimmy E. Addison(3)	Yes					
Colden R. Battey, Jr.(1)	Yes					
Luther J. Battiste, III	Yes					
Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.	Yes					
M. Oswald Fogle	Yes		Chair			
Dwight W. Frierson	Yes				Chair	Chair
Harry M. Mims, Jr.(2)	Yes					
Ralph W. Norman	Yes					
Alton C. Phillips(4)	Yes					
James W. Roquemore	Yes					
Thomas E. Suggs	Yes					
Susie H. VanHuss(2)(3)	Yes			Chair		
A. Dewall Waters(1)	Yes					
John W. Williamson, III	Yes					Chair
Cathy Cox Yeadon(1)	Yes					

(1) These directors retired effective April 22, 2008. Each retired director served on their respective committees until that date.

(2) These directors no longer serve on the Trust Asset Management committee as of April 2008.

(3) These directors joined the Governance committee in May 2008.

(4) This director joined the Compensation committee in April 2008.

**Note:** All directors other than Robert R. Horger and Robert R. Hill, Jr. meet the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Stock Market. Therefore, under these requirements, a majority of the members of the Company's board of directors is independent.

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The functions of these committees are as follows:

*Executive Committee* The board of directors of the Company may, by resolution adopted by a majority of its members, delegate to the executive committee the power, with certain exceptions, to exercise the authority of the board of directors in the management of the affairs of the Company.

*Audit Committee* The board of directors has determined that all members of the audit committee are independent directors under the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Stock Market. The board of directors has also determined that M. Oswald Fogle is an "audit committee financial expert" for purposes of the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The primary function of the audit committee is to assist

the board of directors of the Company in overseeing (i) the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes generally, (ii) the audits of the Company's financial statements and (iii) the Company's systems of internal controls regarding finance and accounting. In such role, the audit committee reviews the qualifications, performance and independence of the Company's independent accountants and has the authority to appoint, evaluate and, where appropriate, replace the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The audit committee also oversees the Company's internal audit department. The board of directors has adopted a charter for the audit committee, a copy of which is located on the Company's website at [www.scbtonline.com](http://www.scbtonline.com) under Investor Relations.

*Compensation Committee* The board of directors has determined that all members of the compensation committee are independent directors under the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Stock Market applicable to directors who do not serve on the audit committee. The compensation committee, among other functions, evaluates the performance of the executive officers of the Company and recommends to the board of directors matters concerning compensation, salaries, benefits and other forms of executive compensation for officers and directors of the Company. The full board of directors is then responsible for approving or disapproving compensation paid to the executive officers of the Company. The committee, which currently consists of five independent directors as determined in accordance with the independent standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market, is required to be made up of no fewer than three independent board members who are recommended by the governance committee (after recommendation of the chairman) and approved by the board of directors. The compensation committee's processes and procedures for considering and determining executive compensation are described below under "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The compensation committee charter can be found on the Company's website at [www.scbtonline.com](http://www.scbtonline.com) under Investor Relations.

*Governance Committee* The board of directors has determined that all members of the governance committee are independent directors under the independence requirements of The NASDAQ Stock Market applicable to directors who do not serve on the audit committee. The governance committee acts as the nominating committee for the purpose of recommending to the board of directors nominees for election to the board of directors. The governance committee also periodically reviews and, where appropriate, recommends changes to the Company's corporate governance practices. The governance committee has not established any specific, minimum qualifications that must be met for a person to be nominated to serve as a director, and the governance committee has not identified any specific qualities or skills that it believes are necessary to be nominated as a director. Nominees for the board are reviewed by the governance committee on a case-by-case basis based on a number of factors, including a proposed nominee's independence, age, skills, occupation, diversity and experience and any other factors beneficial to the Company. The governance committee will consider nominees identified by its members, other directors, officers and employees of the Company and other persons, including shareholders of the Company. The governance committee will consider nominees for director recommended by a shareholder if the shareholder provides the committee with the information described in paragraph 6 under the caption "Committee Authority and Responsibilities" of the governance committee's charter. The governance committee charter can be found on the Company's website at [www.scbtonline.com](http://www.scbtonline.com) under Investor Relations. The required information regarding a director nominee is also discussed in general terms within the first paragraph of the "Shareholder Proposals and Communications" section on page 4 of this proxy statement.

*Policy Committee* The primary purpose of the policy committee is to recommend and approve new policies and to review and approve present policies or policy updates and changes.

*Trust Asset Management Committee* The primary purpose of the trust asset management committee is to oversee the activities of the trust and asset management department and the investment services activities of the Company's subsidiary bank.

**PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Although the Company is not required to seek shareholder ratification of the selection of its accountants, the Company believes obtaining shareholder ratification is desirable. If the shareholders do not ratify the appointment of Dixon Hughes, the audit committee will re-evaluate the engagement of the Company's independent auditors. Even if the shareholders do ratify the appointment, the audit committee has the discretion to appoint a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if the audit committee believes that such a change would be in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders.

The board unanimously recommends that shareholders vote **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Dixon Hughes as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

If a quorum is present, the number of shares of Common Stock voted in favor of this proposal must exceed the number of shares voted against it for approval of this proposal.

**PROPOSAL 3: ADVISORY, NON-BINDING VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the approval of the compensation of the named executive officers determined by the compensation committee and the Board of Directors, as described in the compensation discussion and analysis and the tabular disclosure regarding named executive officer compensation (together with the accompanying narrative disclosure) in this proxy statement.**

The Company believes that the compensation policies and procedures are competitive, are focused on pay for performance principles and are strongly aligned with the long-term interest of our shareholders. The Company also believes that both we and our shareholders benefit from responsive corporate governance policies and constructive and consistent dialogue. The proposal described below, commonly known as a "Say on Pay" proposal, gives you as a shareholder the opportunity to endorse the compensation for the named executive officers by voting to approve or not approve such compensation as described in this Proxy Statement.

On February 13, 2009, the United States Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "ARRA"). The ARRA requires, among other things, all participants in the Troubled Asset Relief Program ("TARP") to permit a non-binding shareholder vote to approve the compensation of the company's executives. Accordingly, we are asking you to approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as described under "Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis" and the tabular disclosure regarding named executive officer compensation (together with the accompanying narrative disclosure) in this Proxy Statement (see pages 12 to 38). Under the ARRA, your vote is advisory and will not be binding upon the Board. However, the Compensation Committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements.

**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**  
**Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

**Objectives of the Compensation Program**

**Role of the Compensation Committee:** The compensation committee is responsible for the design, implementation and administration of the compensation programs for executive officers of the Company. The committee seeks to increase shareholder value by rewarding performance with cost-effective compensation and striving to attract and retain talented executives through adherence to the following compensation objectives:

The Company's compensation programs are designed to reward executive officers based on key standards that comprise the Company's culture: soundness, profitability, growth, ethics, execution of strategic goals, the ability to inspire and motivate, and sound corporate governance.

The compensation committee's philosophy is to provide competitive compensation to attract and retain key management to ensure a balance of soundness, profitability and growth while providing long term value for the shareholders of the Company.

Reward executives consistent with the Company's culture of being a meritocracy in regard to compensation for all employees.

The committee has overall responsibility for evaluating and recommending to the Board of Directors for its approval the director and officer compensation plans, policies and programs of the Company.

During 2008, the committee had nine meetings and the following objectives, goals, initiatives were met:

Reviewed the performance of the Company and top executives and recommended for approval by the Board the compensation payout, including equity awards, short-term cash incentive, long-term incentive and base salary adjustments, of top executive management based on the previous year's performance.

Worked with bank management to prepare the Proxy Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Conducted and reviewed an evaluation of the compensation committee to enhance planning, continuing education, and performance of the committee.

Reviewed qualifications needed for future compensation committee members and made recommendations to the chairman of the board to assist in developing a strategy for effective succession.

Retained Amalfi Consulting, LLC as the committee's compensation consultant.

Analyzed and updated the peer group used for executive compensation benchmarking based on specific performance criteria.

Reviewed the recommendations of the consultant and approved the structure and compensation for executive management.



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Reviewed the philosophy and the process of updating compensation for directors, board chair, committee members, and committee chairs. The philosophy for director compensation is to benchmark it at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the peer group and to review the compensation annually on a date after the executive compensation has been approved.

Reviewed the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans ("SERPs") for all executives and negotiated the termination of SERPs and swapped them for equity grants for three executives.

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The Company expects to realize savings of approximately \$5.5 million over the span of the vesting periods for the executives.

Reviewed the employment contracts of John C. Pollok and Robert R. Hill, Jr.

### **Compensation Consultant**

During 2008, the compensation committee engaged the services of Amalfi Consulting, LLC of Minneapolis, Minnesota, to provide compensation consulting services for both directors and executive management of the Company. Amalfi Consulting reports directly to the compensation committee and met with the compensation committee six times during 2008. The compensation committee has the sole authority to hire consultants and set the engagements and the related fees of those consultants. The following consulting services were provided:

Assisted the Company in its preparation of compensation disclosures as required under Regulation S-K with respect to its annual proxy (DEF14A) filings including this Compensation Discussion & Analysis and associated tables and disclosures included herein by reference.

Revised the Company's compensation peer group of publicly-traded financial institutions that is comparable to SCBT in asset size (the peer group consists of high growth and high performing banks and is presented later in this analysis).

A review of the competitiveness of the compensation elements currently offered by the Company to its top executives, including base salary, annual incentive or bonus, long-term incentives (stock options, restricted stock, and other equity), all other compensation, and changes in retirement benefits as compared to that of the customized peer group.

Made recommendations and observations regarding the potential alignment of the Company's executive compensation practices with the Company's overall business strategy and culture relative to the market as defined by the peer group, including review of the current performance based programs with respect to the annual cash incentives and annual equity grants and made recommendations for both the 2008 and 2009 fiscal year plans.

Provided analysis and recommendations on terminating the cash-based SERP plans for executive officers and implementing the equity-based SERP approach for these same officers.

### **Compensation Benchmarking and Committee Functions**

Each year, with direction from Amalfi Consulting, the compensation committee reviews a survey of the compensation practices of the Company's peers in the United States in order to assess the competitiveness of the compensation arrangements of our executive officers. Although benchmarking is an active tool used to measure compensation structures among peers, it is only one of the tools used by the compensation committee to determine total compensation. Benchmarking is used by the compensation committee primarily to ascertain competitive base salary levels with comparable institutions. The committee uses this data as a reference point, establishes competitive base salaries, and then addresses pay-for-performance (meritocracy) as discussed further in the sections on cash incentives and long-term retention. A combination of peer performance, market factors, company performance and personal performance are all factors that the compensation committee considers to establish total compensation, including incentives. This practice is in line with the Company's meritocracy philosophy of pay. The compensation committee, at its discretion, may determine that it is in the best interest of the Company to negotiate total compensation packages that deviate from regular compensation and incentive levels in order to attract and retain specific talent.

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The companies that comprised the peer group in 2008 consisted of the following financial institutions and which had total asset size ranges from \$2.5 billion to \$7.2 billion:

Hancock Holding Company	First Place Financial Corp.	Simmons First National Corporation
Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.	Heartland Financial USA, Inc.	MainSource Financial Corporation, Inc.
Glacier Bancorp, Inc.	Provident New York Bancorp	Home Bancshares, Inc.
Flushing Financial Corporation	Renasant Corporation	Union Bankshares Corporation
TowneBank	Capital City Bank Group, Inc.	Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc.
StellarOne Corporation	Bank of the Ozarks, Inc.	First Busey Corporation
IBERIABANK Coproration		

The compensation committee reviews the composition of the peer group annually and may change it because of mergers, changes to banks within the group, or changes within the Company. The following quantitative criteria were used to develop the proxy peer group for the 2008 benchmarking studies. The table below compares key performance measures of this peer group to the Company and was based upon December 31, 2008 financial results:

	Average for peers	SCBT
Asset growth over the past three years	65.6%	43.7%
Return on average assets	0.67%	0.58%
Return on average equity	6.75%	7.00%
Net interest margin	3.7%	3.8%
Core EPS growth	-16.2%	-10.2%
Efficiency ratio	61.1%	63.2%
NPAs / Assets	1.36%	0.75%

Total compensation for the top five executives was compared to the market peer group referenced above. Each executive's percent rank of total compensation in the peer group for 2008 is presented below and assumes target bonuses were paid (however, there were no bonuses paid in 2009, for 2008 performance):

Robert R. Hill, Jr.	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile
John C. Pollok	52 <sup>nd</sup> percentile
John F. Windley	45 <sup>th</sup> percentile
Thomas S. Camp	42 <sup>nd</sup> percentile
Richard C. Mathis	56 <sup>th</sup> percentile

### Role of the Chairman and Management

The compensation committee may receive recommendations from the chairman of the board with respect to the Chief Executive Officer's ("CEO") performance in light of goals and objectives relevant to the CEO compensation. The CEO reviews with the committee the performance of the other executive officers and, based on that review, the CEO makes recommendations to the compensation committee about the total compensation of executive officers (other than the CEO). The CEO does not participate in, and is not present during, deliberations or approvals by the compensation committee or the board with respect to his own compensation.

In summary, the compensation program, as presented, is designed to be a competitive, performance-based program that is consistent with the Company's philosophy and culture. After reviewing all of the compensation arrangements discussed below, along with corporate and individual performance, we believe that the measurement tools, compensation levels and the design of the Company's executive compensation program are appropriate and motivate senior executives to lead the Company in the best interests of its shareholders.

### Elements of Compensation

The fundamental philosophy of the Company's compensation program is to offer competitive compensation opportunities for executive officers that are (i) aligned with the performance of the Company on both a short-term and long-term basis, and (ii) based both on the individual's contribution and on the Company's performance. The compensation paid is designed to retain and reward executive officers who are capable of leading the Company in achieving its business objectives in an industry characterized by complexity, competitiveness and change. It is the intent of the committee to fulfill the Company's philosophy of providing a competitive base salary, relative to the peer group, complemented with significant performance-based incentives. Accordingly, the committee reviews and approves the total compensation of the executive officers annually. Annual compensation for the named executive officers consists primarily of these elements:

**Base Salary** This fundamental component is determined by historical and anticipated individual contribution and performance toward accomplishing the Company's stated objectives. It is also reviewed in the context of comparability with the key executives of the peer group above.

**Short-Term Cash Incentive Program** This program is directly linked to individual performance and the Company's soundness, financial performance, and growth. Cash incentives may also be supplemented by stock-based awards based on similar criteria. The Company elects to use this incentive structure as a means of measuring and rewarding annual Company and individual goal attainment with the intent of adding value for the Company's shareholders. These annual goals, over time, are designed to incrementally achieve the Company's long-term objectives. Per the short-term cash incentive program, the compensation committee has discretion relative to adjustments which may be made to the growth results for any given year, subject to board approval. The growth results compared to the targets for 2008 are provided below. In 2008, the chief executive officer, the other named executive officers, and other senior executives participated in a performance-based executive incentive arrangement that was filed on March 15, 2005 as Exhibit 10.28 to the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004. The chief executive officer and other executives will likewise participate in this same arrangement for 2009.

The short term cash incentive program provides that, in order for any cash incentives to be earned, the Company's subsidiary must achieve the following:

1. Attain a prescribed level for its composite ratings from its principal banking regulator (the OCC).

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2. Net income for the year must at least equal the net income from the prior year. Then, as the Company and its subsidiary's net incomes exceed the prior year's levels up to and beyond a budgeted dollar amount of increase, potential cash incentives accrue on a pro-rata basis up to a maximum of 110% of an aggregate cash incentive target level.

3. The incentive target levels for each named executive follows the prescribed formula as described below:

The incentive target level is determined as the aggregate dollar amount of the executive officers' planned bonuses expressed as a percent of annual salary.

The bonus percentage is currently 36% for the chief executive officer and ranges from 30% to 35% for the other named executive officers.

Attaining budgeted increases in the earnings performance component can contribute up to 40% of each executive's annual cash incentive.

Attaining budgeted increases in balances of total loans can contribute up to 20% of an executive's annual cash incentive.

Attaining budgeted increases in balances of deposits can also contribute up to 20% of an executive's annual cash incentive.

Each executive has individual and/or divisional goals, the attainment of which can contribute up to 20% of an executive's annual cash incentive.

The incentive payments associated with these performance-based measures are listed as Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation in the attached Summary Compensation Table. The purpose of this structure of compensation is for the Company to become more reliant on performance-based incentives. Performance-based compensation is intended to motivate employees to focus on overall Company performance and, in return, drive return on equity.

The following growth for the Company was achieved in 2008 compared to targets for 2008:

1. Overall loan growth for the Company was targeted at \$172.9 million or 8.3% more than 2007. The Company achieved \$228.2 million in loan growth or 11.1%.
2. Overall deposit growth for the Company was targeted at \$154.2 million or 8.0% more than 2007. The Company achieved \$225.4 million in deposit growth or 11.7%.
3. Adjusted earnings for 2008 were targeted to be \$26.1 million or 16.5% more than 2007. The Company did not achieve at least the same level of earnings in 2008 as in 2007, due primarily to the charge recorded for the preferred stock of Freddie Mac of approximately \$6.6 million.

Due to the other-than-temporary impairment charge recorded during the third quarter of 2008, the Company did not earn at least the amount of earnings recorded in 2007. Consequently, no non-equity incentive plan compensation was paid to any senior executive in 2009 for 2008 performance. These factors, in combination with attaining personal goals, were reviewed and considered in determining what, if any, incentive payment should be paid.

For the estimated amounts which could be paid out under this program see the Grants of Plan Based Awards table.

***Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan*** The purpose of the SCBT Financial Corporation 2006 Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan (the "Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan") is to provide financial incentives for selected key officers and employees of the Company and its subsidiary.

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This plan was put into place to promote the long-term growth and financial success of the Company by:

1. Attracting and retaining key officers and employees with outstanding ability;
2. Strengthening the Company's capability to develop, maintain, and direct a competent management team;
3. Providing an effective means for selected key officers and employees to acquire and maintain ownership of Company stock so as to align their interests with those of shareholders generally;
4. Motivating key officers and employees to achieve long-range performance goals and objectives; and
5. Providing incentive compensation opportunities competitive with those of other similarly sized financial services corporations.

The Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan describes the terms pursuant to which the Company plans to issue stock options and restricted stock to key officers and employees. The stock options and restricted stock described in Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan will be reserved for issuance under, and will be issued pursuant to, the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. Generally, the growth rates are set every three years and would have been set for 2009 through 2011 in 2008. However, one-year performance goals for 2009 have been set due to the expected difficulty in setting three-year performance goals in the current economic environment. The compensation committee will determine when to re-implement three year performance goals.

The performance goals used to determine the restricted stock compensation received under this plan is measured by three tiers and is based upon two measures:

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
1. Adjusted EPS growth	8.0%	10.00%	12.0%
2. Asset growth	11.0%	13.0%	15.0%

Participants can receive payment based upon achieving any or all three tiers. The actual issuance of stock options and restricted stock under this plan were first made in 2007 based on 2006 performance. In January 2009, there was no restricted stock granted to the named executive officers since the Company did not record earnings of at least what was made in 2007, which resulted in the three year CAGR for EPS of negative 7.65% and positive 12.8% for asset growth. It should be noted that the management advised the board of directors in September 2008 that executive management would not receive any payment in cash incentive (bonus) or restricted stock due to the earnings performance of the Company for 2008.

In January 2008, there were 13,776 shares of restricted stock awarded in recognition of the named executive officers' 2007 performance as follows: Mr. Hill, 6,434 shares; Mr. Pollok, 2,475 shares; Mr. Windley, 2,049 shares; Mr. Mathis, 1,617 shares; and Mr. Camp, 1,201 shares. For 2007 performance, the named executive officers received the maximum award (Tier 3) based upon asset growth of 19.2% and EPS growth of 12.1%.

See the Grants of Plan Based Awards table for the estimated targets and the accompanying footnotes.

**Stock Based Benefit Plan** The Company, from time to time, also grants stock options to its executive officers. These stock-based incentive awards help align the interests of the Company's executive officers with the interests of the shareholders of the Company by providing economic

value directly related to increases in the value of the Company's stock. The number of options granted to executive officers during any given year is based on a number of factors, including job performance, seniority, job responsibilities, company performance as to earnings and growth, the amount of awards made in prior years, and industry information from compensation consultants and published surveys regarding stock-based awards granted to officers employed by comparable companies. Any stock options granted are strictly at the discretion of the board of the Company upon recommendation of the compensation committee. Incentive stock options received in 2009 in recognition of the named executive officer's 2008 contribution are as follows: Mr. Hill, 9,016; Mr. Pollok, 5,246; Mr. Windley, 3,304; and Mr. Camp, 2,075. Incentive stock options received in 2008 in recognition of the named executive officer's 2007 contribution are as follows: Mr. Hill, 7,401; Mr. Pollok, 3,364; Mr. Windley, 3,135; Mr. Mathis, 2,829; and Mr. Camp, 1,962.

See the Grants of Plan Based Awards table of stock option grants by executive during 2008.

### Employee & Executive Benefits

**Employees' Pension Plan** The executives are participants in a noncontributory defined pension plan which covers substantially all employees hired before January 1, 2006 of the Company. Pension benefits are paid based upon age of the employee and years of service. If an executive had attained age 45 and had five or more years of vesting service as of January 1, 2006, the executive is entitled to annual pension benefits beginning at normal retirement age (65) equal to 0.90% of his or her final five-year average annual compensation of each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years, plus 0.65% of his or her final five-year average annual compensation in excess of covered compensation for each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years. Employees who had not attained age 45 or who did not have five years of vesting service as of January 1, 2006 are entitled to annual pension benefits beginning at normal retirement age equal to the sum of (1) and (2) below:

1.
  - Accrued benefit through December 31, 2005
    - a. 0.90% of their final five-year average annual compensation for each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years; plus
    - b. 0.65% of their final five-year average annual compensation in excess of covered compensation for each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years
2.
  - Accrued benefit on and after January 1, 2006
    - 0.30% of their final five-year average annual compensation for each year of service up to maximum of 35 years; plus
    - 0.2% of their final five-year average annual compensation in excess of covered compensation for each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years.

Employees hired on or after January 1, 2006 are not eligible to participate in the plan. Employees rehired after January 1, 2006 who had originally been hired prior to January 1, 2006 are eligible to participate upon their rehire date.

See the Pension Benefits table and the accompanying footnotes and narrative for more information.

**Employees' Savings Plan-401(k)** The executives are participants in a defined contribution plan which covers all employees of the Company who work twenty or more hours per week and are age twenty-one or older. If a participant had attained the age of 45 and had at least five vesting years of service as of January 1, 2006, the Company contributes 50% of the first 6% of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan up to a maximum of 3% of base





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compensation. For employees who had not attained age of 45, or had less than five vesting years of service as of January 1, 2006, the Company will contribute 100% of the first 6% of base compensation that a participant contributes. For employees hired on or after January 1, 2006, the Company will contribute 100% of the first 6% of base compensation that a participant contributes. Employer contributions may be made from current or accumulated net profits. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

The Company provides the employees pension plan and 401(k) plan as part of a compensation arrangement that is designed to provide competitive benefits that help attract and retain qualified executives.

See the table in footnote 6 of the Summary Compensation Table.

**Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan** The Company provides non-qualified supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP) agreements for its chief executive officer, the other named executive officers, and certain other executives. The Company elects to offer this type of incentive as a way to retain executives over the long term and to provide a partial offset to shortfalls in the percentage of income provided for retirement by its qualified retirement plans.

At the end of 2008, Mr. Mathis, Mr. Windley and Mr. Camp had SERPs which had been in place prior to the 2008 fiscal year. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, Mr. Hill and Mr. Pollok cancelled the SERP agreements that had been in place for these two executives. On January 22, 2009 each of the two officers received restricted stock grants in lieu of their cash-based SERP agreements. These restricted stock based equity grants are hereinafter referred to as the "Equity SERP." The replacement of the cash-based SERP with the Equity SERP was executed for a number of reasons. First, the use of the Equity SERP for these two officers ensures that the primary focus is on the long-term interests of the shareholders, in addition to ensuring that the officers are motivated to remain with the Company over a long-term period. Unlike the cash-based SERP, the officers are motivated to ensure that the shareholder receives a superior return over a long-term period. The Equity SERP vests over the remaining working years until normal retirement age of each officer much in the same way as the previous cash-based SERP. Second, by utilizing the Equity SERP, the Company will realize considerable accounting savings over the lifetime of the arrangement. Over the lifetime of the arrangements, the Company expects to realize approximately \$5.5 million in benefit expense savings. Lastly, the Equity SERP concept was targeted to officers with sufficient remaining working life to ensure that present market volatility was not a detriment in taking the Equity SERP approach.

On November 1, 2006, the Company approved updated or new supplemental executive retirement agreements with the named executive officers and certain other executives.

See the Pension Benefits table and the accompanying footnotes and narrative for more information.

**Deferred Compensation Plan** The Company has adopted a deferred compensation plan in which executive officers and certain other officers are entitled to participate. The Company offers this plan to help offset limits associated with other forms of tax-deferred benefits and to provide the opportunity for participants to defer income to save for retirement or other future events. Under the plan, directors and executive officers may defer all or a portion of their compensation from the Company, with no matching by the Company of the deferred amounts, and treat these amounts as though they were invested in one or more deemed investment options designated by the plan. Amounts payable under the plan remain general obligations of the Company and are payable by the Company at the future times (or over the periods) designated by plan participants upon their enrollment in the plan and their annual renewal of enrollment. The

Company provides neither enhanced returns nor any other amounts above the deemed investment option returns, which may be negative returns.

See the discussion entitled Deferred Compensation Plan on page 28 for additional information.

**Perquisites** The Company also provides some perquisites for senior management that are not available to all employees. Some examples of these include bank-owned automobiles, club and membership dues and living expense reimbursements related to relocation. The values of these items are presented in the Summary Compensation Table under the heading All Other Compensation. The value attributable to any personal use of bank-owned automobiles is considered compensation to the executive and represents the aggregate incremental cost to the Company associated with that personal use. The Company and the board believe that the use of each of these perquisites is helpful for the proper performance of the named executive officers' duties.

### **Employment Agreements**

In 2006, the Company approved employment agreements with each of the named executive officers. The agreements, which were amended and restated in 2008 to address Internal Revenue Code Section 409(a) matters, provide for the following:

*Term of Employment.* Each employment agreement has a term of employment of three years from the effective date of the agreement. On each anniversary date of the effective date of the agreement, the term of the agreement is automatically extended for an additional year unless at least 60 days prior to the anniversary date either party gives the other party written notice of non-renewal.

*Reimbursement of Expenses.* The Company will reimburse the executive for all reasonable travel and other business related expenses incurred in performing duties under the agreement.

*Vacation and Sick Leave.* The Company will provide vacation and sick leave to the executive in accordance with policies and procedures established from time to time.

*Employee Benefit Plans.* The executive is entitled to participate in the employee benefit plans presently in effect or as these plans may be modified or added from time to time.

*Incentive Bonus Plans.* The executive is entitled to participate in the incentive bonus plans, applicable to his employment position, in accordance with policies and procedures established from time to time.

*Fringe Benefits.* The Company will reimburse the executive for the cost of attending required meetings and conventions and will cover membership dues to an approved country club. In addition, Mr. Hill, Mr. Pollok, Mr. Camp, and Mr. Windley are provided the use of a bank-owned automobile.

*Termination of Employment.* See the discussion below entitled Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control for a description of the payments that may be due to each executive upon termination of employment.

*Non-compete.* The period of non-compete for the executive runs during the period of employment and for a designated period of time following termination of employment. If the executive is found to violate the covenants contained in the agreement, the non-compete period will be extended for a period equal to the amount of time the executive is found to have been in non-compliance. If Mr. Hill is terminated for cause according to his agreement, the non-compete period will end 12 months, after the date of termination.

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See the discussion entitled "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control," which provides the amount of compensation each executive would receive under various termination events based upon the employment agreements.

### **Amendments to Executive Compensation Plans**

On January 16, 2009, the Company sold 64,779 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock and a warrant to acquire 303,083 shares of common stock to the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the Capital Purchase Program established under TARP. As required by the terms of the Capital Purchase Program, our senior executive officers entered into agreements with the Company that provided an omnibus amendment to the executive compensation programs that such officers participate in. The specific amendments included: (1) adding a recovery or "clawback" provision to the Company's incentive compensation programs requiring that senior executive officers return any bonus or incentive compensation award based upon materially inaccurate financial statements or performance metrics; (2) amending the Company's agreements with the senior executive officers so that any future severance payments under such agreements will be limited so that no "golden parachute payments" will be made; and (3) amending each of the Company's compensation, bonus, incentive and other benefit plans, arrangements, and agreements, including the senior executive officers' employment agreements to the extent necessary to give effect to the provisions in (1) and (2) above. These amendments were effective January 16, 2009 and continue to remain in effect for so long as the U.S. Treasury holds debt or equity securities issued by the Company under the Capital Purchase Program.

### **Selected Other Policies**

#### **Clawback Policy**

As described above, the Company added a recovery or "clawback" provision to all of its incentive plans for senior executive officers.

#### **162(m) Tax Considerations**

Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m) limits the deductibility of compensation paid by a publicly-traded corporation to its chief executive officer and four other highest paid executives for amounts in excess of \$1 million, unless certain conditions are met. The Company reserves the right to provide compensation which is not tax-deductible, however, if the Company believes the benefits of doing so outweigh the loss of a tax deduction.

### **Selected Events After December 31, 2008**

The Company is currently assessing the impact of the executive compensation provisions of ARRA. The Company intends to comply with the provisions of the ARRA and its implementing regulations in all respects, which includes the submission of Proposal 3: Advisory, Non-Binding Vote on Compensation of Named Executive Officers, set forth on page 11 of this Proxy Statement.

### **Overall Compensation Approach Building Blocks**

The Company considers all elements of compensation as essential building blocks for a well-rounded plan. The compensation committee used a total compensation approach in determining executive compensation. The following is a summary of the different elements:

Considered the performance needed to attain the highest levels of compensation the committee deemed necessary to attract and retain qualified executive officers.

Determined the allocation percentages of cash and equity incentives based on the Company's short and long-term objectives. Using this approach created different levels of performance

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incentives and allowed executives an opportunity to earn top tier compensation, relative to peer group, if they achieved performance criteria intended to build value for shareholders.

The base salary was used as a foundation that is deemed competitive with peers.

The cash incentives provided short-term performance goals that are aligned with the Company's intention to reward its executive officers for attaining and/or surpassing budgeted annual (short-term) goals.

The equity incentives were used to further align the executives' interests with those of the shareholders through increased ownership in the Company. This incentive also helps attract and retain key employees.

The Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan help to partially offset shortfalls in retirement income from qualified plans and are significant tools used to retain key employees.

### **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Compensation Committee of the Company has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402 (b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, has recommended to the board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's 2009 Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference into the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2008.

The Compensation Committee certifies that it has reviewed with the Company's senior risk officer the senior executive officer incentive compensation arrangements and has made reasonable efforts to ensure that such arrangements do not encourage senior executive officers to take unnecessary or excessive risks that threaten the value of the Company.

This report is provided by the following independent directors, who comprise the committee:

Susie H. VanHuss, Chair  
M. Oswald Fogle  
Harry M. Mims, Jr.  
Alton C. Phillips  
James W. Roquemore

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table summarizes for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, the current and long-term compensation for the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the three most highly compensated executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Each component of compensation is discussed in further detail in the footnotes following the table.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
							Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
Robert R. Hill, Jr. <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2008	\$ 400,000	\$	\$ 154,805	\$ 71,500	\$	\$ 60,564	\$ 31,256	\$ 718,125
	2007	330,000		103,961	60,833	128,304	47,625	28,034	698,757
	2006	300,000		48,880	56,103	118,368	52,935	22,667	598,953
John C. Pollok <i>Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer</i>	2008	256,000		66,154	36,020		59,683	23,093	440,950
	2007	228,461		46,661	35,613	86,940	46,867	24,710	469,252
	2006	204,212		30,984	36,358	78,638	59,380	21,654	431,226
John F. Windley <i>President of SCBT, N.A.</i>	2008	215,000		37,356	24,876		31,234	17,966	326,432
	2007	205,000		21,615	19,560	66,420	16,553	23,858	353,006
	2006	190,962		9,769	16,030	64,116	16,672	23,914	321,463
Thomas S. Camp <i>President and CEO of South Carolina Bank and Trust of the Piedmont</i>	2008	202,500		41,649	19,461		64,456	12,571	340,637
	2007	192,500		31,773	21,527	62,370	19,268	12,099	339,537
	2006	185,402		22,656	25,926	60,910	33,504	13,899	342,297
Richard C. Mathis <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer</i>	2008	190,000		45,265	25,482		80,089	13,878	354,714
	2007	185,000		32,526	21,115	59,940	26,875	12,756	338,212
	2006	178,300		25,407	30,284	46,857	41,189	13,139	335,176

- (1) Consists of total salary compensation, including all amounts that have been deferred at the officers' election. The amounts of salary that the named executive officers elected to defer during 2008, respectively, are as follows: Mr. Windley, \$10,750 and Mr. Mathis, \$15,960.
- (2) From time to time, the Company has awarded shares of restricted stock to its executive officers. The shares of restricted stock the Company awarded to the named executive officers during 2008 cliff vest at 100% on the fourth anniversary of the award, subject to the continued employment of the officer. An officer's interest in any non-vested shares will fully vest if there is a change in control of the Company or the officer dies while employed by the Company. Each officer generally has the right to vote restricted shares and to receive dividends paid on the shares prior to vesting. Beginning in 2007, the market value of the shares is determined by the closing market price of the Company's Common Stock on the date of grant of stock awards; whereas, in prior years, the Company used the closing market price on the business day preceding the date of grant. The value of restricted stock grants shown above equals the amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, in accordance with FAS 123R and thus include amounts from restricted stock grants made in and prior to 2008, 2007 and 2006. See discussion of assumptions used in the valuation of the restricted stock and option awards in Note 18, "Share-based Compensation" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.
- (3) These totals reflect the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, in accordance with FAS 123R and thus include amounts recognized in respect of awards granted in and prior to 2008, 2007 and 2006. See discussion of assumptions used in the valuation of the restricted stock and option awards in Note 18, "Share-based Compensation" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.
- (4) Reflects the dollar value of all amounts earned during the fiscal year pursuant to performance-based non-equity incentive plans.
- (5)

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Includes the change in pension value and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP") accrual as follows: Mr. Hill, \$6,533 pension and \$54,031 SERP; Mr. Pollok, \$6,476 pension and \$53,207 SERP; Mr. Windley, \$9,301 pension and \$21,933 SERP; Mr. Camp, \$24,536 pension and \$39,920 SERP; and Mr. Mathis, \$24,199 pension and \$55,890 SERP. In the prior periods ending December 31, 2007 and 2006 this includes the portion of income earned during the fiscal year in the nonqualified deferred compensation plan exceeding 120% of the applicable long-term federal rate ("AFR"). During 2008, nonqualified deferred compensation plan balances experienced an unrealized loss; therefore, there was no income exceeding 120% of the applicable long-term federal rate ("AFR").

(6)

The following table provides all other compensation:

Name	Matching Contributions to Employee Savings Plan	Life Insurance and Long-term Disability Premium	Dividends on Unvested Restricted Stock	Memberships	Imputed Taxable Value of Vehicles	Total
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	\$ 13,800	\$ 1,548	\$ 11,764	\$ 2,640	\$ 1,504	\$31,256
John C. Pollok	12,693	1,548	5,126	540	2,646	22,553
John F. Windley	13,006	1,469	2,694		797	17,966
Thomas S. Camp	6,120	1,416	3,360		1,675	12,571
Richard C. Mathis	5,754	1,361	3,462	3,301		13,878

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## GRANTS OF PLAN BASED AWARDS

Name	Grant Date	Approval of Award Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)		Estimated Possible Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (2)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) (3)	All Other Options Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) (4)	Exercise or Base Price of Options Awards (\$/Sh) (4)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Options Awards (\$) (5)
			Thres-hold (\$)	Target (\$)	Thres-hold (#)	Target (#)	Maxi-mum (#)				
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	1/2/08	11/14/07							7,401	\$ 31.50	\$ 79,672
	1/17/08	1/17/08						6,434			190,639
	1/22/09	12/31/08						30,780			848,605
	n/a	n/a			2,129	2,129	5,806				
	n/a	n/a	144,000	158,400							
John C. Pollok	1/2/08	11/14/07							3,364	31.50	36,213
	1/17/08	1/17/08						2,475			73,334
	1/22/09	12/31/08						28,265			779,266
	n/a	n/a			826	826	2,026				
	n/a	n/a	89,600	98,560							
John F. Windley	1/2/08	11/14/07							3,135	31.50	33,748
	1/17/08	1/17/08						2,049			60,712
	n/a	n/a			694	694	1,387				
	n/a	n/a	64,500	70,950							
Thomas S. Camp	1/2/08	11/14/07							1,962	31.50	21,121
	1/17/08	1/17/08						1,201			35,586
	1/22/09	1/22/09						3,627			100,000
	n/a	n/a			327	327	980				
	n/a	n/a	60,750	66,825							
Richard C. Mathis	1/2/08	11/14/07							2,829	31.50	30,454
	1/17/08	1/17/08						1,617			47,912
	n/a	n/a			306	306	613				
	n/a	n/a	57,000	62,700							

- (1) These amounts represent ranges of the possible performance-based cash bonuses that could have been paid in 2009 based on 2008 results pursuant to the Short-Term Cash Incentive Program. The actual bonuses paid are displayed under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation within the Summary Compensation Table. The threshold amount is zero, as this is the minimum payout that can occur under the program. The incentive target level is determined as the aggregate dollar amount derived from the executive officers' target bonuses expressed as a percent of annual salary. This target percentage is currently 36% for Robert R. Hill, Jr., 35% for John C. Pollok and 30% for all other named executive officers. The maximum incentive is 110% of the incentive target level (i.e., 39.6% for Mr. Hill, 38.5% for Mr. Pollok and 33% for all other named executive officers). Non-equity incentives were not paid in 2009 for 2008 performance. The Short-Term Cash Incentive Program is further described in the section entitled Compensation Discussion and Analysis.
- (2) These amounts were the possible equity payouts in 2009 for performance in 2008 pursuant to grants of restricted stock under the Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan. The actual amounts awarded were previously described on page 16 in the Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan section under Compensation Discussion and Analysis. The values of these awards are not included in the Summary Compensation Table because the Company did not recognize any expense under FAS 123R in 2008 for these grants. Although the programs have not traditionally specified award levels as percentage of salary payouts, the compensation committee determined the ranges. The Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan uses two performance goals, EPS growth and asset growth. Restricted stock is granted by tier (Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3) based on achieving any or all three tiers' performance growth measures. Both the minimum threshold and target payout displayed above represent the Tier 1 level, with the maximum payout representing Tier 3. There was no restricted stock awarded in 2009 for 2008 performance. The Long-Term Retention and Incentive Plan are further explained in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement.
- (3) Stock award shares granted in 2008 (as equity incentive plan awards earned in 2007) cliff vest at 100% after 4 years. Stock award shares granted to Mr. Hill and Mr. Pollok on January 22, 2009 as equity to replace the cash-based SERP agreements vest on December 31 of each year with final vesting at the end of the month in which the executive reaches his retirement age of 60 years old (final vesting on October 31, 2026 for Mr. Hill and October 31, 2025 for Mr. Pollok. On January 22, 2009, Mr. Camp was granted a discretionary restricted stock award that cliff vests at 100% after



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7 years. This stock award was granted to Mr. Camp for the performance of his leadership at South Carolina Bank & Trust of the Piedmont, a division of SCBT, N.A., over the past several years and for the purpose of retaining him as a key officer of the Company.

(4) The exercise or base price of options and stock awards is established as the closing market price of the Company's Common Stock on the grant date.

(5) This amount represents the fair market value of all restricted stock and option awards made during the fiscal year 2008 or January 2009 in the case of the restricted stock granted to replace the SERP agreements. The fair market value for stock awards is based on the closing market price of the stock on the date of grant. The fair value of options is estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The fair value for the options issued on January 2, 2008 was \$10.77 per share. The following assumptions were used in valuing options issued:

	<b>Assumptions</b>
Dividend yield	1.86%
Expected life	6 years
Expected volatility	36%
Risk-free interest rate	3.44%

See the discussion under Employment Agreements found on page 20 contained in Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

Name	Option Awards					Stock Awards (8)			Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable (1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) (1)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Options Exercise Price (\$)	Options Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (2)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (3)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	4,961			\$ 22.13	1/3/2013	17,298	\$ 596,781		
	6,615			27.22	1/2/2014				
	5,074	1,691 (4)		31.97	1/31/2015				
	3,650	3,651 (5)		31.83	1/6/2016				
	2,190	6,571 (6)		39.74	1/2/2017				
		7,401 (7)		31.50	1/2/2018				
John C. Pollok	2,426			\$ 18.45	12/31/2009	7,537	\$ 260,027		
	3,032			11.39	1/3/2011				
	4,245			15.91	1/2/2012				
	4,410			22.13	1/3/2013				
	5,513			27.22	1/2/2014				
	2,953	985 (4)		31.97	1/31/2015				
	1,969	1,969 (5)		31.83	1/6/2016				
	1,020	3,061 (6)		39.74	1/2/2017				
		3,364 (7)		31.50	1/2/2018				
John F. Windley	4,851			\$ 18.14	2/7/2012	3,961	\$ 136,655		
	1,654			22.13	1/3/2013				
	2,205			27.22	1/2/2014				
	1,181	394 (4)		31.97	1/31/2015				
	1,050	1,050 (5)		31.83	1/6/2016				
	896	2,688 (6)		39.74	1/2/2017				
		3,135 (7)		31.50	1/2/2018				
Thomas S. Camp	4,851			\$ 15.91	1/2/2012	4,939	\$ 170,396		
	4,410			22.13	1/3/2013				
	4,410			27.22	1/2/2014				
	1,575	525 (4)		31.97	1/31/2015				
	1,050	1,050 (5)		31.83	1/6/2016				
	525	1,575 (6)		39.74	1/2/2017				
		1,962 (7)		31.50	1/2/2018				
Richard C. Mathis	1,157			\$ 22.13	1/3/2013	5,091	\$ 175,640		
	2,315			27.22	1/2/2014				
	1,624	541 (4)		31.97	1/31/2015				
	1,444	1,444 (5)		31.83	1/6/2016				
	722	2,166 (6)		39.74	1/2/2017				
		2,829 (7)		31.50	1/2/2018				

All options listed above vest at a rate of 25% per year over the first four years of a 10-year option term.

(1)

Figures shown represent the total number of shares subject to unexercised options held by the named executive officers at year-end 2008. Also displayed is the number of shares subject to options that were exercisable (vested) and unexercisable (unvested) at year-end 2008. The number of options granted and the options exercise price have been adjusted to reflect all applicable stock dividends.

(2)

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The number of shares of restricted stock granted has been adjusted to reflect all applicable stock dividends.

- (3) Market value is based on a closing price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008, the last business day of the fiscal year.
- (4) Option awards vest at a rate of 25% per year with a remaining vesting date of 1/31/2009.
- (5) Options awards vest at a rate of 25% per year with remaining vesting dates of 1/6/2009 and 1/6/2010.
- (6) Option awards vest at a rate of 25% per year with remaining vesting dates of 1/2/2009, 1/2/2010 and 1/2/2011.
- (7) Option awards vest at a rate of 25% per year with remaining vesting dates of 1/2/2009, 1/2/2010, 1/2/2011 and 1/2/2012.
- (8) The stock awards that have not vested comprise the following grants and vesting periods: The January 3, 2005, January 3, 2006, and January 2, 2007 grants vest 25% over four years. The January 17, 2002 and January 2, 2003 grants vest 25% in year 3, 25% in year 5, and 50% in year 7. The January 3, 2006 grant vests 100% on the date of the grant. The January 18, 2007 and January 17, 2008 grants cliff vests 100% in year 4.

## OPTIONS EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized On Exercise (\$) (1)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) (2)	Value Realized On Vesting (\$) (3)
Robert R. Hill, Jr.		\$	1,172	\$ 36,918
John C. Pollok			656	20,664
John F. Windley			306	9,639
Thomas S. Camp			613	19,310
Richard C. Mathis			692	21,798

(1) Value realized is based on the difference between the closing price on the date of exercise and the options exercise price.

(2) Reflects the vested shares that were received pursuant to the stock based benefit plan by each named executive officer that in the case of these awards, vest at 25% per year over a period of four years.

(3) Value realized is based on the market value of the underlying shares on the vesting date.

## PENSION BENEFITS

Name	Plan Name	Number of Years Credited Service (#) (1)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefits (\$) (2)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) (3)
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	13	\$ 74,054	\$
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	6	220,291	220,291
John C. Pollok	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	13	72,013	
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	6	216,937	216,937
John F. Windley	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	7	73,809	
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	2	40,085	
Thomas S. Camp	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	10	164,426	
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	6	162,761	
Richard C. Mathis	Defined Benefit Pension Plan	9	146,623	
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	6	227,872	

(1) Number of years credited service for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan equals the actual years of service for each named executive officer. Mr. Hill, Mr. Pollok, Mr. Camp and Mr. Mathis all entered into the SERP on January 2, 2003 and their number of years credited service began on that date.

(2) Pension plan amounts reflect the present value of the accumulated benefit at December 31, 2008. See Note 16 of the Company's financial statements included in Form 10-K for the assumptions used for the defined benefit pension plan. SERP amounts represent the current aggregate liability carried on the Company's books for each of the named executive officers. Mr. Hill and Mr. Pollok were notified on December 30, 2008 that their SERP agreements were terminated effective December 31, 2008. The balance of accrued

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benefits owed was paid in January 2009. See "Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan" for further reference.

(3)

Effective December 31, 2008, these agreements between the executives were terminated and the balance of accrued benefits owed under these agreements was paid in January 2009.

The Defined Benefit Pension Plan is described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis Employee & Executive Benefits Employee's Pension Plan.

**Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan**

On December 30, 2008, SCBT, N.A. (the "Bank"), the wholly-owned operating subsidiary of the Company, amended its SERP agreements by and between the Bank and Robert R. Hill, Jr. and John C. Pollok, each individually, to allow for a payout of the accrued account balances immediately (or within 30 days) upon termination of the agreements. Effective December 31, 2008, these agreements for these executives were terminated and the balance of accrued benefits owed under these agreements was paid in January 2009. As described in the Compensation Discussion & Analysis, on January 22, 2009, the Company replaced these agreements with an Equity SERP which was represented by grants of restricted stock which are intended to provide similar economic benefit to the executives and more closely align the interests of these executives with the long-term profitability of the Company and its shareholders. Each restricted stock grant vests on December 31 of each year with final vesting at the end of the month in which the executive reaches his retirement age of 60 years old. Mr. Hill was granted 30,780 shares of restricted stock with final vesting on October 31, 2026. Mr. Pollok was granted 28,265 shares of restricted stock with final vesting on October 31, 2025. The fair value per share of the stock granted was \$27.57 on January 22, 2009.

On December 31, 2008, the Company amended the SERP agreements by and between the Bank and Thomas S. Camp, Richard C. Mathis and John F. Windley, each individually, each previously dated on or about November 1, 2006. These agreements were amended to cause the executive's right to certain payments to vest upon the occurrence of a change of control of the Company regardless of whether the executive's employment is terminated. Prior to the amendment, any termination of employment other than for death, whether voluntary or involuntary, following a change of control of the Company would have resulted in the executive's right to certain payments becoming vested under the SERP agreements. These amendments were made to ensure compliance with the regulations issued pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 409A.

As of December 31, 2008, the SERP agreements provide for a supplemental executive retirement benefit payout under one of four scenarios: normal retirement, early termination, disability, and change in control. An early retirement benefit, as a fifth scenario, is provided for Mr. Camp and Mr. Mathis.

*Normal and Early Retirement Benefit*

The following table provides the normal retirement age, reduced benefit retirement age (if applicable), base benefit amount, and payout period:

Name	Normal Retirement Age	Early Retirement Age	Base Benefit Amount	Payout Period in Years
John F. Windley	65	n/a	\$ 50,000	15
Thomas S. Camp	65	62	50,000	20
Richard C. Mathis	65	62	65,000	20

The exact amount of benefits would be generally determined by reference to the number of calendar years after 2002 in which the Company satisfied specified performance measures, namely that the Company's net income after taxes and the book value of its total assets grew annually by at least 6% and 7%, respectively. If the named executive officers had retired at normal retirement age as of December 31, 2008, they would have been entitled to 50% of their maximum annual retirement benefit based on this performance measure, except for Mr. Windley who would be entitled to 10%. A smaller annual benefit, payable over the 20-year period (or 15 years for Mr. Windley) after the executive

attains his normal retirement age, will become payable if the employment of any of these officers is terminated prior to attaining retirement age for any reason other than death or for cause.

Early retirement may be provided for Mr. Camp and Mr. Mathis with a benefit distribution period of 20 years. The annual benefit is equal to 100% of the then-current benefit level, determined as of the end of the plan year immediately preceding the executive's early retirement, multiplied by the applicable performance ratio.

*Benefit at Death*

If an executive dies, the Company will be required to pay his beneficiary a lump sum death benefit plus annual payments as presented below:

Name	Distribution at Death	Base Benefit Amount	Payout Period in Years
John F. Windley	\$ 250,000	\$ 50,000	10
Thomas S. Camp	250,000	50,000	10
Richard C. Mathis	250,000	65,000	10

*Noncompetition*

The named executive officers will forfeit their retirement benefits under the SERP if they compete with the Company during an applicable noncompetition period. The noncompetition periods are as follows:

18 months for Mr. Windley

18 months for Mr. Camp, and

12 months for Mr. Mathis.

The Company's obligations under the agreements are general unsecured obligations of the Company, although the agreements require the Company to establish a grantor ("rabbi") trust for such benefits following a change in control.

**DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

The Company has adopted a deferred compensation plan in which selected members of senior management, including executive officers, and/or other highly compensated employees, have the opportunity to elect to defer current compensation for retirement income or other future financial needs. Only eligible employees, as approved by the compensation committee of the board of directors, may participate in the plan. Each year participants can choose to have portions of their compensation for the upcoming year deferred by a certain whole percentage amount ranging between 5% and 100%. Deferrals are recorded in a bookkeeping account which is adjusted to reflect hypothetical investment earnings and losses of investment funds selected by the plan participant among those offered pursuant to the plan. Payments made under the plan will be made from the general assets of SCBT, N.A, and will be subject to claims of its creditors. Amounts payable under the plan are payable at the future times (or over the periods) designated by plan participants upon their enrollment in the plan and their annual renewal of enrollment.

The investment options available to an executive under the deferred compensation plan are listed below along with their annual rate of return for the calendar year ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and

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2006, as reported by the administrator of the deferred compensation plan. The rates assume that 100% of the participant's contribution was deferred as of the first business day of 2008.

Name of Fund	Rates of Return		
	2008	2007	2006
Mainstay Variable Product Cash Management	1.90%	4.56%	4.71%
Fidelity Investment Grade Bond	-4.09%	3.76%	3.99%
Mainstay Variable Product S&P 500 Index	-36.26%	5.09%	14.92%
Fidelity Variable Product Mid-Cap	-39.34%	16.21%	11.79%

The table below summarizes the amounts in each named executive officer's deferred compensation savings plan:

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$) (1)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in Last FY (\$) (2)	Aggregate Withdrawals/Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$)
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	\$	\$	\$ (2,258)	\$	\$ 3,623
John C. Pollok					
John F. Windley	10,750		(16,797)		30,904
Thomas S. Camp					
Richard C. Mathis	15,960		(22,528)		50,258

- (1) Includes the total compensation to the above named executive officers for which payment was deferred in 2008. These amounts also comprise part of the amounts in the Salary column of the Summary Compensation Table.
- (2) Includes total loss in 2008 on the aggregate balance in the named executive officer's deferred compensation plan.



**POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL**

The Company has entered into certain agreements and maintains certain plans that will require the Company to provide compensation to named executive officers of the Company in the event of a termination of employment or a change in control of the Company. Each employment agreement has a term of employment of three years from the effective date of the agreement. On each anniversary date of the effective date of the agreement, the term of the agreement is automatically extended for an additional year unless at 60 days prior to the anniversary date either party gives the other party written notice of non-renewal. The amounts of total compensation payable to each named executive officer upon voluntary termination without good reason, voluntary termination for good reason, termination by Company without cause, termination by Company for cause, normal retirement, early retirement, termination due to disability, termination due to death and termination associated with a change in control are shown in the tables below. The amounts assume that such termination was effective as of December 31, 2008 (the last day of the fiscal year), and thus include amounts earned through such time and are estimates of the amounts that would have been paid out to the executives upon their termination as of such date. The actual amounts to be paid out can only be determined at the time of such executive's separation from the Company.

For purposes of each named executive officer's employment agreement, the terms "good reason," "cause," "disability," "change of control" and "total compensation" are defined below:

(a)

"Good reason" means, without Employee's written consent, the occurrence of any of the following circumstances unless such circumstances are fully corrected within 30 days after Employee notifies the Company in writing of the existence of such circumstances as hereinafter provided:

i.

the assignment to Employee of any duties, functions or responsibilities other than those contemplated by the employment agreement or materially inconsistent with the position with the Company that Employee held immediately prior to the assignment of such duties or responsibilities or any adverse alteration in the nature or status of Employee's responsibilities or the condition of Employee's employment from those contemplated in the employment agreement;

ii.

a reduction by the Company in Employee's total compensation or as it may be increased from time to time, except for across-the-board salary reductions similarly affecting all management personnel of the Company;

iii.

the relocation of the Company's headquarters to a location more than fifty miles from its current location in Columbia, South Carolina, or the Company's requiring Employee to be based anywhere other than the Company's offices at such location, except for required travel on Company business;

iv.

the failure by the Company to pay Employee any portion of Employee's compensation within the time guidelines established pursuant to standard Company policies, or any other material breach by the Company of any other material provision of the employment agreement; or

v.

the giving of notice by the Company of non-renewal of the employment agreement.

(b)

"Cause" generally means: (A) the repeated failure of Employee to perform his responsibilities and duties; (B) the commission of an act by Employee constituting dishonesty or fraud against the Company or the Bank; (C) being charged with a felony; (D) habitual absenteeism; (E) Employee is determined to have been on the job while under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized or illegal drugs, prescription drugs that have not been prescribed for the Employee, or other substances that have the potential to impair the Employee's judgment or

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performance; (F) the commission of an act by Employee involving gross negligence or moral turpitude that brings the Company or any of its affiliates into public disrepute or disgrace or causes material harm to the customer relations, operations or business prospects of the Company or its affiliates; (G) bringing firearms or weapons into the workplace; (H) the Employee's failure to comply with policies, standards, and regulations of Company; (I) the Employee's engagement in conduct which is in material contravention of any federal, state or local law or ordinance other than a minor offense which does not reflect or impact upon the Employer or Bank; (J) the Employee's engagement in conduct which is unbecoming to or inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of a member of management of the Employer; or (K) the Employee engaging in sexual or other form of illegal harassment.

(c)

"Disability" means disability suffered by Employee for a continuous period of at least three months or any impairment of mind or body that is likely to result in a disability of Employee for more than six months during any twelve-month period.

(d)

"Change of Control" means the occurrence of one of the following:

i.

A change in ownership of the Company occurs on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group (as determined in Paragraph (i)(5)(v)(B) of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3), acquires ownership of more than 50% of the total fair market value or total voting power of the Company or Bank other than (A) with respect to the Bank, the Company (B) a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under an employee benefit plan of the Company, (C) employee or a group of persons including Employee, and (D) an underwriter or group of underwriters owning shares of common voting stock in connection with a bona fide public offering of such shares and the sale of such shares to the public;

ii.

A change in the effective control of the Company occurs on the date that (a) a person, or more than one person acting as a group (as determined in Paragraph (i)(5)(v)(B) of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3), acquires ownership (or having acquired during the 12-month period ending on the date of his most recent acquisition) of 30% or more of the total voting power of the stock of the Company or Bank, or (b) a majority of the members of the Company's board of directors is replaced during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of the Company's board of directors prior to the date of appointment or election, provided that the Company is a corporation for which there is no majority shareholder.

iii.

A change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the Company's assets occurs on the date that any one person, or more than one person acting as a group (as determined in Paragraph (i)(5)(v)(B) of Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3), acquires (or having acquired during the 12-month period ending on the date of his most recent acquisition) assets from the Company that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than 40 percent of the total gross fair market value of all of the assets of the Company immediately prior to such acquisition. For purposes of this provision, gross fair market value means the value of the assets of the Company, or the value of the assets being disposed of, determined without regard to any liabilities associated with such assets.

This definition of Change in Control is intended to fully comply with the definition of a change in control event as set forth in Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3(i)(5).

(e)

"Total Compensation" for each named executive officer includes the employee's base salary, the greater of the employee's annual bonus for the fiscal year preceding the year in which the executive's employment terminates or the average bonus for the five years preceding the year of termination and the amount the Company contributes toward the employee's health and

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dental insurance premiums. For Mr. Hill, total compensation also includes the value associated with the personal use of a company-owned automobile and reimbursement for country club dues and other such dues and fees as may be approved by the board.

The following table outlines certain differences between each agreement:

Name	Base Salary	Change in Control Payout Multiple	Noncompete Period (Months)
Robert R. Hill, Jr.	\$400,000	.99 times	24
John C. Pollok	\$256,000	2.5 times	24
John F. Windley	\$215,000	2 times	18
Thomas S. Camp	\$202,500	3 times	18
Richard C. Mathis	\$190,000	2 times	12

Mr. Hill is the only named executive officer entitled to receive compensation for his noncompete agreement with the Company. His noncompete agreement is set for a 24 month period starting on the termination date. He would be entitled to two years of his Total Compensation package, as defined in the Total Compensation definition (Item e) above, paid in two equal lump sums, the first at time of termination and the second on the first anniversary of termination. Should he violate any of the covenants listed in the noncompetition agreement, no payments that are still due will be paid and the Company has the right to secure an injunction for damages to recover any previous payments made under the agreement.

On December 30, 2008, SCBT, N.A. (the "Bank"), the wholly-owned operating subsidiary of the Company, amended its SERP agreements by and between the Bank and Robert R. Hill, Jr. and John C. Pollok, each individually, to allow for a payout of the accrued account balances immediately (or within 30 days) upon termination of the agreements. Effective December 31, 2008, these agreements for these executives were terminated and the balance of accrued benefits owed under these agreements was paid in January 2009. As described in the Compensation Discussion & Analysis, on January 22, 2009, the Company replaced these agreements with an equity based retirement benefit represented by grants of restricted stock. The grants are intended to provide similar economic benefit to the executives and more closely align the interests of these executives with the long-term profitability of the Bank, the Company and its shareholders. Each restricted stock grant vests on December 31 of each year with final vesting at the end of the month in which the executive reaches his retirement age of 60 years old. Mr. Hill was granted 30,780 shares of restricted stock with final vesting on October 31, 2026. Mr. Pollok was granted 28,265 shares of restricted stock with final vesting on October 31, 2025. The fair value per share of the stock granted was \$27.57 on January 22, 2009. Although the awards were not granted until January 22, 2009, for purposes of presenting a true picture of potential post-termination payments we incorporated the value of these grants into the potential payouts presented in the tables for Mr. Hill and Mr. Pollok on the following pages.

On December 31, 2008, the Company amended the SERP agreements by and between the Bank and Thomas S. Camp, Richard C. Mathis and John F. Windley, each individually, each previously dated on or about November 1, 2006. These agreements were amended to cause the executive's right to certain payments to vest upon the occurrence of a change of control of the Company regardless of whether the executive's employment is terminated. Prior to the amendment, any termination of employment other than for death, whether voluntary or involuntary, following a change of control of the Company would have resulted in the executive's right to certain payments becoming vested under the SERP agreements. These amendments were made to ensure compliance with the regulations issued pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 409A.

Although benefits under the SERP arrangements are defined for retirement and early retirement, we do not present these payout estimates in the following tables. None of the named executive officers would be eligible to receive such payments due to the age of the officers on December 31, 2008. The earliest an early retirement benefit could be provided to any of the current named executive officers would be in early 2012.

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The following tables provide the potential payments upon termination for all relevant scenarios as of December 31, 2008. In addition to providing the total benefit for each named executive officer as of December 31, 2008, we also provide an estimate of the impact of current TARP guidelines on post-termination benefits. We base the estimates on our interpretation of the TARP rules pursuant to the ARRA. According to the language of the ARRA, payments associated with a termination of service are prohibited with the exception of benefits already earned or accrued.

*Robert R. Hill, Jr.*

The following table describes the potential payments upon termination for various reasons for Robert R. Hill, Jr., the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

Compensation and/or Benefits Payable Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason (1)	Voluntary Termination by Employee for Good Reason (not CIC related) (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company w/out Cause (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company For Cause (3)	Termination in the Event of Disability (4)	Termination in the Event of Death (5)	Qualifying Termination Following a Change in Control (6)
<b>Robert R. Hill, Jr.</b>							
<b>Compensation</b>							
Cash Severance	\$ 0	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 0	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 523,021
Noncompete Payments	\$ 1,056,608	\$ 1,056,608	\$ 1,056,608	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,056,608
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Stock Options	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 36,231
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Restricted Stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 596,793	\$ 596,793
<b>Benefits &amp; Perquisites</b>							
Equity Based Retirement Benefit(8)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,061,910	\$ 1,061,910	\$ 1,061,910
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 8,278	\$ 12,417	\$ 12,417	\$ 0	\$ 4,139	\$ 8,278	\$ 12,375
Company Car and Club Dues	\$ 65,520	\$ 98,280	\$ 98,280	\$ 0	\$ 32,760	\$ 32,760	\$ 97,952
Tax Gross Up(7)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 544,873
<b>Total Benefit</b>	<b>\$ 1,130,406</b>	<b>\$ 1,567,305</b>	<b>\$ 1,567,305</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 1,498,809</b>	<b>\$ 2,099,741</b>	<b>\$ 3,929,764</b>
<b>Total Benefit Allowable Under TARP</b>	<b>\$ 1,130,406</b>	<b>\$ 1,130,406</b>	<b>\$ 1,130,406</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 2,751,542</b>
<b>Benefit Reduction Due to TARP Limits</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 436,899</b>	<b>-\$ 436,899</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 1,498,809</b>	<b>-\$ 2,099,741</b>	<b>-\$ 1,178,222</b>

- (1) The Executive is entitled to Base Salary through the date of termination and payment of Total Compensation for noncompetition for two years. Total compensation consists of base salary, the greater of the average prior five year bonuses or the last year prior bonus, annual medical & dental benefits, club memberships, auto allowance, and the expense of attending conferences/meetings in the past 12 months.
- (2) The Company shall continue to pay to the Executive his Total Compensation for a period of 12 months in accordance with the Company's customary payroll practices. The Executive will also receive payment for noncompetition.
- (3) The Company shall have no further obligation to the Executive. The noncompetition agreement will be in force for a period of 12 months with no payments due to the Executive.
- (4) The Company shall continue to pay to the Executive his Total Compensation for a period of 12 equal monthly installments or in a lump sum as determined by the board.
- (5) The Company will pay to the beneficiary of the Executive an amount equal to 12 months' Total Compensation in equal monthly installments or in a lump sum as determined by the board. Restricted Stock Awards are fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares with a market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008. Vesting provisions for awards provided under the equity based retirement benefit will accelerate upon disability, death and a change in control. Vesting provisions for awards provided under the 1999 and 2004 equity plan, as well as the 2006 Long-term Incentive plan, will accelerate vesting upon death and a change in control.

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- (6) The Company (or its successors) shall pay in one lump sum to the Executive, or his beneficiary in the event of his subsequent death, an amount equal to .99 times Executive's Total Compensation (Change in Control Payment) in effect at the date of termination of employment. In addition, the Executive will also be paid under his noncompetition agreement. Option Awards and Restricted Stock Awards will be fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares. The value of Option Awards is based on the difference between the current market price as of December 31, 2008 and the exercise price for options in-the-money (i.e., options with an exercise price below the current market price). The value of Restricted Stock Awards is based on the current market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.
- (7) The Company believes that the structure and timing of Mr. Hill's payments upon a change in control as of December 31, 2008 would have caused the payments or distributions to be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount included here is the excise tax which he would receive from the Company on an after-tax basis equal to the federal, state and local income

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and excise tax imposed. The impact of TARP limits on benefits is taken into account when calculating gross-up levels and the estimate of the tax gross-up amount is reduced to \$0 for purposes of presenting the reduction of benefits under TARP.

- (8) Mr. Hill's SERP agreement was terminated effective December 31, 2008. He was paid the balance of accrued benefits owed under the agreement in January 2009. The Company replaced the SERP agreement with a grant of restricted stock which is intended to provide similar economic benefit to Mr. Hill and more closely align his interests with the long-term profitability of the Company and its shareholders.

*John C. Pollok*

The following table describes the potential payments upon termination for various reasons for John C. Pollok, the Company's Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Compensation and/or Benefits Payable Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason (1)	Involuntary Termination by Company w/out Cause (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company For Cause (1)	Termination in the Event of Disability (3)	Termination in the Event of Death (3)	Qualifying Termination Following a Change in Control (4)
<b>John C. Pollok</b>						
<b>Compensation</b>						
Cash Severance	\$ 0	\$ 128,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 857,350
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Stock Options	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 17,840
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Restricted Stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 260,029	\$ 260,029
<b>Benefits &amp; Perquisites</b>						
Equity Based Retirement Benefit(6)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 975,146	\$ 975,146	\$ 975,146
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 0	\$ 2,069	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,347
Tax Gross Up(5)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 677,564
<b>Total Benefit</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 130,069</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 975,146</b>	<b>\$ 1,235,174</b>	<b>\$ 2,798,276</b>
<b>Total Benefit Allowable Under TARP</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 1,253,015</b>
<b>Benefit Reduction Due to TARP Limits</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 130,069</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 975,146</b>	<b>-\$ 1,235,174</b>	<b>-\$ 1,545,261</b>

- (1) The Company shall have no further obligation to the Executive. A noncompetition agreement will be in force for a period of 24 months with no payment due to the Executive.
- (2) The Company shall pay to the Executive his Base Salary for six months following his termination through customary payroll practices. The Company shall also contribute to Executive's COBRA premium by paying the same monthly amount for health and dental insurance coverage as it would if he were an active employee for a period of 6 months.
- (3) Restricted Stock Awards are fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares with a market price \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008. Vesting provisions for awards provided under the equity based retirement benefit will accelerate upon disability, death and a change in control. Vesting provisions for awards provided under the 1999 and 2004 equity plan, as well as the 2006 Long-term Incentive plan, will accelerate vesting upon death and a change in control.
- (4) The Company (or its successors) shall pay the Executive, or his beneficiary in the event of his subsequent death, an amount equal to two and one-half times Executive's Total Compensation (Change in Control Payment) in effect at the date of termination of employment. Two equal payments shall be made, each consisting of one-half the total Change in Control Payment with the first payment to be made immediately upon cessation of employment and the second to be made exactly one year later. Option Awards and Restricted Stock Awards will be fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares. The value of the Option Awards is based on the difference between the current market price as of December 31, 2008 and the exercise price for options in-the-money (i.e., options with an exercise price below the current market price). The value of Restricted Stock Awards is based on the market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.
- (5) The Company believes that the structure and timing of Mr. Pollok's payments upon a change in control as of December 31, 2008 would have caused the payments or distributions to be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount included here is the excise

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tax which he would receive from the Company on an after-tax basis equal to the federal, state and local income and excise tax imposed. The impact of TARP limits on benefits is taken into account when calculating gross-up levels and the estimate of the tax gross-up amount is reduced to \$0 for purposes of presenting the reduction of benefits under TARP.

(6)

Mr. Pollok's SERP agreement was terminated effective December 31, 2008. He was paid the balance of accrued benefits owed under the agreement in January 2009. The Company replaced the SERP agreement with a grant of restricted stock which is intended to provide similar economic benefit to Mr. Pollok and more closely align his interests with the long-term profitability of the Company and its shareholders.

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John F. Windley

The following table describes the potential payments upon termination for various reasons for John F. Windley, the President of the Company's subsidiary SCBT, N.A.

Compensation and/or Benefits Payable Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason (1)	Involuntary Termination by Company w/out Cause (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company For Cause (1)	Termination in the Event of Disability	Termination in the Event of Death (3)	Qualifying Termination Following a Change in Control (4)(5)
<b>John F. Windley</b>						
<b>Compensation</b>						
Cash Severance	\$ 0	\$ 107,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 266,876
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Stock Options	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 13,206
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Restricted Stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 136,638	\$ 136,638
<b>Benefits &amp; Perquisites</b>						
Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension(6)	\$ 43,286	\$ 43,286	\$ 0	\$ 215,613	\$ 711,715	\$ 320,373
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 0	\$ 2,069	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 8,278
<b>Total Benefit</b>	<b>\$ 43,286</b>	<b>\$ 152,855</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 215,613</b>	<b>\$ 848,353</b>	<b>\$ 745,371</b>
<b>Total Benefit Allowable Under TARP</b>	<b>\$ 43,286</b>	<b>\$ 43,286</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 43,286</b>	<b>\$ 43,286</b>	<b>\$ 470,217</b>
<b>Benefit Reduction Due to TARP Limits</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 109,569</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>-\$ 172,327</b>	<b>-\$ 805,067</b>	<b>-\$ 275,154</b>

- (1) The Company shall have no further obligation to the Executive other than the vested portion of the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension. A noncompetition agreement will be in force for a period of 18 months with no payment due to the Executive.
- (2) The Company shall pay to the Executive his Base Salary for six months following his termination through customary payroll practices. The Company shall also contribute to Executive's COBRA premium by paying the same monthly amount for health and dental insurance coverage as it would if he were an active employee for a period of 6 months.
- (3) Restricted Stock Awards are fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares with a market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.
- (4) The Company (or its successors) shall pay the Executive, or his beneficiary in the event of his subsequent death, an amount equal to two times Executive's Total Compensation (Change in Control Payment) in effect at the date of termination of employment. Two equal payments shall be made, each consisting of one-half the total Change in Control Payment with the first payment to be made immediately upon cessation of employment and the second to be made exactly one year later. Option Awards and Restricted Stock Awards will be fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares. The value of the Option Awards is based on the difference between the current market price as of December 31, 2008 and the exercise price for options in-the-money (i.e., options with an exercise price below the current market price). The value of Restricted Stock Awards is based on the market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.
- (5) The benefit shall be reduced to the extent necessary to cause the aggregate present value of all payments in the nature of compensation to the executive not to exceed 2.99 times the base amount as defined per Code §280G. As a result of this benefit limit, the cash severance level was reduced from \$562,840 to \$266,876.



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(6)

The amounts payable under the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension are in accordance with a SERP that is targeted to pay \$50,000 annually for 15 years to Mr. Windley at his normal retirement date. The following table provides the assumptions used to calculate the total benefit under each termination or retirement scenario. In the table on the prior page, we presented the present values of all benefits using a 5.28% discount rate (120% of long-term semi-annual AFR as of December 2008):

Scenario	Payment Term	Annual Benefit	Total Benefit	Explanation of Calculation
Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason	15 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 6,756	\$ 101,334	20% of \$33,778, the present value of \$50,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age times payment term.
Termination by Company Without Cause	15 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 6,756	\$ 101,334	20% of \$33,778, the present value of \$50,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age times payment term.
Termination Due to Disability	15 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 33,778	\$ 506,672	Present value at 12/31/08 of \$50,000 annual benefit discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination Due to Death	10 years payable at time of death + lump sum of \$250,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 750,000	Termination due to death annual benefit times payment term plus additional lump sum of \$250,000.
Termination Associated with a Change in Control	15 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 50,000	\$ 750,000	The annual benefit of \$50,000 times the payment terms.

Thomas S. Camp

The following table describes the potential payments upon termination for various reasons for Thomas S. Camp, the President and Chief Executive Officer of South Carolina Bank and Trust of the Piedmont, a division of the Company's subsidiary SCBT, N.A

Compensation and/or Benefits Payable Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason (1)	Involuntary Termination by Company w/out Cause (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company For Cause (1)	Termination in the Event of Disability	Termination in the Event of Death (3)	Qualifying Termination Following a Change in Control (4)(5)
<b>Thomas S. Camp</b>						
<b>Compensation</b>						
Cash Severance	\$ 0	\$ 202,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 323,226
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Stock Options	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,018
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Restricted Stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 170,405	\$ 170,405
<b>Benefits &amp; Perquisites</b>						
Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension(6)	\$ 161,605	\$ 161,605	\$ 0	\$ 410,571	\$ 711,715	\$ 562,394
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 0	\$ 4,139	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 12,417
<b>Total Benefit</b>	\$ 161,605	\$ 368,244	\$ 0	\$ 410,571	\$ 882,120	\$ 1,078,460
<b>Total Benefit Allowable Under TARP</b>	\$ 161,605	\$ 161,605	\$ 0	\$ 161,605	\$ 161,605	\$ 742,817
<b>Benefit Reduction Due to TARP Limits</b>	\$ 0	-\$ 206,639	\$ 0	-\$ 248,966	-\$ 720,515	-\$ 335,643

(1)

The Company shall have no further obligation to the Executive other than the vested portion of the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension. A noncompetition agreement will be in force for a period of 18 months with no payment due to the Executive.

(2)

The Company shall pay to the Executive his Base Salary for twelve months following his termination through customary payroll practices. The Company shall also contribute to Executive's COBRA premium by paying the same monthly amount for health and dental insurance coverage as it would if he were an active employee for a period of 12 months.

(3)

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Restricted Stock Grants are fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares with a market price \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.

(4)

The Company (or its successors) shall pay the Executive, or his beneficiary in the event of his subsequent death, an amount equal to three times Executive's Total Compensation (Change in Control Payment) in effect at the date of termination of employment. Two equal payments shall be made, each consisting of one-half the total Change in Control Payment with the first payment to be made immediately upon cessation of employment and the second to be made exactly one year later. Option Awards and Restricted Stock Awards will be fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares. The value of the Option Awards is based on the difference between the current market price as of December 31, 2008 and the exercise price for options in-the-money (i.e., options with an exercise price below the current market price). The value of Restricted Stock Awards is based on the market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.

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- (5) The benefit shall be reduced to the extent necessary to cause the aggregate present value of all payments in the nature of compensation to the executive not to exceed 2.99 times the base amount as defined per Code §280G. As a result of this benefit limit, the cash severance level was reduced from \$794,610 to \$323,226.
- (6) The amounts payable under the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension are in accordance with a SERP that is targeted to pay \$50,000 annually for 20 years to Mr. Camp at his normal retirement date. The following table provides the assumptions used to calculate the total benefit under each termination or retirement scenario. In the table on the prior page, we presented the present values of all benefits using a 3.40% discount rate (120% of mid-term semi-annual AFR as of December 2008):

Scenario	Payment Term	Annual Benefit	Total Benefit	Explanation of Calculation
Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 21,921	\$ 438,411	60% of \$36,534, the present value at 12/31/08 of \$50,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination by Company Without Cause	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 21,921	\$ 438,411	60% of \$36,534, the present value at 12/31/08 of \$50,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination Due to Disability	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 36,534	\$ 730,686	Present value at 12/31/08 of \$50,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination Due to Death	10 years payable at time of death + \$250,000 lump sum payment	\$ 50,000	\$ 750,000	Termination due to death annual benefit times 10 years of payments plus single lump sum payment of \$250,000
Termination Associated with a Change in Control	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,000,000	Termination associated with a change in control annual benefit times 20 years of payments.

Richard C. Mathis

The following table describes the potential payments upon termination for various reasons for Richard C. Mathis, the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer.

Compensation and/or Benefits Payable Upon Termination	Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason (1)	Involuntary Termination by Company w/out Cause (2)	Involuntary Termination by Company For Cause (1)	Termination in the Event of Disability	Termination in the Event of Death (3)	Qualifying Termination Following a Change in Control (4)(5)
<b>Richard C. Mathis</b>						
<b>Compensation</b>						
Cash Severance	\$ 0	\$ 95,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 185,545
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Stock Options	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 13,713
Intrinsic Value of Unvested Restricted Stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 175,628	\$ 175,628
<b>Benefits &amp; Perquisites</b>						
Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension(6)	\$ 218,940	\$ 218,940	\$ 0	\$ 566,197	\$ 850,229	\$ 573,564
Medical & Dental Insurance	\$ 0	\$ 2,069	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 469
<b>Total Benefit</b>	\$ 218,940	\$ 316,009	\$ 0	\$ 566,197	\$ 1,025,857	\$ 948,919
<b>Total Benefit Allowable Under TARP</b>	\$ 218,940	\$ 218,940	\$ 0	\$ 218,940	\$ 218,940	\$ 762,904
<b>Benefit Reduction Due to TARP Limits</b>	\$ 0	-\$ 97,069	\$ 0	-\$ 347,257	-\$ 806,917	-\$ 186,014

- (1) The Company shall have no further obligation to the Executive other than the vested portion of the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension. A noncompetition agreement will be in force for a period of 12 months with no payment due to the Executive.
- (2) The Company shall pay to the Executive his Base Salary for six months following his termination through customary payroll practices. The Company shall also contribute to Executive's COBRA premium by paying the same monthly amount for health and dental insurance family coverage as it would

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if he were an active employee for a period of six months.

- (3) Restricted Stock Grants are fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares with a market price \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.
- (4) The Company (or its successors) shall pay the Executive, or his beneficiary in the event of his subsequent death, an amount equal to three times Executive's Total Compensation (Change in Control Payment) in effect at the date of termination of employment. Two equal payments shall be made, each consisting of one-half the total Change in Control Payment with the first payment to be made immediately upon cessation of employment and the second to be made exactly one year later. Option Awards and Restricted Stock Awards will be fully accelerated based on 100% of remaining non-vested shares. The value of the Option Awards is based on the difference between the current

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market price as of December 31, 2008 and the exercise price for options in-the-money (i.e., options with an exercise price below the current market price). The value of Restricted Stock Awards is based on the market price of \$34.50 as of December 31, 2008.

- (5) The benefit shall be reduced to the extent necessary to cause the aggregate present value of all payments in the nature of compensation to the executive not to exceed 2.99 times the base amount as defined per Code §280G. As a result of this benefit limit, the cash severance level was reduced from \$499,980 to \$185,545.
- (6) The amounts payable under the Supplemental Non-Qualified Pension are in accordance with a SERP that is targeted to pay \$65,000 annually for 20 years to Mr. Mathis at his normal retirement date. The following assumptions were used to calculate the total benefit under each termination or retirement scenario. In the table on the prior page, we presented the present values of all benefits using a 3.40% discount rate (120% of mid-term semi-annual AFR as of December 2008):

Scenario	Payment Term	Annual Benefit	Total Benefit	Explanation of Calculation
Voluntary Termination by Employee Without Good Reason	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 29,637	\$ 592,734	60% of \$49,395, the present value at 12/31/08 of \$65,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination by Company Without Cause	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 29,637	\$ 592,734	60% of \$49,395, the present value at 12/31/08 of \$65,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination Due to Disability	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 49,395	\$ 987,890	Present value at 12/31/08 of \$65,000 (annual benefit) discounted using a 4% annual rate from normal retirement age
Termination Due to Death	10 years payable at time of death + \$250,000 lump sum payment	\$ 65,000	\$ 900,000	Termination due to death annual benefit times 10 years of payments plus single lump sum payment of \$250,000
Termination Associated with a Change in Control	20 years payable at normal retirement age	\$ 65,000	\$ 1,300,000	Termination associated with a change in control annual benefit times 20 years of payments.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The Company uses a combination of cash and stock-based compensation to attract and retain qualified persons to serve on the board of directors. Directors are subject to a minimum share ownership requirement. Each director is required to directly own 3,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock by the third anniversary of the date he/she was first elected to the board by the shareholders. Director compensation is recommended by the compensation committee after discussion with the compensation consultants, and is approved by the Board of Directors, and is intended to provide compensation that is needed to attract and retain qualified directors and is competitive with that of comparable financial institutions.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, non-employee directors of the Company were paid \$1,000 per regularly scheduled board meeting and \$500 per special meeting except Director Norman who was paid \$500 and \$250, respectively. The Company no longer pays a cash retainer per calendar quarter. Directors who are also officers employed by the Company or its bank subsidiary do not receive fees or any other separate cash compensation for serving as a director. Members other than the chair of the executive committee, audit committee, compensation committee, governance committee, and trust asset management committee are paid additional payments of \$500, \$500, \$500, \$300, and \$300 respectively, for each meeting attended. The chair of the audit, compensation, and governance committees received \$1,000, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively, per committee meeting attended in lieu of the corresponding amounts above. Under the Company's deferred compensation plan for directors that was in effect in 2008, directors could elect to defer all or a portion of their directors' fees and to treat such deferred amounts as though they were invested in one or more investment options designated by the plan. Amounts deferred under the plan remain general obligations of the Company and become payable at the times (or during the periods) designated by participating directors. The directors' investment alternatives are the same as those previously listed under the deferred compensation plan for executive officers. The deferred compensation plan for directors has been cancelled and is not available for new deferrals beginning in 2009.

In May 2008, the Company awarded to each non-employee director serving at the time 583 shares of restricted stock except for 805 shares awarded to M. Oswald Fogle, 805 shares awarded to Susie H. VanHuss and 305 shares awarded to Ralph W. Norman. These awards were granted following the Company's annual shareholders' meeting and vested 25% per quarter over a period of one year from the date of grant. The Company intends to grant restricted stock awards annually to its non-employee directors in similar amounts and terms following the shareholders' meeting, under the authorization of the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.

Robert R. Horger, who serves as chairman of the board of the Company, currently receives \$91,207 annually for serving in that capacity. During 2008, the compensation committee agreed to pay approximately \$25,000 of his salary in the form of immediately vested stock options rather than in cash. In addition, in January 2008, the Company granted to Mr. Horger 583 shares of restricted stock valued at \$29.63 per share at the date of grant and 1,750 stock options at an exercise price per share of \$31.50. The restricted stock cliff vests 100% at the end of four years and the stock options become exercisable in four equal annual installments over the four-year period following the date of grant.

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The following table sets forth the fees and all other forms of compensation paid to Chairman Horger and the Company's non-fulltime employee directors in 2008. Each component of compensation is discussed in further detail in the footnotes following the table.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) (1)	Stock Awards (\$) (2)	Option Awards (3)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (4)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$) (5)	All Other Compensation (\$) (6)	Total (\$)
Robert R. Horger(6)	\$ 66,207	\$ 19,879	\$ 44,687	\$	\$ 6,927	\$ 3,738	\$ 141,438
Jimmy E. Addison	11,350	16,505	1,258			157	29,271
Luther J. Battiste, III	13,550	16,505	1,258			157	31,471
Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.	10,850	16,505	1,258			157	28,771
M. Oswald Fogle	21,825	21,833	1,258			214	45,131
Dwight W. Frierson	15,750	16,505	1,258			157	33,671
Harry M. Mims, Jr.	19,300	16,505	1,258			157	37,221
Ralph W. Norman	9,000	9,833	1,258			86	20,178
Alton C. Phillips	15,800	21,116				183	37,099
James W. Roquemore	18,550	16,505	1,258			157	36,471
Thomas E. Suggs	16,290	16,505	1,258			157	34,211
Susie H. VanHuss	17,850	21,833	1,258			214	41,156
John W. Williamson, III	15,540	16,505	1,258			157	33,461

(1) Includes total compensation earned through salary (Chairman Horger only), Board fees, retainers and committee fees, whether paid or deferred. Chairman Horger elected to defer \$15,000 in fees earned during 2008. Refer to the Board of Directors and Committees section of this proxy statement for more information regarding committee membership and fees.

(2) From time to time, the Company has awarded shares of restricted stock to its directors. All shares of restricted stock that were awarded to the non-employee directors during 2008 vest at 25% per calendar quarter over a period of four quarters. Each director generally has the right to vote restricted shares and to receive dividends paid on the shares prior to vesting. The market value of the shares is determined by the closing market price of the Company's common stock for the date of the grant. The value of restricted stock grants shown above equals the amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123R and thus include amounts from restricted stock grants made in and prior to 2008. The following are grant date fair values used to determine stock award expense in accordance with FAS 123R in the table above: \$31.97 for January 3, 2005; \$31.83 for January 3, 2006; \$39.74 for January 2, 2007; \$37.70 for May 1, 2007; \$30.53 for August 1, 2007; \$29.63 for January 17, 2008; and \$36.00 for May 1, 2008.

A total aggregate amount of 17,013 shares of stock awards were outstanding at December 31, 2008.

(3) These totals reflect the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, in accordance with FAS 123R and thus include amounts from awards granted in and prior to 2008. The valuation assumptions for the Black-Scholes model used to value these option awards is found on page 24. The following are grant date fair values used to determine stock option expense in accordance with FAS 123R in the table above: \$9.46 for January 31, 2005; \$8.49 for January 6, 2006; \$9.31 for January 2, 2007; \$9.06 for May 1, 2007; and \$10.77 for January 2, 2008.

A total aggregate amount of 65,553 stock options were outstanding at December 31, 2008.

(4) Includes only the change in pension value for Chairman Horger. During 2008, nonqualified deferred compensation plan balances experienced an unrealized loss; therefore, there was no income exceeding 120% of the applicable long-term federal rate ("AFR").

(5) Includes a \$0.68 dividend (\$0.17 per quarter) on all unvested restricted stock grants outstanding at the time of the dividend. For Chairman Horger the amount includes an employer matching contribution to an employee savings plan and also life insurance premiums.

(6) Fees Earned or Paid in Cash for Mr. Horger include his annual salary less the approximately \$25,000 that he elects to receive in the form of immediately vested stock options rather than in cash. The compensation in the form stock options are included in the Options Awards column as the FAS 123R expense recognized by the Company.





**CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The Company's banking subsidiary has loan and deposit relationships with some of the directors of the Company and its subsidiary and loan, deposit, and fee-for-service relationships with some of the companies with which the directors are associated, as well as with some members of the immediate families of the directors. (The term "members of the immediate families" for purposes of this paragraph includes each person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, mother and father-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, and brothers and sisters-in-law.) Such loan, deposit, or fee relationships were made in the ordinary course of business, were made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates, collateral and fee pricing as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons, and did not, at the time they were made, involve more than the normal risk of collectibility or present other unfavorable features.

Robert R. Horger, chairman of the board of the Company, is a partner in the law firm of Horger, Barnwell & Reid, which SCBT, N.A. engaged, among other law firms, as counsel during 2008 and may engage during the current fiscal year. In 2008, the Company made payments totaling approximately \$19,000 to Horger, Barnwell & Reid.

Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., a director, is President of The Floyd Law Firm, PC, which SCBT, N.A. engaged, among other law firms, as counsel during 2008 and may engage during the current fiscal year. In 2008, SCBT, N.A. made payments totaling approximately \$33,000 to The Floyd Law Firm, PC. Mr. Floyd also has a 50% interest in a corporation that leases to SCBT, N.A. a lot upon which a SCBT, N.A. branch resides at the intersection of Riverwood Drive and Highway 17 Bypass in Murrells Inlet, SC. The rent payments paid by SCBT, N.A. under this lease during 2008 were approximately \$113,000.

Thomas E. Suggs, a director, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Keenan and Suggs, Inc., an insurance brokerage and consulting firm that the Company used during 2008 and will use during the current fiscal year as an insurance broker for certain policies. In 2008, the Company made payments to Keenan and Suggs, Inc., as the Company's insurance placement agent, totaling approximately \$620,000. Keenan and Suggs, Inc. passes these funds, net of its agency commissions which the firm recognizes as revenue, through to the various insurance companies providing coverages to the Company or its subsidiary. Keenan and Suggs, Inc. specified that it recognized approximately \$96,500 in revenue from the Company as its insurance placement agent during 2008.

The Company has adopted a Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics Policy that contains written procedures for reviewing transactions between the Company and its directors and executive officers, their immediate family members, and entities with which they have a position or relationship. These procedures are intended to determine whether any such related person transaction impairs the independence of a director or presents a conflict of interest on the part of a director or executive officer. This policy also requires the Company's bank subsidiary to comply with Regulation O, which contains restrictions on extensions of credit to executive officers, directors, certain principal shareholders, and their related interests. Such extensions of credit (i) must be made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with third parties and (ii) must not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features. The Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics policy is located on the Company's website at [www.scbtonline.com](http://www.scbtonline.com) under Investor Relations.

The Company annually requires each of its directors and executive officers to complete a directors' and officers' questionnaire that elicits information about related person transactions. The Company's audit committee, which consists entirely of independent directors, annually reviews all transactions and relationships disclosed in the director and officer questionnaires, and the board of directors makes a formal determination regarding each director's independence under Nasdaq Global Select Market listing standards and applicable SEC rules.

In addition, the Company's bank subsidiary is subject to the provisions of Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act, which places limits on the amount of loans or extensions of credit to, or investments in, or certain other transactions with, affiliates and on the amount of advances to third parties collateralized by the securities or obligations of affiliates. The bank is also subject to the provisions of Section 23B of the Federal Reserve Act which, among other things, prohibits an institution from engaging in certain transactions with certain affiliates unless the transactions are on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable to such institution or its subsidiaries, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with nonaffiliated companies.

In addition to the annual review, the Company has appointed a corporate ethics officer to implement and monitor compliance with the Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics Policy. The corporate ethics officer reports to the Company's general auditor and chief executive officer quarterly and also advises the Company's executive committee and management with respect to potential conflicts of interest. The related party transactions described above were approved by the Company.

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

As required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company's directors and executive officers are required to report periodically their ownership of the Company's stock and any changes in ownership to the SEC. Based on written representations made by these affiliates to the Company and a review of forms 3, 4 and 5, it appears that all such reports for these persons were filed in a timely fashion in 2008, except for an inadvertent late filing of a Form 4 by Joe E. Burns on October 7, 2008 for an open market sale and exercise of in-the-money stock options and a Form 4 by Thomas E. Suggs on December 9, 2008 for an open market purchase.

#### **CERTAIN ACCOUNTING MATTERS**

As previously reported on the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 13, 2007, on June 7, 2007, the audit committee selected Dixon Hughes PLLC ("Dixon Hughes") to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm beginning with the year 2008. As previously reported on the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 21, 2008, the Company terminated the engagement of J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP ("J.W. Hunt") as its independent registered public accounting firm effective upon J.W. Hunt's completion of its audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 and the filing by the Company of its Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2007. The decision to change accountants was approved by the audit committee.

J.W. Hunt's audit reports on the Company's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005 contained no adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion and were not qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007, 2006, and 2005, the Company had no disagreements with J.W. Hunt on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of J.W. Hunt, would have caused J.W. Hunt to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement(s) in connection with its report on the Company's consolidated financial statements for such years.

The Company provided its disclosures prepared on Form 8-K disclosing the termination of further audit engagements with J.W. Hunt and requested in writing that J.W. Hunt furnish a letter to the SEC stating whether it agreed with the statements made by us and, if not, stating the respects in which it did not agree. On June 13, 2007 and March 21, 2008, we filed the letters provided by J.W. Hunt regarding the change of accountant dated June 12, 2007 and March 21, 2008 respectively with the SEC as Exhibit 16 to our Current Reports on Form 8-K.

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As previously reported on the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on June 13, 2007, during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005 and through June 13, 2007, the Company did not consult with Dixon Hughes regarding either (1) the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed; or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the Company's consolidated financial statements, and neither a written report was provided to the Company or oral advice was provided that was an important factor considered by the Company in reaching a decision as to an accounting, auditing or financial reporting issue; or (2) any matter that was either the subject of a disagreement or reportable event as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) and (v) of Regulation S-K.

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The audit committee has appointed Dixon Hughes PLLC, certified public accountants, as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company and its subsidiary for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2009, subject to ratification by the Company's shareholders. Dixon Hughes has advised the Company that neither the firm nor any of its partners has any direct or material interest in the Company and its subsidiary except as independent registered auditors and certified public accountants of the Company. Representatives of Dixon Hughes are expected to be at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The audit committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process, including internal controls, on behalf of the board of directors. The committee is composed of six directors of the Company, each of whom is independent as defined by the rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market applicable to directors who serve on the audit committee. The audit committee operates under an audit committee charter that complies with the requirements regarding audit committees established by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations of the SEC and The NASDAQ Stock Market.

Management has the primary responsibility for the Company's financial statements, internal controls, and financial reporting. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles and the conformity of the Company with maintaining internal controls over financial reporting as specified by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

In the context of its responsibilities, the audit committee met with management and the independent registered public accounting firm to review and discuss the December 31, 2008 audited financial statements. The audit committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees). In addition, the audit committee has received from the independent registered public accounting firm the written disclosures and letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the audit committee concerning independence and discussed with them their independence from the Company and its management. The audit committee also has considered whether the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of non-audit services, as set forth in the section entitled Audit and Other Fees below, is compatible with the auditor's independence.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the audit committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on SEC Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the SEC.

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This report is provided by the following independent directors, who comprise the audit committee:

M. Oswald Fogle, Chairman  
Ralph W. Norman

Jimmy E. Addison  
John W. Williamson, III

Luther J. Battiste, III  
Alton C. Phillips

### AUDIT AND OTHER FEES

In 2007, the Audit Committee selected Dixon Hughes PLLC as the Company's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm for the year ended December 31, 2008. Prior to that selection, J. W. Hunt and Company, LLP, served as the Company's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. Fees for professional services provided by both firms for the respective fiscal years ended December 31 are set forth below:

	2008	2007
Dixon Hughes PLLC		
Audit fees(1)	\$363,125	\$
Audit related fees(2)	44,255	
Tax fees(3)	52,745	
All other fees(4)		
J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP		
Audit fees(1)	35,000	243,538
Audit related fees(2)		39,400
Tax fees(3)		28,010
All other fees(4)		4,150
	\$495,125	\$315,098

- 
- (1) All fees related to the financial statement audit and audit of internal controls over financial reporting. In 2008, J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP was paid approximately \$35,000 related to the Company's private placement to issue 1,010,000 shares of common stock. Attesting to internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 by Dixon Hughes in 2008 is included in audit fees.
- (2) Audit-related fees are for services rendered in connection with accounting consulting on the TARP transaction, audits of the Company's employee benefit plans and attesting to internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.
- (3) Tax fees are for services rendered primarily in connection with the preparation of federal and state income and bank tax returns, calculation of quarterly estimated income tax payment amounts and research associated with various tax-related issues that affect the Company.
- (4) All other fees are for services rendered in connection with accounting research and assistance related to actual or proposed transactions that involve unusual or complex elements.

### Pre-Approval Policy

The audit committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. Under the policy, and in accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the audit committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members. However, any member to whom such authority is delegated is required to report on any preapproval decisions to the audit committee at its next scheduled meeting. The audit committee pre-approved all services provided by Dixon Hughes, PLLC during 2008. None of the services were performed by individuals who were not employees of the independent registered public accounting firm.

**AVAILABILITY OF ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**

The Company is mailing to shareholders contemporaneously with these proxy materials a copy of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, filed with the SEC. Further inquiries regarding the Form 10-K should be directed to: SCBT Financial Corporation, P.O. Box 1030, Columbia, South Carolina 29202, attention: Karen L. Dey, Senior Vice President and Controller.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

No current or former officer, and no other member of the compensation committee, has directly or indirectly entered into any transactions with the Company of a nature that would be required to be disclosed in this proxy statement.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Company does not know of any other business to be presented at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting, however, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote such proxy in accordance with their best judgment.

MR A SAMPLE  
DESIGNATION (IF ANY)  
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**Electronic Voting Instructions**

**You can vote by Internet or telephone!**  
**Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

Instead of mailing your proxy, you may choose one of the two voting methods outlined below to vote your proxy.

VALIDATION DETAILS ARE LOCATED BELOW IN THE TITLE BAR.

**Proxies submitted by the Internet or telephone must be received by 1:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on April 28, 2009.**

**Vote by Internet**

- Log on to the Internet and go to **www.investorvote.com**
- Follow the steps outlined on the secured website.

**Vote by telephone**

- Call toll free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the United States, Canada & Puerto Rico any time on a touch tone telephone. There is **NO CHARGE** to you for the call.
- Follow the instructions provided by the recorded message

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Using a **black ink** pen, mark your votes with an **X** as shown in this example. Please do not write outside the designated areas x

**Annual Meeting Proxy Card** 123456 C0123456789 12345

**IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.**

**A Proposals** The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** all the nominees listed and **FOR** Proposals 2 and 3.

1. Election of Directors:	For	Withhold		For	Withhold		For	Withhold
01 - Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.	o	o	02 - M. Oswald Fogle	o	o	03 - Dwight W. Frierson	o	o
04 - Thomas E. Suggs	o	o						

	For	Against	Abstain
2. Proposal to ratify appointment of Dixon Hughes, PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, as SCBT Financial Corporation's independent auditors for 2009.	o	o	o

	For	Against	Abstain
3. To approve the compensation of SCBT Financial Corporation's named executive officers as determined by the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors (this is a non-binding, advisory vote).	o	o	o

4. And, in the discretion of said agents, upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting, and matters incidental to the conduct of the meeting.

**B Non-Voting Items**

**Change of Address** Please print new address below. **Comments** Please print your comments below.

**C Authorized Signatures** This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. **Date and Sign Below**

Please sign exactly as name(s) appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, corporate officer, trustee, guardian, or custodian, please give full title.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) Please print date below. Signature 1 Please keep signature within the box. Signature 2 Please keep signature within the box.

C 1234567890

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**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting.**

The proxy statement and 2008 Annual Report to Shareholders (which includes our 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K) are available at <http://www.snl.com/irweblinkx/docs.aspx?iid=1019950>

**IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE**

**Proxy SCBT Financial Corporation**

**This Proxy is Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders**

Robert R. Hill, Jr., John C. Pollok and Richard C. Mathis, and each of them, with full power of substitution, are hereby appointed as agent(s) of the undersigned to vote as proxies all of the shares of Common Stock of SCBT Financial Corporation held of record by the undersigned on the record date at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on April 28, 2009, and at any adjournment thereof.

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

**Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, you can be sure your shares are represented at the meeting by promptly returning your proxy in the enclosed envelope.**

**THE PROXIES WILL BE VOTED AS INSTRUCTED. IF NO CHOICE IS INDICATED WITH RESPECT TO A MATTER WHERE A CHOICE IS PROVIDED, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR SUCH MATTER.**

(Items to be voted appear on the reverse.)

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[ANNUAL REPORT](#)

[REVOCAION OF PROXY](#)

[QUORUM AND VOTING](#)

[IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 28, 2009](#)

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