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APTARGROUP INC
Form DEF 14A
April 03, 2002

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

(Amendment No. ____)

Filed by the Registrant [X]

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

- [] Preliminary Proxy Statement
- [X] Definitive Proxy Statement
- [] Definitive Additional Materials
- [] Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

- [] Confidential, for Use of the Commission
Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

AptarGroup, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- [X] No fee required.
- [] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

[LOGO] APTAR*GROUP

475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
815-477-0424

April 8, 2002

Dear Stockholder,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend our annual meeting of stockholders on Wednesday, May 8, 2002. At the meeting, we will review Aptar's performance for fiscal year 2001 and our outlook for the future.

A notice of the annual meeting and proxy statement are attached. You will also find enclosed your proxy voting card. The vote of each stockholder is important to us. Whether or not you expect to attend the annual meeting, I urge you to complete and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible in the accompanying postage-paid envelope, or alternatively, vote by telephone or by the internet.

I look forward to seeing you on May 8/th and addressing your questions and comments. /

Sincerely,

/s/ Carl A. Siebel

Carl A. Siebel
President and Chief Executive Officer

[LOGO] APTAR*GROUP

475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
815-477-0424

April 8, 2002

NOTICE OF 2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at 9:00 a.m., at the offices of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, Bank One Plaza, 10 South Dearborn Street, 55/th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, 60603 to consider and take action on the following: /

1. Election of three directors to terms of office expiring at the annual meeting in 2005; and
2. Transaction of any other business that is properly raised at the meeting.

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Your Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of the three director nominees.

Stockholders owning our common stock as of the close of business on March 14, 2002 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Each stockholder has one vote per share.

Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, we urge you to vote your shares by using the toll free telephone number, the internet or by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Stephen J. Hagge

Stephen J. Hagge
Secretary

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[LOGO] APTAR*GROUP

475 West Terra Cotta Ave, Suite E
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION _____

This proxy statement contains information related to the annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. to be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2002, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the offices of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, Bank One Plaza, 55th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, and at any postponements or adjournments of the meeting. The proxy statement was prepared under the direction of AptarGroup's Board of Directors to solicit your proxy for use at the annual meeting. It will be mailed to stockholders on or about April 8, 2002.

Who is entitled to vote? _____

Stockholders owning our common stock at the close of business on March 14, 2002 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting, or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting. Each stockholder has one vote per share on all matters to be voted on at the meeting. On March 14, 2002, there were 35,880,331 shares of common stock outstanding.

What am I voting on? _____

You are asked to vote on the election of three nominees to serve on our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors knows of no other business that will be presented at the meeting. If other matters properly come before the annual meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote on them in accordance with their best judgment.

How does the Board of Directors recommend I vote on the proposal?_____

The Board recommends a vote FOR the election of the three director nominees. Unless you give other instructions when voting your proxy, the persons named as proxies will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the Board.

How do I vote?_____

You can vote your proxy in any of the following ways:

- . By Mail: Sign, date and complete the enclosed proxy card and return it in the prepaid envelope.
- . By Telephone: You can vote by touch tone telephone by following the instructions on your proxy card.
- . By Internet: You can vote by internet by following the instructions on your proxy card.

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When voting to elect directors, you have three options:

- . Vote for all three nominees
- . Vote for only some of the nominees
- . Withhold authority to vote for all or some nominees

If you return your proxy with no votes marked, your shares will be voted as follows:

- . FOR the election of all three nominees for director

You can revoke your proxy at any time before it is exercised by one of the following methods:

- . Writing to AptarGroup's Corporate Secretary
- . Submitting another signed proxy card with a later date
- . Voting in person at the annual meeting
- . Entering a new vote by telephone or the internet

What is a quorum? _____

A "quorum" is the presence at the meeting, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of AptarGroup's common stock on March 14, 2002. There must be a quorum for the meeting to be held. Proxies received but marked as abstentions and broker non-votes will be included in the calculation of the number of shares considered to be present at the meeting.

How are shares in a 401(k) plan voted? _____

If you hold shares of AptarGroup through your 401(k) plan, you will be instructing the trustee how to vote your shares by completing and returning your proxy card, voting by phone or by the internet. If you do not return your proxy card, or if you return it with unclear voting instructions, or if you do not vote by phone or the internet, the trustee will vote the shares in your 401(k) account in the same proportion as the 401(k) shares for which voting instructions are received.

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How are shares held in a broker account voted? _____

If you own shares through a broker, you should be contacted by your broker regarding a proxy card and whether telephone or internet voting options are available. If you do not instruct your broker on how to vote your shares, your broker, as the registered holder of your shares, may represent your shares at the annual meeting for purposes of determining a quorum, and may vote your shares on some or all proposals. Any unvoted shares, called "broker non-votes," will not affect the outcome of the matter put to a vote.

How many votes are required to elect each director? _____

The three persons receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve as directors. As a result, withholding authority to vote for a director nominee and non-votes with respect to the election of directors will not affect

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the outcome of the election.

Who will count the votes? _____

Our transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C., will count the votes.

How much does this proxy cost? _____

We have engaged Mellon Investor Services, L.L.C. to solicit proxies for our annual meeting for a fee of \$4,500 plus out-of-pocket expenses. We also reimburse banks, brokerage firms and other institutions, nominees, custodians and fiduciaries for their reasonable expenses for sending proxy materials to beneficial owners and obtaining their voting instructions. Certain directors, officers and employees of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries may solicit proxies personally or by telephone or facsimile without additional compensation.

Following is the proposal to be voted on at this year's annual meeting.

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PROPOSAL -- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is comprised of nine members divided into three classes, with one class of directors elected each year for a three-year term. The Board of Directors proposes that the following nominees, all of whom are currently serving as directors, be re-elected for a new term expiring at the 2005 annual meeting.

If any of the director nominees is unable or fails to stand for election, the persons named in the proxy presently intend to vote for a substitute nominee nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors. The following sets forth information as to each nominee for election at this meeting and each director continuing in office.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THIS MEETING TO TERMS EXPIRING IN 2005 _____

Name	Director		Principal Occupation and Directorships
	Since	Age	
King W. Harris	1993	58	Mr. Harris has been Chairman of the Board since 1996. In 2002, Mr. Harris was elected Chairman of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Since 2000, Mr. Harris has been Chairman of Harris Holdings, Inc. (investments). From 1987 to 2000, Mr. Harris was President and Chief Executive Officer of Pittway Corporation (now the Security and Fire Solutions Group of Honeywell International, Inc. ("Honeywell")). Mr. Harris is Vice-Chairman and a director of Penton Media, Inc. (a business-to-business trade show operator and media

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company).

Peter H. Pfeiffer	1993	53	Mr. Pfeiffer has been Vice Chairman of the Board since 1993.
Dr. Joanne C. Smith	1999	41	Dr. Smith was appointed Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in 2002. From 1997 to 2002, Dr. Smith served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Corporate Partnership Division of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She has been a physician at the Rehabilitation Institute since 1992 and served as its Director of Business Development from 1994 to 1997.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR each of the nominees for Director.

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DIRECTORS WHOSE PRESENT TERMS CONTINUE UNTIL 2003 _____

Name	Director Since	Age	Principal Occupation and Directorships
----	-----	---	-----
Ralph Gruska	1993	70	Mr. Gruska is retired. From 1989 to 1991, Mr. Gruska served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cosmetics Packaging and Dispensers Division of Cope Allman Packaging plc (a United Kingdom packaging company).
Leo A. Guthart	1993	64	Mr. Guthart has been Executive Vice President of the Home and Building Control Group of Honeywell since 2001. Mr. Guthart has been the Managing Member of the General Partners of Topspin Partners L.P. (venture capital investing) since 2000. From 2000 to 2001, Mr. Guthart was Chairman of the Security and Fire Solutions Group of Honeywell. For more than five years prior to 2000, Mr. Guthart was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ademco Security Group (now part of Honeywell). Mr. Guthart is a director of the Acorn Investment Trust (an investment trustee) and Symbol Technologies, Inc. (bar code scanners and wireless equipment), and Chairman of the Board and a director of Cylink Corporation (a data encryption and wireless product manufacturer).
Prof. Dr. Robert W. Hacker	2000	62	Prof. Dr. Hacker is retired. For more than five years prior to 2001 Prof. Dr. Hacker was the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Herz-und Gefaessklinik (Heart and Vessel Clinic), Bad Neustadt, Germany.

DIRECTORS WHOSE PRESENT TERMS CONTINUE UNTIL 2004 _____

Name	Director Since	Age	Principal Occupation and Directorships
----	-----	---	-----
Alain Chevassus	2001	57	Mr. Chevassus has been President of COSFIBEL (flexible plastic packaging) since 2000. From 1977 to 1999, Mr. Chevassus was President and Chief Executive Officer of Techpack International (a cosmetic packaging division of Pechiney S.A.).

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Stephen J. Hagge 2001 50 Mr. Hagge has been Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of AptarGroup since 1993. From 1993 to 2000, Mr. Hagge was also Treasurer of AptarGroup.

Carl A. Siebel 1993 67 Mr. Siebel has been President and Chief Executive Officer of AptarGroup since 1995. From 1993 through 1995, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of AptarGroup.

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BOARD COMMITTEES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE _____

The Board met 7 times in 2001. No current director attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board of Directors and the committees on which each director served.

The Board of Directors has four active committees: the Executive, Audit, Compensation and Nominating Committees. Committees report their actions to the full Board at its next regular meeting. An affirmative vote of at least 70% of the Board is required to change the size, membership or powers of these committees, to fill vacancies in them, or to dissolve them. A description of the duties of each committee follows the table below.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS HELD

Name	Executive	Audit	Compensation	Nominating
A. Chevassus				
R. Gruska		X	X	
L. A. Guthart		X*	X*	
Prof. Dr. R. W. Hacker				
S. J. Hagge				
K. W. Harris	X*		X	X
P. H. Pfeiffer	X			X
C. A. Siebel	X			
Dr. J. C. Smith		X		
Number of Meetings in Fiscal 2001	4	4	3	0

X* Chairperson

Executive Committee _____

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- . May exercise certain powers of the Board, when the Board is not in session, in the management of the business and affairs of AptarGroup.

Audit Committee _____

- . Provides oversight regarding accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of AptarGroup.
- . Considers annually the qualifications of our independent auditors and the scope of their audit and makes recommendations to the Board as to their appointment.
- . Retains other responsibilities as outlined in the Audit Committee Charter which was attached as Appendix A to the Proxy Statement AptarGroup filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on April 3, 2001.

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Compensation Committee _____

- . Establishes executive compensation policies and programs.
- . Recommends to the Board base salaries and target bonus levels for executive officers of AptarGroup.
- . Approves awards and grants to be made in accordance with long-term compensation plans.

Nominating Committee _____

- . Reviews the qualifications of persons eligible to stand for election as directors and makes recommendations to the Board on this matter.
- . Considers as nominees for director, qualified persons recommended by directors, management and stockholders.

BOARD COMPENSATION _____

Employees of AptarGroup do not receive any additional compensation for serving as members of the Board or any of its committees. Compensation of non-employee directors consists of the following:

- . an annual retainer of \$10,000, payable \$2,500 per quarter
- . a fee of \$6,000 for each Board meeting attended in person and \$1,000 for any teleconference Board meeting
- . a fee of \$1,000 for each committee meeting attended in person (other than a committee meeting held on the same day as a Board meeting) and \$250 for each phone meeting of a committee
- . an annual retainer of \$2,000 for the Chairpersons of the Audit and Compensation Committees
- . an annual fee of \$110,000 is paid to the Chairman of the Board, who is not an executive of AptarGroup, in lieu of the annual retainer and any meeting fees

Each director is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in

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attending Board and committee meetings.

Pursuant to the 2000 Director Stock Option Plan, on May 14, 2001, each non-employee director was granted a non-qualified option to purchase 8,000 shares of Common Stock at a price of \$34.40 per share. Each option became exercisable as to 2,000 shares six months after the date of grant and an additional 2,000 shares will become exercisable on the earlier of each anniversary of the date of grant or date of the annual meeting of stockholders. Under the 2000 Director Stock Option Plan, each non-employee director is only eligible for one grant under the Plan.

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SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table contains information with respect to the beneficial ownership of Common Stock, as of March 14, 2002, by (a) the persons known by AptarGroup to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, (b) each director or director nominee of AptarGroup, (c) each of the executive officers of AptarGroup named in the Summary Compensation Table below, and (d) all directors, director nominees and executive officers of AptarGroup as a group. Except where otherwise indicated, the mailing address of each of the stockholders named in the table is: c/o AptarGroup, Inc., 475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

-

Name	Shares Owned		Options
	Number of Shares (1)	Percentage (2)	Exercisable Within 60 Days of March 14, 2002
Neuberger & Berman LLC (3) 605 Third Avenue New York, NY 10158	4,629,184	12.9	--
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (4) One State Farm Plaza Bloomington, IL 61710	2,548,468	7.1	--
Capital Group International, Inc. (5) 11100 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025	1,999,400	5.6	--
Alain Chevassus	9,250	*	4,000
Ralph Gruska	14,000	*	12,000
Leo A. Guthart (6)	74,074	*	14,000

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Prof. Dr. Robert W. Hacker	6,000	*	6,000

Stephen J. Hagge (7)	146,681	*	130,086

King W. Harris (8)	779,520	2.2	20,000

Emil D. Meshberg	154,957	*	37,000

Peter H. Pfeiffer	783,072	2.2	251,954

Rick H. Schofield	15,000	*	14,000

Carl A. Siebel (9)	398,364	1.1	323,638

Dr. Joanne C. Smith (10)	8,873	*	8,000

All Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers as a Group (20 persons) (11)	3,003,800	8.1	1,371,231

* Less than one percent.

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- (1) Except as otherwise indicated below, beneficial ownership means the sole power to vote and dispose of shares. Number of shares includes options exercisable within 60 days of March 14, 2002.
- (2) Based on 35,880,331 shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 14, 2002 plus options to purchase shares held by any such person that are exercisable within 60 days of that date.
- (3) The information as to Neuberger & Berman LLC and related entities ("Neuberger & Berman") is derived from a statement on Schedule 13G with respect to the Common Stock, filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Such statement discloses that Neuberger & Berman has the sole power to vote 1,346,784 shares, shares power to vote 3,272,100 shares and shares power to dispose of 4,629,184 shares.
- (4) The information as to State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and related entities ("State Farm") is derived from a statement on Schedule 13G with respect to the Common Stock, filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act. Such statement discloses that State Farm has the sole power to vote and dispose of 2,530,632 shares, shares power to vote 5,836 shares and shares power to dispose of 17,836.
- (5) The information as to Capital Group International, Inc. and related entities ("Capital Group") is derived from a statement on Schedule 13G with respect to the Common Stock, filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act. Such statement discloses that Capital Group has the sole power to dispose of 1,999,400 shares and the sole power to vote 1,528,200 shares.
- (6) Mr. Guthart shares the power to vote and dispose of 37,878 shares.
- (7) Mr. Hagge shares the power to vote and dispose of 4,719 shares.

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- (8) Mr. Harris shares the power to vote and dispose of 443,680 shares.
- (9) Mr. Siebel shares the power to vote and dispose of 70,956 shares.
- (10) Dr. Smith shares the power to vote and dispose of 703 shares.
- (11) Includes 558,336 shares as to which voting power is shared other than with directors and executive officers of AptarGroup.

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COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION _____

Compensation Policy _____

The compensation policy is designed to support AptarGroup's overall objective of increasing stockholder value by:

- . Attracting, motivating and retaining key executives who are critical to the long-term success of AptarGroup.
- . Awarding short-term incentives based upon respective unit performance and overall AptarGroup performance.
- . Aligning executive and stockholder interests through a stock-based long-term incentive program which will reward executives for increased stockholder value.

The Compensation Committee's general policy is to qualify long-term incentive compensation of U.S. based executive officers for deductibility under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The total compensation program consists of three components:

Base Salary _____

The salary ranges of executive officers are established in relation to competitive market data provided by outside executive compensation consultants and review of proxy statements of similar publicly-held companies in the packaging industry. Comparisons are made to positions with similar job responsibilities, positions in companies of comparable sales volume, and positions in similar companies in the same industry as AptarGroup. Five of the companies used in establishing salary ranges are included in the Value Line Packaging & Container Industry Group used in the performance graph below. Generally, salaries are established between the 50th and 75th quartiles of market rates. Salaries are reviewed and compared to market rates annually. Generally, management performance and accomplishment of goals and objectives also are important factors in determining base salary increases.

Short-term Incentives _____

Executives are eligible for annual bonuses based upon:

- . Profit growth
- . Return on capital
- . Achievement of other goals and objectives
- . General management performance

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Generally, profit growth and return on capital are weighted most important in determining annual cash bonuses. For 2001, no set bonus formula was used for Messrs. Siebel, Pfeiffer and Hagge.

Long-term Incentives _____

Executives are eligible for awards of stock options and restricted stock under AptarGroup's Stock Awards Plans. The awards to executives are made to provide an incentive for future performance to

increase stockholder value. The members of the Compensation Committee administer this Plan. In 2001, the total amount of options granted was approximately 1.5% of the total stock outstanding. As reflected in the table of option grants, stock options were granted on January 22, 2001 to all of the named executive officers. Awards were determined in relation to the individual's position and responsibility. The exercise price of the options equaled the market price of AptarGroup's Common Stock on the date of the grants.

Chief Executive Officer Compensation _____

Mr. Siebel's salary was increased 5% to \$630,000 on January 1, 2001, as compensation for Mr. Siebel's performance. The Committee set the CEO's compensation slightly above the 50th quartile of the comparable salary range. His 2001 bonus of \$374,000, \$204,000 of which was paid in restricted stock units, was established based upon AptarGroup's performance and strategic actions implemented in 2001. During 2001, Mr. Siebel was awarded an option to purchase 56,000 shares of Common Stock.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Leo A. Guthart, Chairman
Ralph Gruska
King W. Harris

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION _____

Summary Compensation Table _____

The following table sets forth compensation information for the President and Chief Executive Officer and AptarGroup's four other most highly compensated executive officers serving at the end of 2001 (the "named executive officers").

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Annual Compensation	Long Term Compensation Awards	Securities
------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------

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Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Cash Bonus	Restricted Stock (1)	Underlying Options/SARs	All Other Compensation
Carl A. Siebel	2001	\$630,000	\$170,000	\$ 204,000 (2)	56,000	--
President and Chief Executive Officer	2000	600,000	272,000	81,600	56,000	--
	1999	550,000	162,500	195,000	60,000	1,389
Peter H. Pfeiffer	2001	\$420,000	\$255,000	--	44,000	--
Vice Chairman of the Board	2000	400,000	255,000	---	44,000	--
	1999	365,000	240,000	--	47,000	--
Stephen J. Hagge	2001	\$315,000	\$200,000	\$ 36,000 (2)	20,000	\$ 9,364 (3)
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	2000	300,000	180,000	60,000	20,000	9,344
	1999	275,000	165,000	60,000	21,000	8,891
Emil D. Meshberg	2001	\$324,000	\$ 19,450	\$ 23,330 (2)	17,000	\$16,132 (4)
Vice President, Chief Executive Officer of EMSAR, Inc.	2000	312,000	93,600	--	17,000	16,225
	1999	258,750	75,000	90,000	20,000	11,500
Rick H. Schofield	2001	\$314,600	\$ 37,750	--	14,000	\$14,614 (5)
President, EMSAR, Inc.	2000	302,500	90,750	--	14,000	16,839
	1999	258,750	150,000	--	--	10,450

(1) The number and value of restricted stock units held by the named executives as of December 31, 2001, respectively, are as follows:

Carl A. Siebel--8,468 / \$296,634
 Stephen J. Hagge--3,796 / \$132,974
 Emil D. Meshberg--2,622 / \$91,847

The restricted stock units were valued using the closing share price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$35.03 on December 31, 2001. All of the shares of restricted stock units vest ratably over three years from the date of grant and dividends are paid on vested shares only.

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- (2) Restricted stock unit values are based upon the issuance of 6,182 units, 1,091 units and 707 units to Messrs. Siebel, Hagge and Meshberg, respectively, and the closing share price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$33.00 on February 13, 2002. These restricted stock units were issued at the election of the named executives in lieu of a portion of their 2001 annual bonus. All of the restricted stock units vest ratably over three years from the date of grant and dividends are paid on vested units only.
- (3) Consists of \$5,100 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup, Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$3,207 for Company-provided supplemental disability insurance and \$1,057 for Company-provided term life insurance.
- (4) Consists of \$4,512 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup, Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$11,284 for Company-provided split dollar life insurance and \$336 for Company-provided term life insurance.
- (5) Consists of \$4,544 for Company matching contributions to the AptarGroup,

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Inc. Profit Sharing and Savings Plan, \$1,584 for Company-provided supplemental disability insurance and \$8,486 for Company-provided term life insurance.

Option Grants _____

The following table shows all grants in 2001 of stock options to the named executive officers. The exercise price of all such options was the fair market value on the date of grant. No SARs were granted in 2001.

Individual Grants (1) (2)						
Name	Securities Underlying Options Granted (#)	% of Total Options Granted to Employees in 2001	Per Share Exercise or Base Price	Expiration Date	Potential Realizable Value as Assumed Annual Rates of Stock Price Appreciation for Option Term	
					5%	10%
Carl A. Siebel	56,000	10.5	\$28.06	1/22/11	\$988,232	\$2,504,320
Peter H. Pfeiffer	44,000	8.2	28.06	1/22/11	776,468	1,967,680
Stephen J. Hagge	20,000	3.7	28.06	1/22/11	352,940	894,400
Emil D. Meshberg	17,000	3.2	28.06	1/22/11	299,999	760,240
Rick H. Schofield	14,000	2.6	28.06	1/22/11	247,058	626,080

- (1) All options become exercisable in equal one-third annual increments beginning one year from the grant date.
- (2) All options listed in the table expire ten years after their date of grant. Based on 35,625,841 shares of Common Stock outstanding on January 22, 2001 the closing price per share of Common Stock of \$28.06 on January 22, 2001 and a ten-year period, the potential realizable

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value to all stockholders at 5% and 10% assumed annual rates of stock appreciation would be approximately \$628,689,000 and \$1,593,188,000.

Aggregated Option Exercises and Option Values at Year-End _____

The following table provides information as to options exercised and the value of options held by the named executive officers at year-end measured in terms of the closing price of the Common Stock on December 31, 2001. AptarGroup has not granted any SARs.

Number of Securities	Value of Unexercised
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Name	Shares Acquired on	Value Realized	Underlying Options at December 31, 2001 (#)		In-the-Money Options at December 31, 2001 (\$)	
	Exercise (#)	(\$)	Exercisable	Not Exercisable	Exercisable	Not Exercisable
Carl A. Siebel	66,420	\$1,597,058	266,305	113,333	\$ 4,113,598	\$ 1,005,619
Peter H. Pfeiffer	--	--	206,954	89,000	3,174,064	483,078
Stephen J. Hagge	10,000	\$ 195,625	109,753	40,333	1,846,042	358,027
Emil D. Meshberg	--	--	19,000	35,000	174,155	309,945
Rick H. Schofield	--	--	4,667	23,333	57,311	212,189

Employment Agreements

Mr. Siebel's employment agreement provides for employment through December 31, 2002 at a minimum salary of \$630,000 and provides for a payment of three months' salary to his survivors in the event of his death while employed. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of one year, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Siebel by written notice seven months before the end of the then current contract period. A separate pension agreement provides Mr. Siebel with an annual pension compensation, subject to cost of living adjustments, of 60% of his 2000 salary for life, and in the event of his death, provides his surviving widow with annual payments of 60% of his then pension for life. Mr. Siebel began receiving benefits from this pension in February 2000, and pension benefits for the year 2001, which are denominated in Euros, are equivalent to approximately \$318,000. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security benefits or other offset items.

Mr. Pfeiffer's employment agreement provides for employment through April 21, 2003 at a minimum salary of \$420,000 and provides for a payment of three months' salary to his survivors in the event of his death while employed. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of five years, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Pfeiffer by written notice one year before the end of the then current contract period; however, the agreement automatically terminates on June 28, 2013. A separate pension agreement provides Mr. Pfeiffer with an annual pension compensation, subject to cost of living adjustments, of up to 60% of his final year's salary for life, and in the event of his death, provides his surviving widow with annual payments of 60% of his then pension for life and may provide any surviving child with annual payments of up to 30% of his then pension to as late as age 27. Pension benefits would normally commence at age 60, but reduced benefits are available after age 55 subject to a minimum annual payment of approximately \$123,000. Estimated annual pension benefits upon retirement at age 60 (assuming the current salary remains constant) are equivalent to \$252,000. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security or other offset items.

Mr. Hagge's employment agreement provides for employment through February 1, 2005 at a minimum annual salary of \$315,000 and provides, in the event of disability, payment for a period of two years from termination due to disability of one-half of the amount Mr. Hagge would have received and, in the event of death, payment to his estate until the second anniversary of his death of one-half of the amount he would have received. Mr. Hagge is also entitled to additional term life insurance coverage and supplemental long-term disability

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coverage. The agreement provides for an automatic extension as of each February 1 for one additional year unless either AptarGroup or Mr. Hagge terminates the automatic extension provision by written notice at least 30 days prior to the automatic extension date; provided, however, that in no event shall the term extend beyond October 28, 2016. Mr. Hagge's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause, Mr. Hagge will continue to receive his salary until the end of the employment period then in effect. In the event of a change in control of AptarGroup, Mr. Hagge may not be terminated unless he receives written notice of such termination at least six months prior to the date of termination. If Mr. Hagge is terminated within two years following a change in control or if he terminates his employment for good reason within such two-year period, Mr. Hagge will continue to receive his salary for 18 months following the date of termination.

Mr. Meshberg's employment agreement provides for employment through February 17, 2003 at a minimum annual salary of \$324,000. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of one year, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Meshberg by written notice six months before the end of the then current contract period. Mr. Meshberg is also entitled to additional split-dollar life insurance coverage. Mr. Meshberg's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause or if he terminates for good reason (which includes, among other things, a change in control of AptarGroup), Mr. Meshberg will continue to receive his salary until the later to occur of February 17, 2003 and 24 months following the date of termination of employment. Mr. Meshberg is also entitled to receive any accrued salary and bonus through the date of termination, as well as certain other benefits.

Mr. Schofield's employment agreement provides for employment through December 31, 2002 at a minimum annual salary of \$314,600. The agreement provides for an automatic extension for a period of one year, unless it is terminated by AptarGroup or Mr. Schofield by written notice six months before the end of the then current contract period. Mr. Schofield is also entitled to additional term life insurance coverage and supplemental long-term disability coverage. Mr. Schofield's employment agreement provides that if he is terminated without cause or if he terminates for good reason, Mr. Schofield will continue to receive his salary until the end of the employment period then in effect. Mr. Schofield is also entitled to receive any accrued salary and bonus through the date of termination, as well as certain other benefits.

Pension Plan _____

The majority of U.S. employees of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries are eligible to participate in the Pension Plan. Employees are eligible to participate after six months of credited service and become fully vested after five years of credited service. The annual benefit payable to an employee under the Pension Plan upon retirement computed as a straight life annuity equals the sum of the separate amounts the employee accrues for each of his years of credited service under the Plan. Such separate

amounts are determined as follows: for each year of credited service through 1988, 1.2% of such year's compensation up to the Social Security wage base for such year and 1.8% (2% for years after 1986) of such year's compensation above such wage base, plus certain increases put into effect prior to 1987; for each year after 1988 through the year in which the employee reaches 35 years of service, 1.2% of such year's "Covered Compensation" and 1.85% of such year's compensation above such "Covered Compensation"; and for each year thereafter, 1.2% of such year's compensation. The employee's compensation under the Pension Plan for any year includes all salary, commissions and overtime pay and,

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beginning in 1989, bonuses, subject to such year's limit applicable to tax-qualified retirement plans. The employee's "Covered Compensation" under the Pension Plan for any year is generally the average of the Social Security wage base for each of the 35 years preceding the employee's Social Security retirement age, assuming that such year's Social Security wage base will not change in the future. Normal retirement under the Pension Plan is age 65 and reduced benefits are available as early as age 55. Benefits are not subject to reduction for Social Security benefits or other offset items.

U.S. employees of AptarGroup and its subsidiaries participating in the Pension Plan are also eligible for AptarGroup's non-qualified supplemental retirement plan ("SERP"). The benefits payable under the SERP will generally be in the form of a single sum and will be computed as a single life annuity equal to the sum of the separate amounts the participant accrues for each year of credited service. Such separate amounts are determined as follows: for each year of credited service through the year in which the participant reaches 35 years of service, 1.85% of the participant's "Supplemental Earnings"; and for each year after 35 years of credited service, 1.2% of such year's "Supplemental Earnings." "Supplemental Earnings" is generally the difference between (i) the participant's earnings calculated as if the limitation of Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code were not in effect and (ii) the participant's recognized earnings under the Pension Plan. Participants who terminate service prior to being eligible for retirement (i.e., age 65 or age 55 with 10 years of credited service) will forfeit all accrued benefits under the SERP. The SERP provides for the vesting of all accrued benefits in the event of a change of control.

Estimated annual benefits payable under the Pension Plan and the SERP upon retirement at normal retirement age for Messrs. Hagge, Meshberg and Schofield are approximately \$207,000, \$92,000 and \$116,000, respectively. Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer are not eligible to receive benefits under the Pension Plan but, as described above, Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer are entitled to certain pension benefits pursuant to their respective employment agreements.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH _____

The following graph shows a five year comparison of the cumulative total stockholder return on AptarGroup's Common Stock as compared to the cumulative total return of two other indexes: the Value Line Packaging & Container Industry Group ("Peer Group") and the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index. The companies included in the Peer Group are: American Greetings Corporation, Inc., AptarGroup, Inc., Ball Corporation, Bemis Company, Inc., Caraustar Industries, Inc., Chesapeake Corporation, CLARCOR Inc., Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc., Owen-Illinois, Inc., Packaging Corporation of America, Pactiv Corporation, Rock-Tenn Company, Sealed Air Corporation, Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and Sonoco Products Company. Changes in the Peer Group from year to year result from companies being added to or deleted from the Value Line Packaging & Container Industry Group. These comparisons assume an initial investment of \$100 and the reinvestment of dividends.

[CHART]

12/31/96 12/31/97 12/31/98 12/31/99 12/31/00 12/31/01

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AptarGroup	100	158	161	145	171	206

Peer Group	100	122	106	98	68	86

S&P 500	100	133	171	208	189	166

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CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

On February 17, 1999, AptarGroup acquired the capital stock of privately held Emson Research Inc. and related companies ("Emsar", formerly known as Emson), for a purchase price of approximately \$122.8 million in cash and approximately \$4 million in Common Stock. Emil Meshberg, who prior to the Emsar acquisition was Chief Executive Officer of Emsar, entered into an employment agreement with AptarGroup and became an executive officer of AptarGroup immediately following the Emsar acquisition.

As a result of the Emsar acquisition, AptarGroup leases real estate from, purchases materials from and sells products to entities related to Mr. Meshberg or certain members of his family. In 2001, the transactions between AptarGroup and these entities amounted to lease payments of approximately \$612,000, purchases and license royalties of approximately \$57,000 and sales of approximately \$20,000.

As a courtesy to Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer, whose principal residences are in Europe, AptarGroup makes certain estimated income tax payments on their behalf. These balances are typically repaid at different times throughout the year. The largest amounts owed to AptarGroup for such payments at any time during 2001 were approximately \$84,000 and \$106,000 for Messrs. Siebel and Pfeiffer, respectively. Interest is not charged on outstanding balances. There were no outstanding balances from either Messrs. Siebel or Pfeiffer at December 31, 2001. As of March 14, 2002, Mr. Siebel's outstanding balance was approximately \$12,000 and Mr. Pfeiffer had no outstanding balance.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Based on AptarGroup records and other information, Dr. Joanne Smith and Mr. Patrick Doherty each filed one report late which included one transaction that had not been reported on a timely basis. AptarGroup believes that all SEC filing requirements applicable to its other Executive Officers and Directors were complied with for 2001.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee of AptarGroup's Board of Directors is composed of three independent, non-employee directors as required by New York Stock Exchange listing standards. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board.

Management is responsible for AptarGroup's internal controls and the financial reporting process. The independent accountants are responsible for performing an independent audit of AptarGroup's consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and issuing a report thereon. The Committee's responsibility is to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for overseeing the quality and integrity of the

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accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of AptarGroup.

The Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent accountants. Management has represented to the Committee that the

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consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Also, the Committee has discussed with the independent accountants the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees), as amended.

In addition, the Committee discussed with the independent accountants the accountants' independence from AptarGroup and its management, and the independent accountants provided the Committee the written disclosures and letter required by the Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees). In considering the independence of AptarGroup's independent accountants, the Committee took into consideration the amount and nature of the fees paid to the independent accountants for non-audit services as described under "Other Matters" in this Proxy Statement.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board has approved, that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in AptarGroup's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Leo A. Guthart, Chairman
Ralph Gruska
Dr. Joanne C. Smith

ANNUAL REPORT _____

AptarGroup's annual report for the year ended December 31, 2001 is being distributed with this proxy statement. Stockholders are referred to the report for financial and other information about AptarGroup, but such report is not incorporated in this proxy statement and is not deemed a part of the proxy soliciting material.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS _____

In order to be considered for inclusion in AptarGroup's proxy materials for the 2003 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, any stockholder proposal must be received at AptarGroup's principal executive offices at 475 West Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite E, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 by December 9, 2002. In addition, AptarGroup's Bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholder proposals to be brought before any meeting of stockholders, including proposed nominations of persons for election to the Board. Stockholders at the 2002 annual meeting may consider stockholder proposals or nominations brought by a stockholder of record on March 14, 2002, who is entitled to vote at the annual meeting and who has given AptarGroup's Secretary timely written notice, in proper form, of the stockholder's proposal or nomination. A stockholder proposal or nomination intended to be brought before the 2002 annual meeting must have been received by the Secretary on or after February 8, 2002 and on or prior to March 10, 2002. The 2003 annual meeting is expected to be held on May 7, 2003. A stockholder proposal or nomination intended to be brought

before the 2003 annual meeting must be received by the Secretary on or after February 7, 2003 and on or prior to March 9, 2003.

OTHER MATTERS _____

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP served as independent accountants for the year ended December 31, 2001. A decision regarding the selection of the independent accountants to audit AptarGroup's consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2002 has not yet been made. It is expected that a representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will attend the annual meeting, with the opportunity to make a statement if he should so desire, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The following fees were billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, AptarGroup's independent accountants, for services rendered in 2001:

. Audit Fees	\$ 694,000
. All Other Fees:	
Tax Planning and Consulting Fees	295,000
Other Fees	70,000

Total Fees	\$1,059,000
	=====

Audit Fees primarily represent amounts paid for the audit of AptarGroup's annual financial statements, reviews of SEC Forms 10-Q and 10-K and statutory audit requirements at certain non-U.S. locations.

Tax Planning and Consulting Fees represent assistance in the preparation of AptarGroup's U.S. tax return, domestic and international income tax planning assistance, expatriate and executive tax work and tax work related to foreign entity statutory audits.

Other Fees include amounts paid for due diligence assistance and audits of benefit plans. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP did not bill AptarGroup for fees related to financial information systems design or implementation in 2001.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Stephen J. Hagge
 Stephen J. Hagge
 Secretary

Crystal Lake, Illinois
 April 8, 2002

Please mark
 your votes as

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indicated in
this example [X]

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

FOR all nominees listed at right (except as marked to the contrary) []	WITHHOLD AUTHORITY to vote for all nominees listed at right []
--	--

01 King W. Harris, 02 Peter H. Pfeiffer, and
03 Dr. Joanne C. Smith

(INSTRUCTION: To withhold authority to vote for
any individual nominee, write that nominee's name
in the space provided below.)

2. IN THEIR DISCRETION UPON SUCH OTHER BUSINESS
AS MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE
MEETING

Please disregard if you have previously provided your consent decision.

By checking the box to the right, I consent to future delivery of annual
reports, proxy statements, prospectuses and other materials and shareholder
communications electronically via the Internet at a webpage which will be
disclosed to me. I understand that the Company may no longer distribute printed
materials to me from any future shareholder meeting until such consent is
revoked. I understand that I may revoke my consent at any time by contacting the
Company's transfer agent, Mellon Investor Services LLC, Ridgefield Park, NJ and
that costs normally associated with electronic delivery, such as usage and
telephone charges as well as any costs I may incur in printing documents, will
be my responsibility. []

The shares represented by this proxy will be voted as herein directed, but if no
direction is given, the shares will be voted FOR proposal 1. This proxy revokes
any proxy heretofore given.

Dated: _____, 2002

Signature of Stockholder

Signature if held jointly

(Please fill in, sign and date this proxy and mail it in the envelope provided)

IMPORTANT: Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear to the left. Joint owners
should each sign personally. If you sign as agent or any other capacity, please
state the capacity in which you sign.

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

Vote by Internet or Telephone or Mail

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24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

Internet and telephone voting is available through 4PM Eastern Time the business day prior to annual meeting day.

Your Internet or telephone vote authorizes the named proxies to vote your shares in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned your proxy card.

Internet

<http://www.eproxy.com/atr>

Use the Internet to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site. You will be prompted to enter your control number, located in the box below, to create and submit an electronic ballot.

OR

Telephone

1-800-435-6710

Use any touch-tone telephone to vote your proxy. Have your proxy card in hand when you call. You will be prompted to enter your control number, located in the box below, and then follow the directions given.

OR

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

If you vote your proxy by Internet or by telephone, you do NOT need to mail back your proxy card.

You can view the Proxy Statement and Annual Report on the internet at <http://investor.aptargroup.com/proxy.cfm>

COMMON
STOCK
PROXY

AptarGroup, Inc.
475 West Terra Cotta Ave., Suite E
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PROXY SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen J. Hagge and Ralph A. Poltermann, or either of them (each with full power of substitution), are hereby authorized to vote all the shares of Common Stock which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the annual meeting of stockholders of AptarGroup, Inc. to be held on May 8, 2002, and at any adjournment thereof as specified on reverse side:

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(continued on reverse side)

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

You can now access your AptarGroup, Inc. account online.

Access your AptarGroup shareholder account online via Investor ServiceDirect/SM/ (ISD).

Mellon Investor Services LLC, agent for AptarGroup, now makes it easy and convenient to get current information on your shareholder account. After a simple, and secure process of establishing a Personal Identification Number (PIN), you are ready to log in and access your account to:

- . View account status
- . View certificate history
- . View book-entry information
- . View payment history for dividends
- . Make address changes
- . Obtain a duplicate 1099 tax form
- . Establish/change your PIN

Visit us on the web at <http://www.melloninvestor.com>
and follow the instructions shown on this page.

Step 1: FIRST TIME USERS - Establish a PIN

You must first establish a Personal Identification Number (PIN) online by following the directions provided in the upper right portion of the web screen as follows. You will also need your Social Security Number (SSN) available to establish a PIN.

Investor ServiceDirect/SM/ is currently only available for domestic individual and joint accounts.

- . SSN
- . PIN
- . Then click on the Establish PIN button

Please be sure to remember your PIN, or maintain it in a secure place for future reference.

Step 2: Log in for Account Access

You are now ready to log in. To access your account please enter your:

- . SSN
- . PIN
- . Then click on the Submit button

If you have more than one account, you will now be asked to select the appropriate account.

Step 3: Account Status Screen

You are now ready to access your account information. Click on the appropriate button to view or initiate transactions.

- . Certificate History
- . Book-Entry Information
- . Issue Certificate
- . Payment History

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- . Address Change
- . Duplicate 1099

For Technical Assistance Call 1-877-978-7778 between
9am-7pm Monday-Friday Eastern Time