

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENTINC
Form DEF 14A
March 07, 2018

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 [X]
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

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

World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- 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:
- 5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

- 1) Amount Previously Paid:

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

- 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - 3) Filing Party:
 - 4) Date Filed:
-

1241 East Main Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Dear WWE Stockholder:

March 7, 2018

You are cordially invited to attend WWE's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The meeting will be held on April 19, 2018, at the Company's Headquarters, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Details of the business to be conducted at this year's Annual Meeting are described in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement.

As a stockholder, you are being asked to vote on important matters. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, your vote is important. We therefore encourage you to vote. After reading the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, please promptly fill out and submit your proxy. **We also invite you to utilize the convenience of Internet voting at the website indicated on the enclosed proxy card.** Alternatively, you can vote by telephone or complete, sign, date and promptly return via mail the enclosed proxy card. If you attend the meeting and wish to vote in person, you will have the opportunity to do so, even if you have already voted, and any such in-person vote will supersede all of your prior votes.

On behalf of the WWE Board of Directors, I greatly appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Vincent K. McMahon
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE A BUSINESS MEETING ONLY AND NOT AN ENTERTAINMENT EVENT. The meeting will be limited to stockholders (or their authorized representatives) having evidence of their stock ownership. If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, you must show proof of your ownership at the registration tables at the door. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and seating will begin at 9:30 a.m. Each stockholder may be asked to present valid government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, to enter the meeting. These procedures may require additional time, so please plan accordingly. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted, and cell phones may not be used for these purposes. The Annual Meeting will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. To avoid disruption, admission may be limited once the meeting begins.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
AND PROXY STATEMENT**

The Annual Meeting (the "Annual Meeting") of Stockholders of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("WWE" or the "Company"), will be held on April 19, 2018 at the Company's Headquarters, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. The purpose of the Annual Meeting, as described in the attached Proxy Statement is as follows:

1. To elect eleven Directors to serve until the Company's next Annual Meeting and until their successors are elected and qualified;
 2. To ratify the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018;
 3. To hold an advisory vote to approve executive compensation; and
 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.
- The close of business on February 21, 2018 is the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at our Annual Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person, your vote is important. We therefore urge you to vote by Internet, phone or mail by following the instructions set forth herein.

By the Order of the Board of Directors,
Blake T. Bilstad
SVP, General Counsel & Secretary
Stamford, Connecticut
March 7, 2018

PROXY STATEMENT
Annual Meeting of Stockholders
Thursday, April 19, 2018

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of WWE's Board of Directors in connection with our Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") to be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time or any adjournment or postponement of this meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Company's Headquarters, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902. Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Company has elected to provide electronic access to its proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, the Company is sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") to the Company's record and beneficial stockholders. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or to request a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice. In addition, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials electronically by email on an ongoing basis. The Company encourages you to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet in order to help reduce the costs and environmental impact of printing proxy materials. We intend to mail the Notice on or about March 7, 2018, to each stockholder entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting.

We will pay all costs of this proxy solicitation. Directors or officers, or other WWE employees, may also solicit proxies in person or by mail, telephone or fax.

Only holders of record of our Class A common stock and Class B common stock at the close of business on February 21, 2018 (the "record date"), will be entitled to notice of and to vote at our Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the record date, 42,540,288 shares of Class A common stock and 34,609,438 shares of Class B common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote, with each Class A share entitled to one vote on all matters and each Class B share entitled to ten votes. We sometimes refer to Class A common stock and Class B common stock together as "Common Stock."

A majority of the collective voting power represented by our Common Stock, present in person or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Election of nominees to the Board (Proposal 1) is decided by plurality votes. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote at the meeting is required to approve Proposals 2 and 3. Proposal 3 is an advisory vote only and as discussed in more detail below, the voting result is not binding on us. Under New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") rules, if your broker holds your shares in its name as a nominee, and does not receive voting instructions from you, the broker is permitted to vote your shares only on the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm (Proposal 2). When a broker does not receive voting instructions and either declines to exercise discretionary voting or is barred from doing so under NYSE rules, the missing votes are referred to as "broker non-votes." Other unvoted shares in returned proxies will be voted in accordance with the Board recommendations set forth in this proxy statement. Both abstentions and broker non-votes in returned proxies will be counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum at the meeting. Broker non-votes are not, however, considered present and entitled to vote and will have no effect on the voting results of any of the proposals. An abstention in a returned proxy on either of Proposals 2 or 3 identified above will have the effect of a vote against that proposal. An abstention in a returned proxy will have no effect on the outcome of Proposal 1. **The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR the election of each of the nominees for Director, FOR the ratification of our independent registered public accounting firm, and FOR the advisory approval of our executive compensation.**

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

If you vote via any of the following methods, you have the power to revoke your vote before the Annual Meeting or at the Annual Meeting. You may revoke a proxy by mailing us a letter that is received by us no later than Wednesday, April 18, 2018 that states that the proxy is revoked, by timely executing and delivering, by mail, Internet or telephone, a later-dated proxy or by attending our Annual Meeting and voting in person. While the Company does not plan to disseminate information concerning your vote, proxies given by stockholders of record will not be confidential. The voting instructions of beneficial owners will only be available to the beneficial owner's nominee and will not be disclosed to us unless required by law or requested by you. If you are a stockholder of record and write comments on your proxy card, your comments will be provided to us.

Vote by Internet:

The Company strongly prefers that you utilize our convenient Internet voting system which you can access and use whether you live in the United States or elsewhere. The website for Internet voting is printed on both the Notice and the proxy card. Internet voting is available 24 hours a day until 11:59 P.M. on April 18, 2018. You will be given the opportunity to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded.

While at the site, you will be able to enroll in our electronic delivery program, which will ensure that you will receive future mailings relating to annual meetings as quickly as possible and will help us to save costs. If you vote via the Internet, please do NOT return your proxy card.

Vote by Telephone:

You can also vote your shares by calling the toll-free number printed on your proxy card. Telephone voting is available 24 hours a day until 11:59 P.M. on April 18, 2018. The voice prompts allow you to vote your shares and confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded.

If you vote by telephone, please do NOT return your proxy card.

Vote by Mail:

If you choose to vote by mail, please mark your proxy, date and sign it, and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

PROPOSAL 1—ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Stockholders will elect eleven Directors at our Annual Meeting, each to serve until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until a successor shall have been chosen and qualified. We intend to vote the shares of Common Stock represented by a proxy in favor of the nominees listed below, unless otherwise instructed in the proxy. Each nominee is currently a Director. We believe all nominees will be willing and able to serve on our Board. In the unlikely event that a nominee is unable or declines to serve, we will vote the shares represented by a proxy for the remaining nominees and, if there is one, for an alternate person duly nominated by our Board of Directors.

Director/Nominee(1)	Age	Current Position with Company	Committee	Director Since
Vincent K. McMahon	72	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	Executive (Chair)	1980
George A. Barrios	52	Co-President	Executive	2018
Michelle D. Wilson	52	Co-President	Executive	2018
Stephanie McMahon	41	Chief Brand Officer	Executive	2015
Paul Levesque	48	EVP, Talent, Live Events & Creative	Executive	2015
Stuart U. Goldfarb(1)	63	—	Audit; Governance & Nominating	2011
Patricia A. Gottesman(1)	59	—	Governance & Nominating (Chair)	2011
Laureen Ong(1)	65	—	Compensation	2014
Robyn W. Peterson(1)	42	—	Governance & Nominating	2015
Frank A. Riddick, III(1)	61	—	Compensation (Chair); Audit	2008
Jeffrey R. Speed(1)	55	—	Audit (Chair); Compensation	2008

(1) Independent Director.

Vincent K. McMahon, co-founder of our Company, is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Executive Committee.

George A. Barrios has served as our Co-President since February 2018. Before that, Mr. Barrios was our Chief Strategy & Financial Officer since November 2013, and Chief Financial Officer since March 2008. Before that, he was Vice President and Treasurer of The New York Times Company since January 2007. Mr. Barrios joined The New York Times Company in 2002 as Chief Financial Officer of a subsidiary which published, among other things, The Boston Globe. Prior to that, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of Netsilicon, Inc., a publicly-held software development company, where he helped to stabilize the business prior to its merger. From 1994 to 2000, Mr. Barrios served in several senior capacities for Praxair, Inc., a large supplier of industrial gasses.

Michelle D. Wilson has served as our Co-President since February 2018. Before that, Ms. Wilson was our Chief Revenue & Marketing Officer since November 2013, and Chief Marketing Officer since February 2009. From 2001 to 2009, she was Chief Marketing Officer of the United States Tennis Association where she was instrumental in making the US Open the highest attended annual sporting event in the world. Ms. Wilson

developed innovative advertising and promotional campaigns that significantly elevated the image and awareness of tennis in the United States, resulting in record television viewership and ticket sales. She was also pivotal in the implementation of several innovations for the sport, including in-stadium video screens, blue courts, instant replay and the 2004 launch of the US Open Series. From 2000 to 2001, she was Vice President of Marketing for the XFL, our former professional football league. Before that, Ms. Wilson held positions at the National Basketball Association in its domestic and international consumer products groups.

Stephanie McMahon has served as our Chief Brand Officer since November 2013. She is responsible for working with WWE's business units to support key growth initiatives and represents WWE as its global brand ambassador. She is the primary spokesperson for WWE's CSR initiatives, including Special Olympics, Susan G. Komen and Be a STAR, WWE's anti-bullying program. In 2014, Ms. McMahon and her husband, Paul "Triple H" Levesque, established Connor's Cure, a fund dedicated to fighting Pediatric cancer. She is also a TV personality, appearing regularly on WWE's flagship programming. She is a member of the 2017 Class of Henry Crown Fellows within the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute and is also a member of the 2015 Eisenhower Fellowship class. Prior to being named WWE's first-ever Chief Brand Officer, Ms. McMahon was Executive Vice President, Creative, responsible for overseeing the Digital and Creative Departments, as well as the creative development of all WWE television, pay-per-view programming, print, digital and social media content. She was also the first woman to lead WWE's Talent Relations, Talent Brand Management and Live Event businesses. Adweek has included Ms. McMahon in their list of the "Most Powerful Women in Sports" for the past two years. Last year, she was named a Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award Honoree at the ESPN Humanitarian Awards and was named to Sports Business Journal's 2017 class of "Game Changers: Women in Sports Business". Ms. McMahon received her B.S. from Boston University in Communications and has been named a Distinguished Alumni by its School of Communications. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for USO Metropolitan Washington and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. Ms. McMahon is the daughter of Vincent McMahon.

Paul "Triple H" Levesque has served as our Executive Vice President, Talent, Live Events & Creative since August 2011. In this role, he oversees the Company's Talent Relations, Talent Development and Live Events departments. Additionally, Mr. Levesque plays an integral role in the Company's creative process, helping shape the creative direction and storylines of WWE's programming. Mr. Levesque is revolutionizing the business with his global recruiting strategy and developmental training processes. In order to create a platform for future success, he established the Company's state of the art training facility, the WWE Performance Center, which paved the way for the WWE's third global touring brand, NXT. Mr. Levesque debuted as a WWE Superstar, "Triple H", in 1995 and has held the WWE Heavyweight Championship title 14 times. He has captured every major championship, headlined thousands of WWE events, and entertained millions around the world. Mr. Levesque is married to Stephanie McMahon and together they established Connor's Cure. Mr. Levesque is the son-in-law of Vincent McMahon.

Stuart U. Goldfarb is a member of our Audit Committee and our Governance & Nominating Committee. Since January 2014, Mr. Goldfarb has been Co-founder and Partner of Melo7 Tech Partners, LLC, which was founded by Carmelo Anthony and Mr. Goldfarb to invest in and develop opportunities primarily in early stage digital media, consumer internet and technology ventures. Prior to this, from January 2012, Mr. Goldfarb was President of Fullbridge, Inc., a provider of an accelerated, rigorous business education program. From June 2011 until January 2012, Mr. Goldfarb was President and Chief Executive Officer of Atrinsic, Inc., a marketer of direct-to-consumer subscription products and an Internet search marketing agency. Mr. Goldfarb served as a director of Atrinsic from January 2010 until December 2012. In June 2012, Atrinsic filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. The filing was precipitated by Atrinsic's cessation of certain businesses and its inability to raise financing. From November 2009 to June 2011, Mr. Goldfarb was a Partner in Unbound Partners LLC, a marketing and management consulting firm. From 2001 to 2009, Mr. Goldfarb was President and Chief Executive Officer of Direct Brands, Inc. Under his leadership, the company grew to

be the world's largest direct marketer of music, DVDs and books, with household brands such as Columbia House, BMG Music, Doubleday Book Club, Book-of-the-Month-Club and cdonow.com. Prior to that, Mr. Goldfarb was President and Chief Executive Officer of bol.com, Bertelsmann's premier online retailer of books and music, doing business in 18 European and Asian countries. Before joining Bertelsmann, he was Vice Chairman of Value Vision International, a cable TV home shopping and e-commerce company. He was formerly Executive Vice President, Worldwide Business Development at NBC.

Patricia A. Gottesman is Chair of our Governance & Nominating Committee. From February 2011 until August 2012, Ms. Gottesman was President and Chief Executive Officer of Crimson Hexagon, a social intelligence company in the vanguard of online media monitoring and analysis. From April 2008 to January 2011, she was founder and principal of Omnibus, an international media and technology practice. Prior to that, Ms. Gottesman was with Cablevision Systems Corporation for almost 30 years, most recently as Executive Vice President, Digital Marketing and Commerce. From August 2014 until its merger with comScore, Inc. in January 2016, Ms. Gottesman was a member of the Board of Directors and the Audit and Nominating & Governance Committees of Rentrak Corporation, a media measurement and advanced consumer targeting company. Subsequent to this merger, until November 2016, Ms. Gottesman was a director of comScore, Inc., a public company that provides digital media analytics services. Ms. Gottesman served as comScore's Chair, Nominating and Governance Committee and Co-Chair of its Special Investigation Subcommittee and member of its Audit Committee.

Laureen Ong is a member of our Compensation Committee. She is a consultant in the media industry. From April 2010 to October 2013, Ms. Ong served as President, Travel Channel LLC, a subsidiary of Scripps Networks Interactive, Inc., which operates a television network focusing on travel entertainment. From March 2007 to October 2009, she was Chief Operating Officer of Star Group Limited, which produces, broadcasts and distributes television programming via satellite in Asia. From April 2000 to April 2007, Ms. Ong was President of National Geographic Television, during which time she was the chief architect of the launch of its cable television network. Prior to that, she was a senior executive in several sports and media companies. Ms. Ong is on the Board of Charter 100, an organization of Women Executives in Phoenix.

Robyn W. Peterson is a member of our Governance & Nominating Committee. He is a consultant in the media industry. From May 2011 until January 2018, Mr. Peterson was Chief Technology Officer of Mashable, Inc., a leading source of news information and resources for the connected generation. From January 2011 to March 2011, Mr. Peterson was Vice President of Product, News and Info for AOL, responsible for product strategy and development of the news, finance and sports sites until AOL's acquisition of the Huffington Post. From March 2010 to January 2011, Mr. Peterson was Product Director for Next Issue Media LLC, a company formed by five major U.S. publishers to develop, market and deliver interactive digital editions of magazines. Prior to that, from November 2008, Mr. Peterson was Vice President, Technology and Product for NBC Universal, Inc. From 2001-2004, and from 2005-2008, Mr. Peterson was an executive at Ziff Davis Media, where he was Chief Technology Officer. Mr. Peterson was previously involved in other digital companies since 1998.

Frank A. Riddick, III is Chair of our Compensation Committee and a member of our Audit Committee. Mr. Riddick was Chief Executive Officer of FloWorks International LLC (formerly named Shale-Inland Group LLC), a leading supplier of pipe, valves and related products ("FloWorks") from September 2013 until November 2017. Prior to that, he was Chairman and then Executive Chairman of FloWorks since March 2012. Mr. Riddick is also currently a member of the Management Advisory Board of Tower Brook Capital Partners, L.P. ("TowerBrook"), a private equity firm. From August 2009 until joining FloWorks, Mr. Riddick was Chief Executive Officer of JMC Steel Group, the largest independent steel tubular manufacturer in North America. Prior to that, he was a consultant to TowerBrook. Before joining TowerBrook, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Formica Corporation, a manufacturer of surfacing materials, from January 2002 to April 2008. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Armstrong Holdings,

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

Inc. from February 2000 to November 2001, and as Chief Financial Officer at Armstrong and its subsidiaries from 1995 to 2000. Mr. Riddick is a member of the Board of FloWorks and Chairman of the Board of Apache Industrial Services, Inc., which provides scaffolding, insulation, fireproofing and coatings. Until its sale in July 2015, Mr. Riddick was a member of the board of directors, Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Compensation Committee of Geeknet, Inc., the owner and operator of ThinkGeek, an online retailer. Mr. Riddick is also a former director of GrafTech International Ltd, a manufacturer of graphite and carbon products, as well as related technical services.

Jeffrey R. Speed is Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of our Compensation Committee. He served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Six Flags, Inc., the world's largest regional theme park operator, from April 2006 until October 2010. In June 2009, Six Flags, Inc. filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, and it emerged from those proceedings in May 2010. Prior to joining Six Flags, Mr. Speed spent approximately 13 years with The Walt Disney Company, serving from 2003 until 2006 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Euro Disney SAS, the publicly-traded operator of the Disneyland Resort Paris, the number one tourist destination in Europe. Prior to that, Mr. Speed spent approximately nine years with the public accounting firm of Price Waterhouse (now PwC).

Other Executive Officers

The following table provides information regarding our executive officers as of March 1, 2018.

Name	Age	Position with Company	With Company Since
Kevin Dunn	57	Executive Producer & Chief Global Television Production	1984
Blake T. Bilstad	48	SVP, General Counsel & Secretary	2015
Casey Collins	45	EVP, Consumer Products	2012
Michael J. Luisi	52	President, WWE Studios	2011

Kevin Dunn has been Executive Producer & Chief Global Television Production since July 2014 and, prior thereto Executive Producer since November 2013, and Executive Vice President, Television Production, since July 2003. Before that, Mr. Dunn served as our Executive Producer for 11 years.

Blake T. Bilstad has served as our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since June 2015 and was our acting Senior Vice President - Human Resources from October 2015 until April 2016. Prior to joining us, from April 2004 to March 2015, Mr. Bilstad worked with Provide Commerce, Inc., an e-commerce group specializing in the direct-to-consumer delivery of perishable and personalized gifts, serving as Senior Vice President – Legal & Public Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary. Provide Commerce was publicly-held until its acquisition in 2006 by Liberty Media Corporation. From June 1999 to April 2004, Mr. Bilstad worked with MP3.com, Inc., a publicly-held digital media company acquired in 2001 by Vivendi Universal S.A., a global entertainment and telecommunications conglomerate, where he helped form VUNet USA and served as the group's Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs and Secretary. Mr. Bilstad held previous legal positions at Cooley Godward LLP, the U.S. Department of Justice – Antitrust Division, the Harvard Negotiation Project and two other major law firms.

Casey Collins has served as our Executive Vice President, Consumer Products since July 2012. Prior to joining WWE, Mr. Collins was Executive Vice President, Global Licensing & Entertainment at MGA Entertainment, where he oversaw the entertainment, consumer products, retail development and promotions divisions. Before joining MGA Entertainment, Mr. Collins spent 10 years at Lucasfilm Ltd. beginning March 2001, where he was responsible for the management of Lucasfilm's domestic and international licensing and retail merchandise programs.

Michael J. Luisi has served as President, WWE Studios since September 2011, and was previously our Executive Vice President of Business Development, General Counsel and Secretary from January 2011 to January 2013. Before that, Mr. Luisi was with Miramax Films, a film production and distribution company which, until late 2010, was a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company (“Miramax”). At Miramax, Mr. Luisi was Executive Vice President, Worldwide Operations, beginning October 2008. Before that, he was Executive Vice President, Business Affairs and Operations, from January 2006. Mr. Luisi joined Miramax in 1998.

The Board and Committees

Our Board has standing Audit, Compensation, Governance & Nominating and Executive Committees. During the year ended December 31, 2017, there were 8 meetings of the Board of Directors, 9 meetings of the Audit Committee, 5 meetings of the Compensation Committee, and 3 meetings of the Governance & Nominating Committee. Under our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Directors are expected to prepare for and attend meetings of the Board and committees on which they sit. Each Director attended more than 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and committees on which he or she served. Directors are also expected to attend the Company’s Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and all members attended last year’s meeting.

Independent Directors. Each year our Board conducts a review to determine which of our Directors qualify as independent. Based on our most recent review, the six members of our Board noted in the table above (Stuart U. Goldfarb, Patricia A. Gottesman, Laureen Ong, Robyn W. Peterson, Frank A. Riddick, III and Jeffrey R. Speed) qualified as independent under the NYSE and SEC regulations for Board members as well as those regulations, as applicable, relating to their role on the Audit, Compensation and/or Governance & Nominating Committee(s). These are the standards we use to determine independence. One of our independent directors has a small stock ownership in a public company which is a licensee of the Company; and another independent director has a cousin who is an employee of the Company. The Board considered these relationships and affirmatively determined that neither of them is material. None of the other independent Directors has any relationship with the Company other than his or her Director/Committee membership(s). Our Audit, Compensation and Governance & Nominating Committees consist solely of independent Directors. The Company does not currently have a lead independent director.

NYSE Listing Standards. Certain provisions of the corporate governance rules of the NYSE are not applicable to “controlled companies.” “Controlled companies” under those rules are companies of which more than 50 percent of the voting power is held by an individual, a group or another company. The Company currently is a “controlled company” under this definition by virtue of the beneficial ownership by Mr. McMahon of approximately 42% of the Company’s outstanding equity and approximately 83% of the combined voting power of our Common Stock. As a “controlled company,” the Company is exempt from the NYSE listing standards of having a majority of independent directors and independent compensation and governance & nominating committees. However, the Company currently does not avail itself of these “controlled company” exemptions.

Board Structure and Risk Management. Mr. McMahon serves as both our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. The Board believes that the unique blend of creativity, entrepreneurship and management skills required to act as Chief Executive Officer at the Company would make filling this position extremely difficult. As a practical matter, Mr. McMahon’s combined role as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer reflects the larger reality that as the owner of a majority of the Company’s voting power, management of the Company is within his ultimate control. This notwithstanding, the Board recognizes the critical role it plays in risk oversight and believes that it works well with management to understand and give clear guidance on matters that it considers to pose possible risks to the Company, such as entering into new business ventures, cybersecurity and other matters disclosed as risk factors in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition, as described elsewhere in this proxy, certain committees of the Board have primary oversight

responsibility for specific risk factors. Examples include (i) Audit Committee oversight of, among other things, SEC filings, internal and external audit functions and related party transactions; (ii) Compensation Committee oversight of compensation matters, including limiting instances where compensation could be tied to excessive risk taking by management; and (iii) Governance & Nominating Committee oversight of corporate governance and the recommendation of a slate of nominees for Director and Committee memberships. The Board believes that the administration of its risk oversight function has not been negatively affected by the Board's current leadership structure, and the Board believes it appropriately addresses risk factors facing the Company.

Executive Sessions. Under our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the non-management/independent members of the Board meet at least quarterly in executive sessions (*i.e.* without the presence of management). In practice, most Board and Committee meetings include an executive session. Executive sessions are presided over by the chair of the appropriate Committee, if the principal item to be considered is within a Committee's scope and, if not, such chairs alternate executive sessions.

Communications with Directors. Interested parties who wish to communicate with a member or members of the Board of Directors, including Committee chairs and the non-management/independent Directors as a group, may do so by addressing their correspondence to such members or group c/o WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902, Attention: Corporate Secretary, and all such communications, which are not solicitations, bulk mail or communications unrelated to Company issues, will be duly forwarded.

Corporate Governance Guidelines. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are posted on our corporate website (corporate.wwe.com).

Code of Business Conduct. We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct (the "Code") which applies to all of our Directors, officers and employees, including our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and senior financial and accounting officers. Our Code requires, among other things, that all of our Directors, officers and employees comply with all laws, avoid conflicts of interest, conduct business in an honest and ethical manner and otherwise act with integrity and in the Company's best interest. In addition, our Code imposes obligations on all of our Directors, officers and employees to maintain books, records, accounts and financial statements that are accurate and comply with applicable laws and with our internal controls. A copy of our Code is posted on our corporate website (corporate.wwe.com). We also plan to disclose any amendments to, and waivers from, the Code on this website.

Audit Committee. We have an Audit Committee meeting the definition of "audit committee" under Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). The Audit Committee consists of its Chair, Mr. Speed, and Messrs. Goldfarb and Riddick. Each of these members satisfies the independence requirements of applicable NYSE and SEC rules relating to independence generally and to audit committees specifically, and is financially literate, with a working familiarity with basic finance and accounting practices within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE. Messrs. Speed and Riddick have accounting and related financial management expertise and are qualified as audit committee financial experts within the meaning of the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC. Pursuant to the charter of our Audit Committee, no Audit Committee member may simultaneously serve on the audit committee of more than three public companies.

The primary purpose of our Audit Committee is to provide assistance to the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities to our stockholders and the investment community relating to our corporate accounting and reporting practices and the quality and integrity of our financial reports. The Audit Committee's charter is posted on our corporate website (corporate.wwe.com). The Audit Committee charter states that the Committee will, among other things, fulfill the following obligations:

Review and discuss with management and the independent auditors our audited financial statements, quarterly financial statements and all internal control reports (or summaries thereof).

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

Review any other relevant reports or financial information submitted by the Company to any governmental body, or the public, including management certifications as required by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Sections 302 and 906) and relevant reports rendered by the independent auditors (or summaries thereof).

Review with financial management and the independent auditors each Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and each Annual Report on Form 10-K (including, without limitation, the Company's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations") prior to its filing.

Review and discuss earnings press releases with management, including the type and presentation of information, paying particular attention to any use of "pro-forma," "adjusted" or other information which is not required by generally accepted accounting principles.

Review and discuss with management financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. Such discussions may be on general terms (*i.e.*, discussion of the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made) and need not be in advance of each earnings release or earnings guidance.

Review the regular internal reports (or summaries thereof) to management prepared by the internal auditor(s) and management's response.

Recommend to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Obtain from the outside auditors assurance that the audit was conducted in a manner consistent with Section 10A of the Exchange Act, which sets forth certain procedures to be followed in any audit of financial statements required under the Exchange Act.

Have sole authority to appoint (subject to stockholder ratification), compensate, retain and oversee the work performed by the independent auditor engaged for the purpose of preparing and issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The Audit Committee has the ultimate authority to approve all audit engagement fees and terms. The Audit Committee has sole authority to review the performance of the independent auditors and remove the independent auditors if circumstances warrant. The independent auditors report directly to the Audit Committee and the Audit Committee shall oversee the resolution of any disagreement between management and the independent auditors in the event that any may arise.

Review with the independent auditor (without representatives of management when deemed necessary) reports or communications (and management's and/or the internal audit department's response thereto) submitted to the Audit Committee by the outside auditors required by or referred to in Auditing Standard No. 1301 and SEC Rule 2-07 of Regulation S-X; review any problems or difficulties with an audit and management's response, including any restrictions on the scope of the independent auditor's activities or any access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management; and review and hold timely discussions with the independent auditors.

Review audit services and approve in advance non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditors, taking into consideration SEC rules regarding permissible and impermissible services by such independent auditors. This duty may be delegated to one or more designated members of the Audit Committee with any such pre-approval reported to the Audit Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Approval of non-audit services will be disclosed to investors in periodic reports to the extent required by the Exchange Act.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

Review major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies.

Prepare the Audit Committee report that the SEC requires be included in this proxy statement.

Discuss policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management.

Maintain procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee consists of its Chair, Mr. Riddick, and Ms. Ong and Mr. Speed. Each of these members satisfies the independence requirements of applicable NYSE and SEC rules relating to independence generally and compensation committees specifically. The primary purpose of the Compensation Committee is to provide assistance to the Board in evaluating and approving the structure, operation and effectiveness of the Company's compensation plans, policies and procedures. The Compensation Committee's charter is posted on our corporate website (corporate.wwe.com). The Compensation Committee charter states that the Committee will, among other things, fulfill the following obligations:

Approve all employment agreements for the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and all officers of the Company who (i) have a title of Executive Vice President or have equal or higher seniority; (ii) are "officers" as defined in Rule 16a – 1(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act; or (iii) are other senior executives who report directly to the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (collectively, the "Senior Executives").

Annually review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, evaluating his performance in light of those goals and objectives, and either as a Committee or together with the other independent Directors determine and approve the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer's compensation level based on this evaluation. In determining the long-term incentive component of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer's compensation, the Compensation Committee will consider the Company's and the individual's performance, relative total shareholder return, the value of similar incentive awards to chairs and chief executive officers at comparable companies and awards given in past years, among other factors.

Annually review and approve for Senior Executives: (i) the annual base salary level, (ii) the annual incentive opportunity level, (iii) the long term incentive opportunity level, (iv) severance arrangements and change in control agreements/provisions in each case when and if appropriate, and (v) any special or supplemental benefits.

Annually review management's recommendations and make recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to the compensation of all Directors and Senior Executives, including all compensation, incentive compensation plans, equity-based plans as well as the individuals or groups of individuals receiving awards under incentive and equity-based compensation plans; provided, however, that the Compensation Committee has full decision-making powers with respect to compensation intended to be performance-based compensation within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Administer the Company's 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan and any successor or other incentive compensation plans of the Company.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

The Compensation Committee has authority to hire compensation consultants, independent counsel and other advisors. For the past several years, the Committee has retained the services of Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. (the "Compensation Consultant"). The Compensation Committee annually reviews the Compensation Consultant's independence and has determined that no conflicts of interest exist.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation. During 2017, no member of the Compensation Committee was an officer or employee of the Company or any of our subsidiaries nor is any such person a former officer of the Company or any of our subsidiaries. In addition, no "compensation committee interlocks," as described under SEC rules, existed during 2017.

Governance & Nominating Committee. The Governance & Nominating Committee consists of its Chair, Ms. Gottesman, and Messrs. Goldfarb and Peterson. Each of these members satisfies the independence requirements of applicable NYSE and SEC rules relating to independence generally.

The Governance & Nominating Committee operates under a charter. This charter is posted on our corporate website (corporate.wwe.com). Under its charter, the Governance & Nominating Committee responsibilities include:

Monitoring the implementation and operation of the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines.

Reviewing from time to time the adequacy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines in light of broadly accepted practices of corporate governance, emerging governance issues and market and regulatory expectations, and advising and making recommendations to the Board with respect to appropriate modifications.

Preparing and supervising the implementation of the Board's annual review of director independence.

Developing an annual self-evaluation process for the Board and Committees, which process is overseen by the Governance & Nominating Committee, and recommending such process to the Board for its approval.

Identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates for election as Director, consistent with criteria approved by the Board, including appropriate inquiries into the background and qualifications of candidates, interviewing potential candidates to determine their qualification and interest, and recommending to the Board nominees for any election of Directors.

Recommending to the Board the appointment of Directors to serve as members, and as chairs, of the standing Committees and any other Committees established by the Board.

Recommending to the Board appropriate changes to the governance of the Company, including changes to the terms or scope of the Governance & Nominating Committee charter and the Committee's overall responsibilities.

Making recommendations to the Board regarding any duly submitted stockholder proposal.

Overseeing the Company's continuing education program for our Directors.

Nominees for Director. The Board currently contemplates adding one or two new independent directors in 2018. The Board will consider candidates, and will follow the same process and use the same criteria for evaluating candidates, irrespective of whether they are suggested by Board members, management and/or stockholders. Any stockholder recommendations would need to be submitted to the Board at our principal address in care of the Corporate Secretary and would need to include a personal biography of the proposed nominee, a description of the background or experience that qualifies such person for consideration and a statement that such person has agreed to serve if nominated and elected. If stockholders wish to nominate a

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

person for election to the Board, as contrasted with recommending a potential nominee to the Board for its consideration, they would need to fulfill the requirements detailed under “Stockholder Proposals for 2019 Annual Meeting.”

The Board plans to review potential nominees and decide whether to conduct a full evaluation of any one or more candidates. If additional consideration of one or more nominees is deemed by the Board to be warranted, the Board will request its third party search firm to gather additional information about the prospective nominee’s background and experience. The Board will then evaluate the prospective nominee taking into account whether the prospective nominee is independent within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE and applicable regulations of the SEC and such other factors as it deems relevant, including the current composition of the Board, the need for Committee expertise, and the evaluations of other prospective nominees. While there is a general desire at least to maintain, and preferably enhance, the mixture of viewpoints among its members, the Board does not have any specific policy relating to diversity. The Board will also determine when or how to interview the prospective nominee. Each Director will have the opportunity to participate in the consideration of the prospective nominee. The Governance & Nominating Committee oversees this process and recommends any nominees to the full Board. After the Governance & Nominating Committee has completed this process, the Board will make a determination.

While as stated above, the Company contemplates adding one or two new independent directors in 2018, the Board believes that its current members comprise an appropriate mix of background, diversity and expertise. In particular, Mr. McMahon is a seasoned manager who understands what is necessary for the Company to thrive in the dynamic and competitive markets in which we compete. In particular, he has significant expertise in creative matters, television, talent development and live events, each of which is a critical aspect of our business. As our co-founder, Mr. McMahon has decades of experience overseeing all of our revenue streams. He is familiar with every aspect of our business and industry. Similarly, Ms. McMahon and Mr. Levesque have decades of experience in our Company and have both been important players in all aspects of our creative process, including television, talent and live events. Messrs. Barrios and Levesque and Ms. Wilson and McMahon all have extensive practical experience with many of our revenue streams and each of them has been critically involved in our business transformation over the past several years as well as our continuing brand development. Of the independent directors, Mr. Goldfarb has more than 25 years of experience in media companies with revenue streams similar to those of the Company. For more than 12 years of his tenure, Mr. Goldfarb has served at the CEO level. He has significant e-commerce and digital experience. Ms. Gottesman has nearly 30 years of senior level experience with a cable television operator. This experience provides the Company insight into the television industry. She also has relevant digital and social networking experience. Ms. Ong has decades of experience as a senior executive in television, and Mr. Peterson adds further expertise in the digital space. The digital expertise added to the Board by Messrs. Goldfarb and Peterson and Ms. Gottesman are of particular note in light of WWE Network, the Company’s most important recent undertaking. The television expertise added by Ms. Gottesman and Ong are of note because television (together with live events) traditionally has been at the core of the Company’s business, and video programming, however it is distributed, will continue to be critical to our success. Messrs. Riddick and Speed bring financial and auditing acumen as both have been chief financial officers of large companies. In the case of Mr. Speed, approximately 20 years of his experience has been spent in media and entertainment companies. The foregoing experience, qualifications and skills led the Board to conclude that each of these members should serve and be nominated for re-election at this year’s Annual Meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Executive Summary

World Wrestling Entertainment is an integrated media and entertainment company. We have been involved in the sports entertainment business for more than 35 years, and have developed WWE into one of the most popular and recognizable brands in global entertainment today. We develop unique and creative content centered around our talent and present it via our subscription network, television, online and at our live events. At the heart of our success are the athletic and entertainment skills and appeal of our Superstars and our consistently innovative and multi-faceted storylines. Our WWE Network, live and televised events, digital media, home entertainment, consumer products and feature films provide significant cross-promotion and marketing opportunities that reinforce our brands while effectively reaching our fans.

2017 Highlights. 2017 was another record-breaking year for the Company. We believe management was highly effective in achieving the following results:

Revenue increased 10% to \$801.0 million, the highest in the Company's history, driven by monetization of video across all our platforms.

Total international revenue exceeded \$200 million for the first time.

Operating income increased 36% to \$75.6 million.

The Company delivered a total shareholder return ("TSR") of 69%, including dividends aggregating approximately \$37.0 million. WWE's stock performance outpaced the S&P 500, the Russell 2000 and many other media peers.

Raw celebrated its 25th Anniversary (in early 2018) and remained the #1 show on USA Network for the twelfth consecutive year. Smackdown, the network's second most watched show, surpassed 950 episodes.

WWE Network average paid subscribers increased 8% to 1.53 million.

Digital engagement continued to grow with video views of more than 20 billion and 1.2 billion social media engagements.

We believe our record-setting revenue and other strong results in 2017 validate our ongoing investment to support the Company's long-term objectives.

For the Company to achieve our desired level of success, we must continue to retain and incentivize management. The incentive compensation package for senior management in 2017 is described in detail below and was structured for precisely that purpose. On balance, we believe the ongoing compensation structure envisions and appropriately incentivizes achievement of long-term growth and transformation while continuing to tie a meaningful portion of management's compensation to annual financial and strategic performance. Equally important, we also believe that this incentive for transformation continues to moderate the risk to drive short-term results by promoting greater management focus on long-term performance.

Named Executive Officers. Our named executive officers for 2017 are:

Vincent K. McMahon	Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
George A. Barrios	Co-President
Michelle D. Wilson	Co-President
Paul Levesque	EVP, Talent, Live Events & Creative
Kevin Dunn	Executive Producer & Chief Global Television Production

Elements of WWE's Compensation Program. In general, the compensation package provided to our senior management consists of three major components:

Base Salary	Provides a fixed element of compensation paid in cash to reward day-to-day contributions to the Company. Serves as an attraction and retention tool.	Salary for each executive is determined based on a number of factors including: job responsibilities, tenure and experience, individual performance, internal parity and a broad-based assessment of the market.	Fixed Compensation
Short-Term Cash Incentive Compensation	Provides cash-based reward for achievement of annual performance measures that are integral to the success of the Company and reinforce its business strategy and vision. As a complement to the annual incentive plan, provides	Executives are assigned a target annual incentive opportunity expressed as a percentage of his or her base salary. Performance is measured against a detailed set of financial, strategic and individual performance measures. Payouts may be above or below target based on a rigorous assessment of performance relative to the goals established at the beginning of the performance period.	Variable Compensation
Longer-Term Equity Incentive Compensation	equity-based awards that are linked to the longer-term performance of the Company thereby aligning executives' and stockholders' interests.	In general, an executive receives 100% of his or her longer-term incentive opportunity in the form of Performance Stock Units ("PSUs"). Consistent with the pay for performance principles of our compensation plan, the PSU awards may be earned at levels above or below target based on actual performance relative to pre-established goals.	

The Compensation Committee believes that this program constitutes the appropriate mix of fixed and variable compensation as well as short-term and longer-term compensation, a significant portion of which is tied to Company performance, aligning the interests of management with those of our stockholders. Further, we believe our compensation program incentivizes management and serves our attraction, retention and motivation goals while remaining fiscally prudent and not encouraging excessive risks. We also believe that the design of our compensation program is generally consistent with other companies in the entertainment industry. The Company does not provide a defined benefit plan or other similar retiree benefits and generally does not provide its executive officers perquisites such as cars, club memberships or personal services. Therefore, these three components (base salary, short-term cash incentive through our management incentive plan, and longer-term equity incentive), when added together, reflect an accurate picture of the total compensation opportunity available to our senior executives.

Mr. Levesque, as a key performer for the Company, has certain additional compensation made pursuant to his agreement described below.

Aligning Interests with Stockholders. The table below highlights key executive compensation practices that the Compensation Committee has implemented to encourage a high level of performance and alignment of management and our stockholders' interests. The table also highlights compensation practices that the Committee has expressly avoided or rejected. We believe these efforts support a strong governance culture and are in the long-term interests of our stockholders.

Pay for Performance	No Gross-up Payments to Cover Excise Taxes
Tie Significant Levels of Compensation to Corporate and Individual Goals	No Guaranteed Annual or Multi-Year Bonuses
Caps on Annual Bonuses and Long-Term Incentives	No Special Executive Retirement Programs
Stock Ownership and Stock Holding Requirements	No Repricing of Underwater Stock Options
Multiple Performance Metrics under Short-term and Longer-term Incentive Plans	No Excessive Perquisites for Executives
Double Trigger for Change in Control Provisions	No Dividend Equivalents Paid Prior to Vesting of Performance Awards (and Never on Unearned Portion of Awards)
Use an Independent Consultant who Reports Directly to the Compensation Committee	No Incentives to Excessively or Inappropriately Encourage Risk Taking Through our Compensation Program
Review Tally Sheets When Making Executive Compensation Decisions	
Mitigate Undue Risk in Compensation Programs	

Compensation Components

Salary. As part of our continuing effort to manage our fixed costs responsibly, we generally attempt to limit salary increases, restricting material increases to instances of promotions or extraordinary contributions to the Company's performance. The table below highlights recent annual base salaries for the named executive officers:

Name	2016	2017	2018
Vincent K. McMahon	\$1,325,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
George A. Barrios	\$764,400	\$783,510	\$870,000(1)
Michelle D. Wilson	\$771,750	\$791,044	\$870,000 (1)
Paul Levesque	\$606,375	\$650,000	\$684,125
Kevin Dunn	\$909,560	\$909,560	\$925,000

(1) Mr. Barrios and Ms. Wilson were both promoted to Co-President in February 2018.

Annual Incentive Bonuses. We believe that an annual management incentive plan ("MIP") that is based on personal and company-wide performance is generally an effective format to incentivize executives to focus on critical financial and strategic short and mid-term goals. Our approach ties the participant's interests to those of stockholders without the structural cost increases inherent in salary escalation and without encouraging unnecessary and excessive risk-taking. It acknowledges both individual efforts as well as the collective effort of all participants. For our named executive officers, MIP bonus targets in 2017 ranged from 50% to 100% of salary. Actual bonuses paid under the MIP to our named executive officers in respect of 2017 are set forth in column (g) of the Summary Compensation Table.

For 2017, the Company established a two-prong test for purposes of determining funding of the MIP.

80% of funding was based solely on financial objectives, with 60% based on OIBDA and 20% based on total revenues.

20% of funding was based on the Company's progress toward four strategic objectives which relate to the Company's brand strength, its growth initiatives and its business development. In order to fund this factor, the Company must achieve net revenues in excess of \$500 million for the fiscal year, regardless of the achievement of the Strategic Objectives

2017 Incentive Plan Payout

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

The following table shows the MIP funding calculation with actual results for 2017 shaded.

Determination of MIP Funding Level (2017)

Strategic Objectives with Revenue Testing Funding Factor (20% of MIP Funding)(1)	Revenue (20% of MIP Funding)	OIBDA (60% of MIP Funding)(2)
Below Threshold 0-2.9 out of 10. No funding for this factor. Threshold 3 out of 10 (60% of factor is funded).	Less than \$736 million. No funding for this factor. \$736 million (50% of factor is funded).	Less than \$80 million. No funding for this factor. \$80 million (50% of factor is funded).
Between Threshold Each additional 1/10 of a point results in an additional 2.0% of this funding factor. Actual and Target Result: 4.7 out of 10 for 94% of factor. Target 5 out of 10 (100% of factor is funded).	Each additional \$1 million results in an additional 1.25% of this funding factor. \$776 million (100% of factor is funded).	Each additional \$1 million results in an additional 2.5% of this funding factor. \$100 million (100% of factor is funded).
Between Target and Each additional 1/10 of a point results in an additional 2% of this funding factor. Maximum 200% funding of this factor at a strategic goal Maximum score of 10 out of 10.	Each additional \$1 million results in an additional 2.8% of this funding factor. Actual Result: \$801.0 million for 170% of factor. 200% funding of this factor at \$812 million or higher.	Each additional \$1 million results in an additional 6.7% of this funding factor. Actual Result: \$101.6 million for 111% of factor. 200% funding of this factor at \$115 million or higher.

(1) Regardless of achievement of any of the Strategic Objectives, no funding on this portion of the MIP would occur unless a revenue test (\$500 million) is met. Revenues for 2017 were \$801.0 million so this revenue test was met.

(2) OIBDA is a non-GAAP figure which has been the primary measure of profitability used by the Company. It consists of operating income before depreciation and amortization (excluding feature film and television production asset amortization and impairments, as well as the amortization of costs related to content delivery and technology assets utilized for WWE Network). See our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 for a reconciliation of OIBDA to operating income.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

The determination of the Strategic Objectives score for the foregoing purposes is set forth in the following table. Though these objectives are not calculable on a purely mathematical basis, they are scored by the Compensation Committee based on certain measures of success. The Compensation Committee closely reviews and discusses performance relative to this scorecard on a quarterly basis.

Strategic Objectives	Indicative Benchmarks
Grow WWE Network (30%)	Average hours consumed per subscriber.
Drive International Growth (30%)	Number of markets with localized content; social media metrics.
Brand Strength (20%)	Certain television ratings, social media metrics and sponsorships.
Innovation (20%)	Revenue from new product initiatives; hours of new content produced/acquired.
Management Overall Score	4.7 (94% of factor funding).

The following table compares MIP funding for 2017 with that of the prior two years:

Calendar Year	Strategic Goal Score(1)	OIBDA Target	Revenue Target	Aggregate Funding of Incentive Pool
2015	7.2	\$46.0 million	\$592 million	164%
2016	7.9	\$80.0 million	\$705 million	131%
2017	4.7	\$100.0 million	\$776 million	120%

(1) Includes achievement of minimum revenue target.

Once funding is established based on achievement of the performance and strategic factors described above, a participant is entitled to participate if his or her individual performance rating for the year is at or above a threshold. The aggregate amount of funding does not increase based upon individual payouts, with the result that the aggregate payout to all participants must be less than or equal to the established funding. Actual payouts are based on an individual's target, which is a percentage of his or her salary at the end of 2017 (this percentage is established based on the executive's title/position) multiplied by the MIP funding percentage for the Company as a whole with a possible multiplier for exceptional performance, in each case subject to the exercise of negative discretion by the Compensation Committee. The use of negative discretion to one executive will not necessarily result in an increased bonus to another executive. The overall MIP funding for the Company, and the overall payment to any individual, will not exceed 200% of target. In addition to the 200% of target cap, maximum payments under the MIP are capped at \$5 million to any named executive officer. The Committee also retains discretion to pay amounts outside of the plan but has rarely exercised this discretion in the past and did not do so in respect of 2017.

Performance Stock Units ("PSUs") Our compensation program includes a longer-term component consisting of stock unit grants. Consistent with past practice, our normal annual grant of stock units in 2017 had a performance requirement under the 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan which reinforces our pay for performance philosophy. There is also a service-based vesting requirement which extends beyond the performance period. The performance targets for our PSUs mirror those set for the MIP described above. For the 2017 grants if at least one of the three threshold performance criteria - strategic score goal coupled with a minimum net revenue test, total revenues or OIBDA - were satisfied at the threshold level or above, the PSUs would begin to accrue dividends and vest in three equal annual installments, with the first vesting occurring on or about July 20, 2018. The PSUs have a sliding scale of 10% of the target units for a single performance test met at threshold up to a maximum cap of 200% of target if all three performance criteria are achieved at the

maximum level. We believe this cap mitigates the potential risk that accompanies performance-based equity compensation. As referenced above under the description of our MIP, management achieved a level of 120% of overall target and this is the percentage of PSUs that were earned, subject to continued service vesting.

We expect to continue to make annual grants of PSUs for our senior executives. The Committee closely monitors share usage through the approval of an annual share budget or “pool” that management may use. From this pool, management proposes individual grants at a separate meeting of the Compensation Committee and these individual grants are reviewed and approved by the Committee. The awards (assuming we meet performance criteria) are subject to service vesting, generally in equal annual installments over three years in July beginning the year after the year in which the grant was made (and performance measures met). We do not plan grants or vesting dates of stock units around material news releases in order to provide any special benefits to our employees.

We believe that equity compensation for executive officers is different from salary and short-term cash incentives in that, due to its performance and time-vesting requirements, stock units serve both a retention and incentive purpose. Equity compensation (particularly where it has both performance and time-vesting requirements) aligns interests of management with stockholders. We also hope that stock units, together with our 401(k) Plan, will be utilized by employees for retirement planning, as we do not provide a defined benefits retirement plan.

The following table shows the aggregate number of stock units granted to all eligible employees (executive officers and all others) as part of our normal annual grant for the past several years. The table also shows the actual number of stock units earned based on performance achieved for each relevant performance period. The table does not include grants for new hires/promotions:

Calendar Year	Aggregate target stock units in Annual Grant (unadjusted)	Aggregate target stock units in Annual Grant (adjusted to reflect forfeitures)	Aggregate actual stock units earned in respect of such year
2015	1,210,606	1,157,056	1,783,400
2016	1,155,447	1,089,159	1,371,821
2017	843,619	778,460	880,246

Other Compensation Matters

Employment and Other Agreements. We have an amended and restated employment agreement with our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Vincent K. McMahon, under which we pay him an annual salary of \$1,400,000 in respect of 2018 and he is entitled to participate in our Management Incentive Plan with a target bonus of 100% of base salary. See “Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.”

While we generally attempt to avoid entering into employment agreements with our other executives, we have individual severance arrangements with many of our executive officers including our named executive officers, which provide for a specified period of severance in the event of an involuntary termination of employment without cause. The Company also has a severance plan for all eligible employees (generally full-time employees and part-time employees who regularly work in excess of 30-hour weeks and, in either case, have at least one year of employment with the Company) which provides for severance in the case of involuntary termination of employment without cause, ranging, depending on length of service, from a minimum of four weeks to a maximum of one year. The employee is also entitled to a prorated bonus for the year of termination (assuming the Company meets its performance tests), at rates to be determined, if

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

his or her termination occurs after July 1 of the year. Employee health insurance is also provided during the severance period. The Company believes that these severance arrangements are important for the Company to attract and retain high caliber employees.

Since he joined the Company as a performer in 1995, Mr. Levesque has been party to a booking agreement with the Company under which he is one of our top talent.

Stock Ownership Guidelines & Holding Requirements. We believe that it is in the best interests of our stockholders for management and directors to own a significant amount of our Common Stock. We have stock ownership guidelines for our Directors and our executive officers with a title of Executive Vice President or higher. Under the guidelines, the individual must attain the following multiple of base salary (or annual cash retainer, in the case of Directors):

Title	Multiple
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	6x
Director	5x
EVP	2x

Valuations of ownership are made at the beginning of each year based on the average of the prior calendar year's month-end closing stock prices. Until the required multiple of ownership is attained, 50% of the after-tax shares received upon the vesting of performance and restricted stock units must be held by the individual. Once the respective multiple is attained, so long as none of the shares required for such attainment are disposed, the obligation remains met despite any subsequent decline in stock price.

Anti-Hedging Policy: Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), the SEC is required to promulgate disclosure rules relating to hedging practices in Company securities granted as compensation by insiders. The Company does not believe that hedging to reduce investment risk of owning Company securities is an issue among its directors or executive officers, and to the Company's knowledge, none of its directors or named executive officers has engaged in such hedging or pledging of his or her Company securities. As a result, the Company has decided to await the adoption of these rules by the SEC prior to formulating an anti-hedging policy.

Clawbacks. The Company has not been faced with the situation of, and has no formal policies governing what would happen in the event of, a restatement or adjustment of financial statements on which prior bonuses or stock performance decisions have been made. However, the NYSE is expected to revise its listing standards in accordance with the Dodd-Frank Act to require listed issuers to adopt and disclose clawback policies. Under such policies, an accounting restatement due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirements under the securities laws would trigger a clawback. The Company will be required to recover any erroneously awarded compensation payments that would not have been made had the restated accounting numbers been used. Payments made to current or former executive officers during the three-year period preceding the date of a restatement will be subject to this policy. Our existing incentive compensation plans will be reviewed and updated for consistency with the final clawback rules when they are adopted by the SEC.

Tax Considerations. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code historically disallowed a tax deduction to publicly held corporations for annual compensation over \$1 million paid to certain executives of that corporation unless it was paid based on the attainment of pre-established, objective performance goals established under a stockholder-approved plan. The Compensation Committee has used, where practical, compensation policies and programs intended to preserve the tax deductibility of executive compensation; however, the recent Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminated this performance exception beginning in 2018.

Tally Sheets. Tally sheets are provided to the Compensation Committee annually to supplement its review of aggregate compensation for each executive officer in connection with setting salary, granting performance-based incentive compensation and longer-term equity incentive compensation for the year. Total compensation is reviewed from time to time vis-à-vis broad-based published market data to determine whether the compensation paid to our executives is generally competitive relative to the market. It should be noted that this market data is not obtained from a specified peer group but rather is a combination of both general industry and industry-specific (media) information. It is not the same as either of the groups used for comparison in the Cumulative Total Return Chart included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. Given the challenges associated with benchmarking our compensation against direct competitors, we do not attempt to maintain an established target percentile compensation level within a designated peer group.

Management's Role in the Compensation-Setting Process. The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and the Human Resources Department annually review the performance of each officer shortly after the financial results for a fiscal year are known. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from this review, including proposed salary, bonuses and equity-based grants, to Executives are presented to the Compensation Committee for its final approval.

Role of Compensation Consultant and Use of Market Data. During 2017, the Committee consulted with the Compensation Consultant who is paid by the Company and has access to management, but is hired by and reports directly to the Compensation Committee. To date, design aspects of compensation have been proposed by management, with the Compensation Consultant advising on the appropriateness of the design and market competitive levels of compensation. The Compensation Committee, however, does not specify limits either on the scope of the Compensation Consultant's inquiry or on areas on which the Compensation Consultant is allowed to comment, other than to prohibit the Compensation Consultant from undertaking work on behalf of management without the Committee's consent. The Compensation Consultant has never provided consulting services to the Company other than for executive and Director compensation. The Committee annually reviews the Compensation Consultant's independence (most recently in February 2018) and has affirmatively determined that no conflicts of interest exist.

2017 Say-on-Pay Advisory Vote Outcome. The Compensation Committee considered the results of the 2017 advisory, non-binding vote to approve executive compensation in connection with the discharge of its responsibilities. In excess of 99% of the vote of our shareholders in 2017 was in favor of the compensation of our named executive officers, a result we feel affirms our pay practices, and as a result, no changes were made.

Conclusion

The Compensation Committee of the Board understands its responsibility for evaluating and approving the Company's compensation programs, including reviewing and approving the Company's compensation philosophy as well as corporate goals and objectives relative to incentive compensation, evaluating performance in light of those goals and determining compensation levels based on this evaluation. Management and, in particular, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and Human Resources Department, are instrumental in developing recommendations relating to the compensation program, subject to final approval by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee is assisted in this regard by its independent Compensation Consultant.

We believe that we have an appropriate mix of compensation components along with competitive compensation levels that incentivize management and serve our attraction, retention and motivation goals while remaining fiscally prudent and not encouraging excessive risks. Going forward, while we may adjust certain aspects of the compensation program, we believe that it is fundamentally sound and abides by a strong pay for performance philosophy

Compensation Committee Report

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in any of our previous filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act that might incorporate future filings, in whole or in part, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the Company's currently effective Registration Statements on Form S-8, the following Report, and the Audit Committee Report set forth under Proposal 2—Ratification of Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, shall not be incorporated by reference into any such filings.

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, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation Committee

Frank A. Riddick, III, Chair

Laureen Ong

Jeffrey R. Speed

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth certain information about the compensation of our Principal Executive Officer, our Principal Financial Officer and our three next most highly compensated executive officers who were serving as executive officers at December 31, 2017. As stated above, these individuals are our “named executive officers.”

Name and Principal Position (a)	Year (b)	Salary (\$)(c)	Bonus (\$)(d)	Stock Awards (\$)(e)	Non-Equity	All Other	Total (\$)(j)
					Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(g)	Compensation (\$)(i)(1)	
Vincent K. McMahon Chairman & Chief Executive Officer	2017	1,388,462	0	0	1,680,000	19,075	3,087,537
	2016	1,313,462	0	0	1,739,063	19,075	3,071,600
	2015	1,239,923	0	0	2,050,000	19,075	3,308,998
George A. Barrios Co-President (Principal Financial Officer)	2017	780,570	0	683,940(2)	470,106	9,192	1,943,808
	2016	758,800	0	3,009,579	523,037	19,640	4,311,056
	2015	723,692	0	3,099,994	662,000	9,192	4,494,878
Michelle D. Wilson Co-President	2017	788,076	0	690,742(2)	474,627	9,192	1,962,637
	2016	766,096	0	3,014,478	527,851	9,192	4,317,617
	2015	729,615	0	3,099,994	669,000	9,192	4,507,801
Paul Levesque EVP, Talent, Live Events & Creative	2017	643,288	0	696,788(2)	390,000	1,493,640(3)	3,223,716
	2016	601,933	0	499,992	419,531	2,471,961(3)	3,993,417
	2015	573,269	0	299,995	526,000	1,713,360(3)	3,112,624
Kevin Dunn Executive Producer	2017	909,560	0	840,801(2)	545,736	10,272	2,306,369
	2016	902,897	0	3,106,366	618,117	10,272	4,637,652
	2015	859,904	0	3,099,994	788,000	10,272	4,758,170

- (1) Consists of matching contributions under our 401(k) plan and certain life insurance payments.
- (2) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of awards of performance stock units pursuant to our 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan consistent with the estimate of aggregate compensation cost to be recognized over the service period determined as of the grant date under FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures. For these purposes, performance stock units are assumed to have been granted in amounts that would occur if the Company had met all performance criteria at 100% of target. Assuming hypothetically that the highest level of performance conditions had been achieved, the number of performance stock units would have been 200% of the numbers included in the table which for 2017 would result in maximum grant date values of \$1,367,880 for Mr. Barrios; \$1,381,484 for Ms. Wilson; \$1,393,576 for Mr. Levesque; and \$1,681,602 for Mr. Dunn. For disclosure on assumptions made in the valuation of these awards, see “Note 17 – Stock-based Compensation” to our Consolidated Financial Statements. For 2017, the Company achieved 94% of its Strategic Objectives factor, 112% of its OIBDA funding factor and 170% of its Revenue funding factor. Accordingly, 120% of the target performance stock units were earned, subject to vesting in three annual installments beginning July 2018. To the named executive officers, this totaled as follows: for Mr. Barrios 42,349 shares; for Ms. Wilson 42,770 shares; for Mr. Levesque 43,145 shares; and for Mr. Dunn 52,062 shares.
- (3) Consists principally of performance fees and royalties paid to Mr. Levesque as one of the Company’s top talent. See “Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table – Employment and Booking Agreements.”

Grants of Plan-Based Awards for 2017

Name (a)	Grant Date (b)	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Estimated Possible Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2)			Fair Value of Stock Awards(3) (\$)(l)
		Threshold \$(c)	Target \$(d)	Maximum \$(e)	Threshold #(f)	Maximum		
						Target #(g)	Maximum #(h)	
Vincent K. McMahon	2/10/17	140,000	1,400,000	2,800,000	0	0	0	0
George A. Barrios	2/10/17	39,176	391,755	783,510	3,529	35,291	70,582	683,940
Michelle D. Wilson	2/10/17	39,552	395,522	791,044	3,564	35,642	71,284	690,742
Paul Levesque	2/10/17	32,500	325,000	650,000	3,595	35,954	71,908	696,788
Kevin Dunn	2/10/17	45,478	454,780	909,560	4,338	43,385	86,770	840,801

- (1) The amounts shown in column (c) reflect the generally applicable minimum payment level under the Company's 2017 management incentive plan administered under the 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan which is 50% of 20% (which equals 10%) of the target amount shown in column (d). This assumes the threshold of the revenue test is met and the other two performance measures are below thresholds. Actual minimums could be lower due to a restricted bonus pool available to the Company as a whole or due to the exercise of negative discretion. The amount shown in column (e) is 200% of the individual's target, which was the maximum payment under the bonus plan.
- (2) The amounts shown in column (f) reflect the number of performance stock units that would be earned (subject to vesting) if the Company had met the threshold level of the revenue test and, in each case, performed below its minimum for the other two performance measures in 2017 which would result in a minimum performance level equal to 50% of 20% (which equals 10%) of the target number of stock units shown in column (g). If the Company exceeds these thresholds, there is an increase to 100% of the target stock units at 100% attainment of all three funding factor targets, which is reflected in column (g). Above those targets, the stock units increase up to a maximum possible grant under the plan of 200% of target stock units. This maximum number is shown in column (h). For 2017, the Company achieved 94% of its Strategic Objectives factor, 112% of its OIBDA funding factor and 170% of its Revenue funding factor. Accordingly, 120% of the target stock units were earned, subject to vesting in three annual installments beginning July 2018. To the named executive officers, this totaled as follows: for Mr. Barrios 42,349 shares; for Ms. Wilson 42,770 shares; for Mr. Levesque 43,145 shares; and for Mr. Dunn 52,062 shares.
- (3) Reflects the full grant date fair value under FASB ASC Topic 718 of grants of stock units and is based upon the probable outcome of such conditions on the date of grant. The amounts are consistent with the estimate of aggregate compensation cost to be recognized over the service period determined as of the grant date under FASB ASC Topic 718, excluding the effect of estimated forfeitures, and correspond with the 2017 stock award values in the Summary Compensation Table. See "Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table" for more information about our restricted and performance stock units. For additional disclosure on assumptions made in the valuation of these awards, see "Note 17 – Stock-based Compensation" to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

The Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table above provide certain information regarding compensation of our named executive officers. This narrative provides additional explanatory information regarding compensation of our named executive officers and should be read in conjunction with those tables.

Employment and Booking Agreements. Vincent K. McMahon. We have an amended and restated employment agreement with Mr. McMahon. This employment agreement currently has a term ending December 31, 2018, but automatically extends for successive one-year periods unless either party gives notice of nonextension at least 180 days prior to the expiration date. Under his employment agreement, Mr. McMahon is entitled to salary in the initial annual amount of \$1,100,000, subject to increase in the discretion of the Compensation Committee (the Compensation Committee increased Mr. McMahon's salary most recently to \$1,400,000 in respect of 2018), and is entitled to participate in the Company's incentive bonus plan with an annual target bonus of 100% of salary.

In the event we terminate Mr. McMahon's employment other than for cause (as defined in his employment agreement) or if Mr. McMahon terminates his employment for good reason (as defined) within the two-year period following a change in control (as defined), we are obligated to pay to Mr. McMahon compensation and benefits that are accrued but unpaid as of the date of termination, plus a payment equal to two times his base salary and, assuming the Company meets its minimum (threshold) performance targets for the year in which the termination occurs, two times his target bonus for that year. Payment of severance is conditioned on Mr. McMahon's release of any claims against the Company and its affiliates. Mr. McMahon will also continue his health, accident, and life insurance benefit plan participation for a two-year period following such termination, unless he obtains substantially similar coverage with a new employer. The Company does not provide Mr. McMahon a tax gross up. Under his employment agreement, if any severance pay or benefits would constitute a "parachute payment," the Company would reduce such payments to Mr. McMahon to the extent required so that they do not subject Mr. McMahon to excise taxes and such payments shall be deductible by the Company, unless the full parachute payments would result in a greater net benefit to Mr. McMahon after he pays all related excise taxes.

If Mr. McMahon dies or becomes disabled (as defined in the agreement) during the term of his agreement, or if we terminate Mr. McMahon's employment for cause or if he resigns other than for good reason following a change in control, we are obligated to pay him (or his estate, as applicable) compensation and benefits accrued but unpaid as of the date of termination. The agreement also contains confidentiality covenants and covenants that, among other things, grant to the Company intellectual property ownership in his ideas, inventions and performances and prohibit him from competing with the Company and its affiliates in professional wrestling and our other core businesses during employment and for one year after termination. The agreement allows Mr. McMahon and members of his immediate family to use the Company's aircraft for personal travel when it is not being used for business purposes. Personal use of the jet is paid for by Mr. McMahon so that no incremental cost is incurred by the Company.

Paul Levesque. Since he joined the Company as a performer in 1995, we have had a booking agreement with Mr. Levesque under which he is one of our top talent as an independent contractor. Under his current booking agreement, Mr. Levesque is entitled to a minimum guaranteed annual payment of \$1 million which the Company recoups from all payments under the agreement including pay for performing in live and televised events and royalties for merchandise sold utilizing Mr. Levesque's name and/or likeness. Mr. Levesque has out-earned this minimum guarantee in each of the past several years. The agreement currently runs until March 30, 2019, and thereafter extends for successive one-year periods unless either party gives notice of nonextension at least 90 days prior to the expiration date.

Other Agreements and Programs. While we generally attempt to avoid entering into employment agreements with our other executives, we have severance arrangements with many of our executive officers including our named executive officers, which provide for a specified period of severance (and, in certain instances, the vesting of equity beyond what is required by our severance plan) in the event of an involuntary termination of employment without cause. The Company also has a severance plan for all eligible employees (generally full-time employees and part-time employees who regularly work in excess of 30-hour weeks and, in either case, have at least one year of employment with the Company) which provides for severance in the case of involuntary termination of employment without cause, ranging, depending on length of service, from a minimum of four weeks to a maximum of one year. The employee is also entitled to a prorated bonus for the year of termination, at rates to be determined (based on actual Company performance), if his or her termination occurs after July 1 of the year. Employee health insurance is also provided during the severance period. This policy covers any executive officers who do not have individual severance agreements. The Company believes that these severance provisions are necessary for the Company to attract and retain high caliber employees.

Performance Stock Units. Under the terms of our stock units, dividends accrue after the performance test has been met at the same rate as are paid on our shares of Class A common stock. This ensures that, to the extent shares are not earned due to a performance shortfall, no dividends will be paid on the stock units. Dividend accruals vest at the same time as the vesting of the stock units on which they accrue. Under their standard terms, stock units generally vest over three years (assuming that the performance test has been met). The units have a double trigger accelerated vesting provision so that in the event of a change of control, if the employee is terminated without cause or terminates his or her employment as a result of a decrease in base salary, a change in responsibility or reporting structure or a change in employment location of more than 25 miles, such vesting is accelerated.

Management Incentive Plan. Our management incentive plan is administered under the 2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan and provides for incentive cash bonuses to be made annually based upon Company-wide and individual performance. The plan provides guidelines for the calculation of bonuses subject to Compensation Committee oversight and approval. For 2017, participants' bonuses were based on two components, individual performance and Company performance. The participant had to meet threshold goals for both components in order to receive any bonus under the management incentive plan. Individual performance was scored based on many factors, such as competency, creativity, leadership and communication. At the beginning of 2017, the Compensation Committee set a Company-wide performance target for Revenue, OIBDA and a series of strategic objectives relating to the Company's brand strength, growth initiatives and its business development, all as described above in the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." As an additional performance requirement, the strategic objectives funding factor was deemed met only if the Company achieved net revenues in excess of \$500 million for the year. Bonuses paid under the management incentive plan to named executive officers are included in the Summary Compensation Table.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017

Name(a)	Stock Awards(1)	
	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)(g)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested \$(h)(2)
Vincent K. McMahon	0	0
George A. Barrios	399,770	12,224,967
Michelle D. Wilson	400,448	12,245,700
Paul Levesque	81,316	2,486,643
Kevin Dunn	414,556	12,677,122

(1) Includes dividends that have accrued (at a non-preferential rate) as additional stock units but were not vested at December 31, 2017. Performance stock units vest in installments on or about July 20 of 2018, 2019 and 2020. Includes shares underlying the 2017 annual grant of performance share units earned in 2017 at 120% of target.

(2) These amounts are calculated by multiplying the closing price of the Company's Common Stock of \$30.58 on December 29, 2017, the last trading day in 2017, by the number of unvested stock units on that day.

Stock Vested during 2017

Name (a)	Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)(d)(1)	Value Realized on Vesting \$(e)(2)
Vincent K. McMahon	0	0
George A. Barrios	173,936	3,703,097
Michelle D. Wilson	174,062	3,705,780
Paul Levesque	29,414	626,224
Kevin Dunn	176,447	3,756,557

(1) The number of shares acquired on vesting reflects the gross number of shares that vested, including shares withheld by the Company to cover the withholding tax payable upon such vesting.

(2) The amounts are calculated by multiplying the number of shares vested by \$21.29, the closing price on July 20, 2017, which was the vesting date for these shares.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control

Certain agreements with our named executive officers provide for severance and/or accelerated vesting of equity in the event of an involuntary termination without cause or a termination following a change in control. The Company also has a severance plan for all eligible employees (generally full-time employees and part-time employees who regularly work in excess of 30-hour weeks and, in either case, have at least one year of employment with the Company) which provides for severance in the case of involuntary termination of employment without cause, ranging, depending on title and length of service, from a minimum of four weeks to a maximum of one year. The employee is also entitled to a prorated bonus for the year of termination, at rates to be determined (based on actual Company performance), if his or her termination occurs after July 1 of the year. Employee health insurance is also provided during the severance period. In addition, under

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

the standard terms of our PSUs, in the event that, within 24 months after a change of control, as defined in the agreement, (x) terminates his or her employment as a result of a decrease in base salary, a change in responsibility or reporting structure or a change in employment location of more than 25 miles (“Constructive Termination”); or (y) such person is terminated without cause, such stock units and accrued dividend units will vest at the target level. Under certain Performance Agreements, if Mr. Barrios, Ms. Wilson, or Mr. Dunn is terminated without cause, as defined in his or her Performance Agreement, for any PSUs granted thereunder that have met their performance tests before the termination, the shares that would otherwise vest at the next vesting date will vest, and all other PSUs and related dividend units under the Performance Agreement will be forfeited. The following is a quantification of such provisions, assuming hypothetically that the triggering event took place on the last business day of 2017 with the closing price per share of the Company’s Common Stock on that date of \$30.58.

Name	Executive Benefit and Payments Upon Separation	Involuntary Not For Cause Termination (\$)	Constructive Termination Following Change in Control (\$)	
Vincent K. McMahon	Compensation:			
	Salary	2,800,000(1)	2,800,000(1)	
	Bonus	2,800,000(1)(2)	2,800,000(1)(2)	
	Long-Term Incentive Compensation:			
	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Units	0	0	
	Continuation of health, accident and life insurance	22,370(3)	22,370(3)	
	Total:	5,622,370	5,622,370	
	George A. Barrios	Compensation:		
		Salary	783,510(4)	0
		Bonus	391,755(2)	0
Long-Term Incentive Compensation:				
Accelerated Vesting of Stock Units		6,376,415	2,115,878	
Continuation of health, accident and life insurance		28,760(3)	0	
Total:		7,580,440	2,115,878	

Name	Executive Benefit and Payments Upon Separation	Involuntary Not For Cause Termination (\$)	Constructive Termination Following Change in Control (\$)
Michelle D. Wilson	Compensation:		
	Salary	593,283(4)	0
	Bonus	395,522(2)	0
	Long-Term Incentive Compensation:		
	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Units	6,376,415	2,132,485
	Continuation of health, accident and life insurance	22,382 (3)	0
	Total:	7,387,602	2,132,485
Paul Levesque	Compensation:		
	Salary	366,164(4)	0
	Bonus	183,082(2)	0
	Long-Term Incentive Compensation:		
	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Units	0	1,911,704
	Continuation of health, accident and life insurance	28,760 (3)	0
	Total:	578,006	1,911,704
Kevin Dunn	Compensation:		
	Salary	909,560(4)	0
	Bonus	454,780(2)	0
	Long-Term Incentive Compensation:		
	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Units	6,376,415	2,479,392
	Continuation of health, accident and life insurance	28,760 (3)	0
	Total:	7,769,515	2,479,392

-
- (1) Includes voluntary resignation for good reason. Under his employment agreement, Mr. McMahon is required to maintain the confidentiality of Company information indefinitely after his termination and has a one-year non-compete covenant.
- (2) The Company met its minimum (threshold) performance goals under our MIP for 2017. Otherwise, this number would have been \$0.
- (3) Estimate based on current rates and premiums for the Company under the Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act ("COBRA").
- (4) Payable over severance period.

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2017.

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
<u>2012 Employee Stock Purchase Plan</u>	0	N/A	1,585,604
<u>2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan</u>			
Performance and Restricted stock units	731,600	N/A	0
<u>2016 Omnibus Incentive Plan</u>			
Performance and Restricted stock units	1,800,123(1)	N/A	3,590,148(1)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	2,531,723(1)		5,175,752(1)

(1) For 2017, calculated using target numbers. Information relating to aggregate units earned in respect of 2017 is found in "Executive Compensation – Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Performance Stock Units ("PSUs")."

Director Compensation for 2017

For 2017, we paid our non-employee Directors a retainer at an annual rate of \$100,000, payable in equal quarterly installments in arrears. In addition, we paid our Audit and Compensation Committee Chairs an annual fee of \$15,000, and our Governance & Nominating Committee Chair an annual fee of \$10,000, in each case in equal quarterly installments in arrears. Non-employee Directors also received a fee of \$1,500 for each Board and Committee meeting that they attended in person or by telephone. \$42,500 of a Director's annual retainer, together with all meeting and Committee Chair fees, were paid in cash and the remainder in unrestricted shares of our Class A common stock. All Directors received reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with participation in our Board and Committee meetings. Management Directors do not receive additional compensation for their services as a Director. The Company has Indemnification Agreements with its outside directors which, together with our Charter and By-laws, provide for indemnification to the fullest extent allowed by applicable law.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

The following table sets forth the components of total compensation earned during 2017 by our non-employee Directors.

Name (a)	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash(b)	Stock Awards (\$)(c)(1)	Total (\$)(h)
Stuart U. Goldfarb	71,042	57,500	128,542
Patricia A. Gottesman	66,042	57,500	123,542
Laureen Ong	59,042	57,500	116,542
Joseph H. Perkins(2)	17,500	17,500	35,000
Robyn W. Peterson	57,542	57,500	115,042
Frank A. Riddick, III	87,542	57,500	145,042
Jeffrey R. Speed	87,542	57,500	145,042

(1) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value under FASB ASC Topic 718 (calculated at the average closing price for the last 30 trading days of the calendar quarter for which grants are made). See “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” for a description of the number of shares of our Class A common stock owned by each of our Directors.

(2) Mr. Perkins left our Board effective with our annual meeting which was held on April 20, 2017.

Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions

Stephanie McMahon is the daughter of Vincent McMahon, and Paul Levesque is her husband. Both Stephanie McMahon and Paul Levesque are executive officers and directors of the Company and are nominated for election to the Board of Directors at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Each is a performer for the Company. These executives receive compensation in their capacities as employees and as independent contractor performers for the Company including participating in talent royalties for certain Company products bearing his or her name and/or likeness. Each has a booking contract with the Company. Ms. McMahon’s total compensation in 2017 in all these capacities was approximately \$2.2 million. Mr. Levesque’s compensation is detailed in the Summary Compensation Table. While, under its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving related party transactions, which the Company defines as those required to be disclosed by applicable SEC regulations, the Audit Committee does not review the retention of Stephanie McMahon or Paul Levesque each year, nor does it approve their levels of compensation. Instead, as to levels of their compensation as employees, the Audit Committee relies on the approval procedures of the Compensation Committee. Their pay as performers, as well as that of Shane B. McMahon as noted below, is negotiated by the Company’s Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, the Company’s Talent Relations Department and/or the Company’s film studio, as applicable. The Audit Committee believes this oversight to be consistent with relevant industry expertise and good business practice. While no written policies exist, the Audit Committee believes it would apply a standard of reasonable business practices to any other related party transactions.

Shane B. McMahon is the son of Vincent McMahon, brother of Stephanie McMahon and brother-in-law of Paul Levesque. In 2017, Shane McMahon returned as a performer for the Company for which he received performance fees and royalties aggregating approximately \$1.3 million.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our Directors, executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock to file reports of their ownership and changes in ownership of our common stock with the SEC. Based on information available to us during 2017, we believe that all Section 16(a) filings were made timely.

CEO Pay Ratio

As required by applicable SEC rules, we are providing the following information about the relationship between the annual total compensation of our employees and the annual total compensation of Vincent K. McMahon, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

For 2017, the total compensation of our median employee was \$107,556, and, as reported in the Summary Compensation Table above, Mr. McMahon's total compensation was \$3,087,537.

For 2017, the ratio of the annual total compensation of our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer to the annual total compensation of our median employee was 28.7 to 1 (our "CEO Pay Ratio")

We took the following steps to identify and quantify the annual total compensation of our median employee and our CEO.

1. We determined that, as of December 31, 2017, our employee population consisted of approximately 840 individuals. This population consisted of our full-time, part-time and temporary employees employed with us as of the determination date.
2. To identify the "median employee" from our employee population, we used total W-2 compensation for U.S. employees and comparable compensation for international employees. We did not use any statistical sampling techniques and did not make any cost of living adjustments identifying our median employee.
3. For the annual total compensation of our median employee, we identified and calculated the elements of that employee's compensation for 2017 in accordance with the requirements of Item 402(c)(2)(x).

Our reported CEO Pay Ratio is a reasonable estimate calculated in a manner consistent with SEC rules for identifying the median employee and determining the ratio. These rules permit companies to employ a wide range of methodologies, estimates and assumptions. CEO pay ratios reported by other companies, which may have used other permitted methodologies or assumptions, and which may have a significantly different work force structure from ours, are likely not comparable to our CEO Pay Ratio.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information known to us with respect to beneficial ownership of our Common Stock as of March 1, 2018 by (1) each stockholder known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of either Class A common stock or Class B common stock; (2) each of the Directors and named executive officers; and (3) the Directors and executive officers as a group. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each stockholder listed in the table below is 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902.

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	% of Class
Class B(1)	Vincent K. McMahon	32,193,375(2)	93.0
Class B(1)	Linda E. McMahon	566,770(3)	1.6
Class B(1)	Stephanie McMahon	1,933,746(4)	5.4
Class A	Lindsell Train Limited(5) 66 Buckingham Gate London SW1E 6AU UK	7,132,868	16.8
Class A	BlackRock, Inc.(6) 55 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10055	4,889,363	11.5
Class A	The Vanguard Group(7) 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355	3,501,660	8.2
Class A	George A. Barrios	337,894	*
Class A	Michelle D. Wilson	82,016	*
Class A	Paul Levesque	83,172(8)	*
Class A	Kevin Dunn	0	*
Class A	Stuart U. Goldfarb	21,516	*
Class A	Patricia A. Gottesman	22,485	*
Class A	Laureen Ong	9,868	*
Class A	Robyn W. Peterson	7,764	*
Class A	Frank A. Riddick, III	33,846	*
Class A	Jeffrey R. Speed	30,721	*
Class A and Class B(9)	All Executive Officers and Directors as a (Group (16 Persons))	34,761,565	45.1

* Less than one percent.

- (1) Class B common stock is fully convertible into Class A common stock, on a one-for-one basis, at any time at the election of the holder. The two classes are entitled to equal per share dividends and distributions and vote together as a class with each share of Class B entitled to ten votes and each share of Class A entitled to one vote, except when separate class voting is required by applicable law. If any shares of Class B common stock are beneficially owned by any person other than Vincent McMahon or his wife, Linda McMahon, any descendant of either of them, any entity which is wholly owned and is controlled by any combination of such persons or any trust, all the beneficiaries of which are any combination of such persons, each of those shares will automatically convert into shares of Class A common stock.
- (2) Excludes 566,670 shares of Class B common stock and 100 Shares of Class A common stock owned by Mr. McMahon's wife, Linda McMahon.
- (3) Includes 100 shares of Class A held directly by Mrs. McMahon.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

- (4) Includes (i) 84,353 shares of Class A common stock held by Ms. McMahon; and (ii) 1,849,393 shares of Class B common stock held by the Stephanie McMahon Levesque Trust u/a Vincent K. McMahon Irrev. Trust dtd. 12/23/2008 (the "2008 Trust"). Ms. McMahon is a beneficiary of the 2008 Trust. She has sole investment power over the shares held by the 2008 Trust. Excludes shares held by Paul Levesque, Ms. McMahon's husband.
- (5) The amount shown is from an Amendment No. 4 to Schedule 13G, filed February 13, 2018. Lindsell Train Ltd, ("Lindsell") is an investment adviser with shared power to vote and dispose all of these shares. Messrs. Michael James Lindsell and Nicholas John Train each owns a significant membership interest in Lindsell and therefore may be deemed to control shares held in managed accounts by Lindsell. Each of the reporting persons disclaims beneficial ownership in such shares except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (6) The amount shown is from an Amendment No. 3 to Schedule 13G, filed January 19, 2018. BlackRock, Inc. is a parent holding company with sole power to vote 4,824,656 of the shares and sole power to dispose of all of the shares.
- (7) The amount shown is from an Amendment No. 3 to Schedule 13G, filed February 9, 2018. The Vanguard Group is an investment adviser with sole dispositive power over 3,426,848 shares, shared dispositive power over 74,812 shares, sole voting power over 76,512 shares, and shared voting over 1,800 shares.
- (8) Excludes shares held by Stephanie McMahon, Mr. Levesque's wife.
- (9) Assumes hypothetically that all shares of Class B common stock have been converted into Class A common stock.

PROPOSAL 2 — RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors has recommended that the stockholders ratify the Audit Committee’s appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP (“Deloitte”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2018. Deloitte has audited our consolidated financial statements since 1999. In recommending to the Board of Directors the reappointment of Deloitte, the Audit Committee took into consideration a number of factors including the length of time Deloitte has been engaged, the quality of the Audit Committee’s discussions with representatives of Deloitte, reports of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) on Deloitte, Deloitte’s fees and the performance of the lead audit and consulting partners. Under SEC rules and Deloitte’s practice, the lead engagement audit partner, as well as consulting partner, are each required to change every five years, and a new lead audit partner has been appointed beginning 2017. The consulting partner will change in 2018. The Committee interviewed and approved the incoming audit partner, and will do so for the consulting partner as well. Although ratification of this selection is not legally required, the Board of Directors believes that it is appropriate for the stockholders to ratify such action as a matter of good corporate governance. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Deloitte, the Audit Committee will reconsider their appointment as our independent registered public accounting firm. We expect that a representative of Deloitte will be present at the Annual Meeting, will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she wishes and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Independent Auditors Fees

The following table presents fees for professional audit services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP, the member firms of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and their respective affiliates (collectively, “Deloitte & Touche”) for the audit of our financial statements for calendar years 2016 and 2017, and fees for other services rendered by Deloitte & Touche during those periods.

	2016	2017
Audit Fees (a)	\$ 1,385,079	\$ 1,358,141
Audit-Related Fees (b)	0	0
Tax Fees (c)	0	0
All Other Fees (d)	0	0
Total	\$ 1,385,079	\$ 1,358,141

(a) “Audit Fees” were for the audit of the Company’s annual financial statements (and a stand-alone audit of one of WWE’s subsidiaries required for an existing financing in 2016), reviews of the Company’s quarterly financial statements and other services related to SEC matters including attestation of management’s assessment of internal control over financial reporting as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(b) No “Audit-Related Fees” were paid to Deloitte & Touche during 2016 or 2017.

(c) No fees were incurred for tax compliance, tax advice or tax planning during 2016 or 2017.

(d) No other services were rendered by Deloitte & Touche during 2016 or 2017.

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures for pre-approving all non-audit work performed by Deloitte & Touche. In general, the provision of such services must be compatible with the maintenance of that firm's independence in the conduct of its auditing functions. The Audit Committee annually reviews and pre-approves services on a list of generally pre-approved services, subject to projected dollar fees, and the Committee is updated from time to time at regularly scheduled meetings as to the actual fees vis-à-vis these projections. All of the services provided by Deloitte & Touche in the table above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee and the Committee has concluded that the provisions of these services at these costs is compatible with the maintenance of Deloitte's independence. If additional services are identified throughout the year, they are taken to the Audit Committee's Chair for pre-approval. The Audit Committee Chair is designated to pre-approve them, reporting such pre-approval to the entire Audit Committee at its next meeting, unless such services have projected fees in excess of \$25,000, in which case they are to be pre-approved by the entire Audit Committee.

Audit Committee Report

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board in monitoring the integrity of our financial statements, our independent auditor's qualifications and independence, the performance of our independent auditors and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Board, in its business judgment, has determined that all members of the Committee are "independent," as required by applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and applicable regulations of the SEC. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a charter, a copy of which is available on the Company's corporate website (corporate. wwe.com). For a description of this charter and the Audit Committee's responsibilities under it, please also refer to "Proposal 1 – Election of Directors – The Board and Committees."

Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements, accounting and financial reporting principles and internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. The independent auditors were responsible for performing an independent audit of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

In performing its oversight role, the Audit Committee has, among other things covered in its charter, reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors. The Audit Committee has also discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 1301, *Communication with Audit Committees*, and Rule 2-07, *Communication with Audit Committees*, of Regulation S-X. The Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent auditors required by applicable requirements of the Public Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee has also considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the independent auditors is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence and has discussed with the auditors their independence.

Based on the reports and discussions described in this Report, and subject to the limitations on the role and responsibilities of the Audit Committee referred to in this Report and in the charter, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

While the members of the Audit Committee meet the independence, financial experience and other qualification requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and applicable securities laws, they are not professionally engaged in the practice of auditing or accounting. Members of the Committee rely without independent verification on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and the independent auditors. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's oversight does not provide an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or appropriate internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Audit Committee's considerations, efforts and discussions referred to above do not assure that the audit of the Company's financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, that the financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or that Deloitte is in fact independent.

The Audit Committee

Jeffrey R. Speed, Chair

Stuart U. Goldfarb

Frank A. Riddick, III

37

PROPOSAL 3—ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We are asking stockholders for a non-binding vote to approve the compensation for our named executive officers. As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding upon the Company. However, the Compensation Committee, which is responsible for designing and administering the Company's executive compensation program, values the opinions expressed by stockholders and will continue to consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for named executive officers.

As required by SEC compensation disclosure rules, we have described our executive compensation program in the "Executive Compensation" section of this proxy statement (which disclosure includes the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," the compensation tables and the narrative disclosures that accompany the compensation tables).

The Company's goal for its executive compensation program is to attract, motivate and retain a talented and creative team of executives who provide leadership for the Company and drive success across our numerous competitive revenue streams. We seek to accomplish this goal of rewarding performance while remaining aligned with the Company's stockholders' long-term interests. We want to avoid rewarding inappropriate risk taking. The Company believes that its executive compensation program satisfies this goal.

Our Board of Directors strongly endorses the Company's executive compensation program and recommends that stockholders vote in favor of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which disclosure shall include the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section and the related compensation tables and narrative disclosures, is hereby APPROVED.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Stockholder proposals for inclusion in our proxy materials for our 2019 Annual Meeting must be received at the Company's principal executive offices, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902 Attention: Corporate Secretary on or before November 9, 2018. Under our By-laws, any stockholder proposal received after that date will be considered timely for purposes of the 2019 Annual Meeting only if the stockholder provides our Corporate Secretary notice of the proposal no earlier than January 21, 2019, and not later than February 18, 2019; provided that if the 2019 Annual Meeting is held on or before April 4, 2019, our Corporate Secretary must receive a stockholder's notice no later than the close of business on the fifth business day following the day on which we make a public announcement of the meeting date.

"HOUSEHOLDING" OF PROXY MATERIALS

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries such as brokers to satisfy delivery requirements for proxy materials with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single set of proxy materials addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as "householding," potentially provides extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies. The Company and some brokers household proxy materials, delivering a single proxy statement or Notice to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker or us that they or we will be householding materials to your address, householding will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding and would prefer

Edgar Filing: WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT INC - Form DEF 14A

to receive a separate set of proxy materials or if you are receiving multiple copies of the proxy materials and wish to receive only one, please notify your broker if your shares are held in a brokerage account or us if you hold registered shares. You can notify us by sending a written request to WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902, Attention: Corporate Secretary or by telephoning a request to our Corporate Secretary at (203) 352-8600.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board of Directors knows of no other matters to present at the Annual Meeting. If any other matter is properly brought before the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies will exercise their discretionary authority to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment. **A copy of the 2017 Annual Report (which includes our Form 10-K for the year) is available on the website that is accessible as provided in the Notice. A copy is being sent with this Proxy Statement to all stockholders who requested them as provided in the Notice. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 is also available on our corporate website at corporate.wwe.com. We will also mail a copy of the Form 10-K to each record and beneficial owner of our securities without charge upon written request to us at 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902; Attention: Corporate Secretary. To register for electronic delivery for future mailings, you can go to proxyvote.com.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,
Blake T. Bilstad
SVP, General Counsel & Secretary
39

VOTE BY INTERNET - www.proxyvote.com

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF FUTURE PROXY MATERIALS

**WORLD WRESTLING
ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
1241 EAST MAIN
STREET**

If you would like to reduce the costs incurred by our company in mailing proxy materials, you can consent to receiving all future proxy statements, proxy cards and annual reports electronically via e-mail or the Internet. To sign up for electronic delivery, please follow the instructions above to vote using the Internet and, when prompted, indicate that you agree to receive or access proxy materials electronically in future years.

STAMFORD, CT 06902

VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903

**ATTN: INVESTOR
RELATIONS**

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

VOTE BY MAIL

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS:

E38338-P01715 KEEP THIS PORTION
FOR YOUR RECORDS

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED.

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

For Withhold For All

To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "For All Except" and write the number(s)

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following: All All Except

of the
nominee(s)
on the line
below.

1. Election of Directors

Nominees:

- 01) Vincent K. McMahon
- 02) George A. Barrios
- 03) Michelle D. Wilson
- 04) Stephanie McMahon Levesque
- 05) Paul Levesque
- 06) Stuart U. Goldfarb
- 07) Patricia A. Gottesman
- 08) Lauren Ong
- 09) Robyn W. Peterson
- 10) Frank A. Riddick, III
- 11) Jeffrey R. Speed

For Against Abstain

- 2. Ratification of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 3. Advisory vote to approve Executive Compensation.

NOTE: Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

For address changes and/or comments, please check this box and write them on the back where indicated. Please indicate if you plan to attend this meeting.

YesNo

Please sign exactly as name appears hereon. When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such.

Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX]

Date Signature (Joint Owners) Date

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting:

The Notice and Proxy Statement and Annual Report are available at www.proxyvote.com.

E38339-P01715

PROXY/VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD

WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 19, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME

FOR HOLDERS AS OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors

By signing this card, I (we) hereby authorize GEORGE A. BARRIOS and BLAKE T. BILSTAD, or either of them, each with full power to appoint his substitute, to vote as Proxy for me (us) at WWE's Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at WWE's Headquarter, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, or any adjournment thereof, the number of shares which I (we) would be entitled to vote if personally present. The proxies shall vote subject to the directions indicated on the reverse side of this card and proxies are authorized to vote in their discretion upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.

By signing this card, I (we) instruct the proxies to vote as the Board of Directors recommends where I (we) do not specify a choice.

Address Changes/Comments:

(If you noted any Address Changes/Comments above, please mark corresponding box on the reverse side.)

Continued and to be signed on reverse side
