

SPRINT NEXTEL CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 30, 2009
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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

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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11(set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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(1) Amount previously paid:

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

(3) Filing party:

(4) Date filed:

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

MAY 12, 2009

We will hold the annual meeting of shareholders of Sprint Nextel Corporation on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Central time at The Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas 66211 (913-339-3000).

The purpose of the annual meeting is to consider and take action on the following:

1. Election of ten directors for a one-year term ending 2010;
2. Ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2009;
3. Approval of an amendment to the 1988 Employees Stock Purchase Plan to increase the authorized number of shares available for purchase;
4. Vote on two shareholder proposals, if presented at the meeting; and
5. Any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

Like last year, we are taking advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow us to furnish proxy materials to you via the Internet. Unless you have already requested to receive a printed set of proxy materials, you will receive a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Material, or Notice. The Notice contains instructions on how to access proxy materials and vote your shares via the Internet or, if you prefer, to request a printed set of proxy materials at no additional cost to you. We believe that this approach provides a convenient way for you to access your proxy materials and vote your shares, while lowering our printing and delivery costs and reducing the environmental impact associated with our annual meeting.

Shareholders of record as of March 13, 2009 can vote at the annual meeting. On or about March 31, 2009, we will mail the Notice or, for shareholders who have already requested to receive a printed set of proxy materials, this proxy statement, the accompanying proxy card and the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Please vote before the annual meeting in one of the following ways:

1. **By Internet** You can vote over the Internet at www.proxyvote.com by entering the control number found on your Notice or proxy card;
2. **By Telephone** You can vote by telephone by calling 1-800-690-6903 and entering the control number found on your Notice or proxy card; or
3. **By Mail** If you received your proxy materials by mail, you can vote by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the pre-paid enclosed envelope.

Your vote is very important. Please vote before the meeting using one of the methods above to ensure that your vote will be counted. Your proxy may be revoked at any time before the vote at the annual meeting by following the procedures outlined in the accompanying proxy statement.

By order of the Board of Directors,
James H. Hance, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Overland Park, Kansas

March 30, 2009

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Table of Contents**General Information About Proxies and Voting****Date, Time and Place**

These proxy materials are delivered in connection with the solicitation by our board of directors of proxies to be voted at our annual meeting of shareholders, which will be held at The Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas 66211 at 10:00 a.m. Central time on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. On or about March 31, 2009, we mailed to our shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting the Notice or, for shareholders who have already requested to receive printed materials, this proxy statement and the form of proxy. Our principal executive offices are located at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251.

Purpose of the Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting, shareholders will be asked to:

elect ten directors to serve for a term of one year (Item 1 on the proxy card);

ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2009 (Item 2 on the proxy card);

vote on an amendment to the 1988 Employees Stock Purchase Plan to increase the authorized number of shares available for purchase (Item 3 on the proxy card);

vote on a shareholder proposal concerning special shareholder meetings, if presented at the meeting (Item 4 on the proxy card);

vote on a shareholder proposal concerning political contributions, if presented at the meeting (Item 5 on the proxy card); and

take action on any other business that properly comes before the meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the meeting.

Record Date; Shareholders Entitled to Vote

The close of business on March 13, 2009 has been fixed as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the 2009 annual meeting or any adjournments or postponements of the 2009 annual meeting.

As of the record date, the following shares were outstanding and entitled to vote:

Designation	Outstanding	Votes per Share
Series 1 common stock	2,790,132,789	1.0000
Series 2 common stock	74,831,333	0.1000

The relative voting power of our different series of voting stock is set forth in our articles of incorporation.

A complete list of shareholders entitled to vote at the 2009 annual meeting will be available for examination by any shareholder at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251, for purposes pertaining to the 2009 annual meeting, during normal business hours for a period of ten days before the annual meeting, and at the time and place of the annual meeting.

Quorum

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In order to carry on the business of the meeting, we must have a quorum. A quorum requires the presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the meeting. We count

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abstentions and broker non-votes as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a shareholder fails to provide voting instructions to his or her broker for shares held in street name. Under those circumstances, a shareholder's broker may be authorized to vote for the shareholder on some routine items, but is prohibited from voting on other items. Those items for which a shareholder's broker cannot vote result in broker non-votes.

Votes Required

Required Vote to Elect the Directors (Proposal 1; Item 1 on the Proxy Card)

Each of the ten nominees for director will be elected as a director if the votes cast for each such nominee exceed the number of votes against that nominee, assuming that there is a quorum represented at the annual meeting. A summary of our majority voting standard appears on page 24 under Proposal 1 Election of Directors Board Committees and Director Meetings The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Majority Voting.

Required Vote to Ratify the Appointment of our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (Proposal 2; Item 2 on the Proxy Card)

The affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast in person or by proxy by holders of our common stock entitled to vote on the matter is required to ratify the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2009.

Required Vote to Approve the Amendment to the 1988 Employees Stock Purchase Plan (Proposal 3; Item 3 on the Proxy Card)

The affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast in person or by proxy by holders of our common stock entitled to vote on the matter is required to approve the management proposal concerning an amendment to the 1988 Employees Stock Purchase Plan.

Required Vote to Approve the Shareholder Proposals (Proposals 4 and 5; Items 4 and 5 on the Proxy Card)

The affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast in person or by proxy by holders of our common stock entitled to vote on the matter is required to approve the shareholder proposals, if presented at the annual meeting.

Treatment of Abstentions, Not Voting and Incomplete Proxies

If a shareholder marks the Abstain box, it will have no effect on the vote for Proposal 1, but it will have the same effect as a vote against Proposals 2 through 5. If a shareholder does not return a proxy, it will have no effect on the vote for the proposals. Broker non-votes for non-routine proposals will also have no effect on the vote for the proposals. Except for broker non-votes, if a proxy is returned without indication as to how to vote, the stock represented by that proxy will be considered to be voted in favor of Proposals 1, 2 and 3, and voted against Proposals 4 and 5.

Voting of Proxies

Giving a proxy means that you authorize the persons named in the proxy card to vote your shares at the 2009 annual meeting in the manner directed. You may vote by proxy or in person at the meeting. To vote by proxy, you may use one of the following methods if you are a registered holder (that is, you hold our stock in your own name):

By Internet You can vote over the Internet at www.proxyvote.com by entering the control number found on your Notice or proxy card;

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By Telephone You can vote by telephone by calling 1-800-690-6903 and entering the control number found on your Notice or proxy card; or

By Mail If you received your proxy materials by mail, you can vote by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the pre-paid enclosed envelope.

We request that shareholders vote as soon as possible. When the proxy is properly returned, the shares of stock represented by the proxy will be voted at the 2009 annual meeting in accordance with the instructions contained in the proxy.

Except for broker non-votes, if any proxy is returned without indication as to how to vote, the stock represented by the proxy will be considered to be voted in favor of Proposals 1, 2 and 3, and voted against Proposals 4 and 5. Unless a shareholder checks the box on the proxy card to withhold discretionary authority, the proxies may use their discretion to vote on other matters introduced at the 2009 annual meeting.

If a shareholder's shares are held in street name by a broker or other nominee, the shareholder should check the voting form used by that firm to determine whether the shareholder may provide voting instructions to the broker or other nominee by telephone or the Internet.

Every shareholder's vote is important. Accordingly, you should vote via the Internet or by telephone; sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card if you received it by mail; or provide instructions to your broker or other nominee whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person.

Revocability of Proxies and Changes to a Shareholder's Vote

A shareholder has the power to revoke his or her proxy or change his or her vote at any time before the proxy is voted at the annual meeting. You can revoke your proxy or change your vote in one of four ways:

by sending a signed notice of revocation to our corporate secretary to revoke your proxy;

by sending to our corporate secretary a completed proxy card bearing a later date than your original proxy indicating the change in your vote;

by logging on to *www.proxyvote.com* in the same manner you would to submit your proxy electronically or calling 1-800-690-6903, and in each case following the instructions to revoke or change your vote; or

by attending the annual meeting and voting in person, which will automatically cancel any proxy previously given, or by revoking your proxy in person, but attendance alone will not revoke any proxy that you have given previously.

If you choose any of the first three methods, you must take the described action no later than the beginning of the 2009 annual meeting. Once voting on a particular matter is completed at the annual meeting, you will not be able to revoke your proxy or change your vote as to that matter. If your shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or other financial institution, you must contact that institution to change your vote.

Solicitation of Proxies

This solicitation is made on behalf of our board of directors, and we will pay the cost and expenses of printing and mailing this proxy statement and soliciting and obtaining the proxies, including the cost of reimbursing brokers, banks and other financial institutions for forwarding proxy materials to their customers. Proxies may be solicited, without extra compensation, by our officers and employees by mail, telephone, fax, personal interviews or other methods of communication. We have engaged the firm of Georgeson Shareholder Communications, Inc. to assist us in the distribution and solicitation of proxies and will pay Georgeson a fee of \$9,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses for its services.

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Voting by Our Employees Participating in the Sprint Nextel 401(k) Plan

If you are an employee of Sprint Nextel who has a right to vote shares acquired through your participation in our 401(k) plan, you are entitled to instruct the trustee, Fidelity Management Trust Company, how to vote the shares allocated to your account. The trustee will vote those shares as you instruct. You will receive voting information that covers any shares held in your 401(k) plan account, as well as any other shares registered in your own name.

If you do not instruct the trustee how to vote your shares, the 401(k) plan provides for the trustee to vote those shares in the same proportion as the shares for which it receives instructions from all other participants. To allow sufficient time for the trustee to vote, your voting instructions must be received by the trustee by May 7, 2009.

Delivery of Proxy Materials to Households Where Two or More Shareholders Reside

Rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, allow us to deliver multiple Notices in a single envelope or a single copy of an annual report and proxy statement to any household where two or more shareholders reside if we believe the shareholders are members of the same family. This rule benefits shareholders by reducing the volume of duplicate information they receive at their households. It also benefits us by reducing our printing and mailing costs.

We mailed Notices in a single envelope, or a single set of proxy materials, as applicable, to each household this year unless the shareholders in these households provided instructions to the contrary in response to a notice previously mailed to them. However, for shareholders who previously requested a printed set of the proxy materials, we mailed each shareholder in a single household a separate proxy card or voting instruction form. If you prefer to receive your own copy of the proxy materials for this or future annual meetings and you are a registered holder, you may request a duplicate set by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251 or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com, or by calling 913-794-1091, and we will promptly furnish such materials. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, you may instruct your broker to send duplicate mailings by following the instructions on your voting instruction form or by contacting your broker.

If you share a household address with another shareholder, and you receive duplicate mailings of the proxy materials this year, you may request that your household receive a single set of proxy materials in the future. If you are a registered holder, please contact Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations using one of the contact methods described above. If a broker or other nominee holds your shares, you should follow the instructions on your voting instruction form or contact your broker.

If you hold some shares as a registered holder or through our 401(k) plan, and other shares in the name of a broker or other nominee, we must send you proxy materials for each account. To avoid receiving duplicate sets of proxy materials, you may consolidate accounts or consent to electronic delivery as described in the following section.

Electronic Delivery of the Proxy Materials

We are able to distribute the annual report and proxy statement to shareholders in a fast and efficient manner via the Internet. This reduces the amount of paper delivered to a shareholder's address and eliminates the cost of sending these documents by mail. You may elect to view all future annual reports and proxy statements on the Internet instead of receiving them by mail. Alternatively, you may elect to receive all future annual reports and proxy statements by mail instead of viewing them via the Internet. To make an election, please log on to www.proxyvote.com and enter your control number.

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If you have enrolled for electronic delivery, you will receive an email notice of shareholder meetings. The email will provide links to our annual report and our proxy statement. These documents are in PDF format so you will need Adobe Acrobat® Reader to view these documents on-line, which you can download for free by visiting www.adobe.com. The email will also provide a link to a voting web site and a control number to use to vote via the Internet.

Confidential Voting Policy

Your votes are kept confidential from our directors, officers and employees, subject to certain specific and limited exceptions. One exception occurs if you write opinions or comments on your proxy card. In that case, a copy of the proxy card is sent to us.

Attending the Meeting

Shareholders, their guests and persons holding proxies from shareholders may attend the annual meeting. Seating, however, is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you plan to attend the meeting, please bring proof of ownership to the meeting. A brokerage account statement showing that you owned our stock on March 13, 2009 is acceptable proof.

Conference Call and Audio Webcast

Shareholders may listen live by phone or audio webcast to our annual meeting. The dial-in numbers for the conference call will be posted at www.sprint.com/investors/shareholders/annualmeeting before the meeting. Lines are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Shareholders may access the audio webcast of our annual meeting at the same web address. This is an audio-only webcast with no video or other materials.

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The following table provides information about the only known beneficial owners of five percent or more of our voting common stock based on our stock outstanding at March 13, 2009.

For purposes of the table below, beneficial ownership is determined based on Rule 13d-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which states that a beneficial owner is any person who directly or indirectly has or shares voting and/or investment/dispositive power.

Title of Class	Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
Common Stock	AXA Financial, Inc.	234,347,139 shares(1)	8.4%
	1290 Avenue of the Americas		
	New York, New York 10104		
	Dodge & Cox	195,440,413 shares(2)	7.0%
	555 California Street, 40 th Floor		
	San Francisco, CA 94104		
	Capital Research Global Investors	183,444,340 shares(3)	6.6%
	333 South Hope Street		
	Los Angeles, California 90071		
	Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	181,190,287 shares(4)	6.5%
	One Wall Street, 31 st Floor		
	New York, New York 10286		
	Barclays Global Investors, NA	160,430,126 shares(5)	5.7%
	400 Howard Street		
	San Francisco, California 94105		

- (1) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2009, AXA Financial, Inc. together with AXA Assurances I.A.R.D. Mutuelle, AXA Assurances Vie Mutuelle and AXA. AXA Financial, Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 185,513,143 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares.
- (2) According to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 11, 2009, Dodge & Cox has sole voting power with respect to 184,526,913 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares.
- (3) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 17, 2009, Capital Research Global Investors has sole voting power with respect to 58,636,040 shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares.
- (4) According to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 17, 2009 by The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, MBC Investments Corporation, Neptune LLC, Mellon International Holding S.AR.L., Mellon International Ltd., Newton Management Ltd. and Newton Investment Management Ltd. According to the Schedule 13G, Bank of New York Mellon Corporation is the beneficial owners of, and has sole voting power with respect to 168,536,609 shares, and sole dispositive power with respect to 180,242,370 shares.
- (5) According to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 5, 2009 by Barclays Global Investors, NA, Barclays Global Fund Advisors, Barclays Global Investors, LTD, Barclays Global Investors Japan Limited, Barclays Global Investors Canada Limited, Barclays Global Investors Australia Limited and Barclays Global Investors (Deutschland) AG. According to the Schedule 13G, these investors aggregately

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are the beneficial owners of, and have sole voting power with respect to 137,918,524 shares, and sole dispositive power with respect to all of the shares.

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The following table states the number of shares of our series 1 common stock beneficially owned as of March 13, 2009 by each director, named executive officer and all directors and executive officers as a group. Except as otherwise indicated, each individual named has sole investment and voting power with respect to the shares owned.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Shares Owned	Shares		Percentage of Common Stock
		Covered by Exercisable Options and RSUs to be Delivered(1)	Shares Represented by RSUs(2)	
Mark E. Angelino	7,579(3)	305,984	0	*
William G. Arendt	98,260(3)	300,357	26,756	*
Robert R. Bennett	28,997	14,815	0	*
Gordon M. Bethune	17,515	14,815	0	*
Robert H. Brust	2,985	0	469,484	*
Keith O. Cowan	125,429	538,939	558,144	*
Steven L. Elfman	89,326	228,666	361,599	*
Larry C. Glasscock	33,946	14,815	0	*
James J. Hance, Jr.	38,455	14,815	0	*
Daniel R. Hesse	486,210	1,853,886	1,254,498	*
V. Janet Hill	19,128	187,288	0	*
Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr.	126,902	50,717	0	*
Frank Ianna	5,000	8,609	0	*
Robert L. Johnson	71,712	495,988	161,377	*
Leonard J. Kennedy	4,044(3)	620,077	61,155	*
Sven-Christer Nilsson	0	10,144	0	*
William R. Nuti	0	10,965	0	*
Rodney O Neal	3,649	14,815	0	*
Paul N. Saleh	403,556(3)	0	191,110	*
Directors and Executive Officers as a group (22 persons)	1,660,298	5,198,872	3,318,147	*

* Indicates ownership of less than 1%.

(1) Represents shares that may be acquired upon the exercise of stock options exercisable, and shares of stock that underlie restricted stock units to be delivered, on or within 60 days after March 13, 2009 under our equity-based incentive plans.

(2) Represents unvested restricted stock units with respect to which we will issue the underlying shares of our common stock after the units vest. There are no voting rights with respect to these restricted stock units. These amounts do not include any restricted stock units covered by footnote 1.

(3) The share ownership information is provided to the best of our knowledge as Messrs. Angelino, Arendt, Kennedy and Saleh were terminated on January 25, November 14, December 19 and January 25, 2008, respectively.

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Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors and executive officers, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, initial reports of beneficial ownership and reports of changes in beneficial ownership of our common stock and other equity securities. These people are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) reports they file, and we make these reports available at www.sprint.com/investors/sec.

To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of these reports furnished to us and written representations that no other reports were required, during 2008 all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our directors, executive officers and beneficial owners of more than 10% of our equity securities were met.

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Proposal 1. Election of Directors

(Item 1 on Proxy Card)

We currently have 11 seats on our board. Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr. is not standing for re-election. The board has reduced the number of seats on our board to ten effective as of the time of our annual meeting.

Each of the ten nominees, if elected, will serve one year until the 2010 annual meeting and until a successor has been elected and qualified. The persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote for the election of the nominees named below unless a shareholder directs otherwise. Each nominee has consented to be named and to continue to serve if elected. If any of the nominees becomes unavailable for election for any reason, the proxies will be voted for the other nominees and for any substitutes.

Nominees for Director

Robert R. Bennett, age 50. Principal of Hilltop Investments, a private investment company. Mr. Bennett served as President of Discovery Holding Company from March 2005 until September 2008, when Discovery Communications, Inc. became a public company. Mr. Bennett also served as President and CEO of Liberty Media Corporation from April 1997 until August 2005 and continued as President until March 2006. He was with Liberty Media from its inception, serving as its principal financial officer and in various other capacities. Prior to his tenure at Liberty Media, Mr. Bennett worked with Tele-Communications, Inc. (TCI) and the Bank of New York. Mr. Bennett serves as a director of Discovery Communications, Inc. and Liberty Media Corporation. Mr. Bennett has served as one of our directors since October 2006.

Gordon M. Bethune, age 67. Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Continental Airlines, Inc., an international commercial airline company. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Continental Airlines from 1994 and as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1996 until December 31, 2004. He is a director of Honeywell International Inc. and Prudential Financial, Inc. Mr. Bethune has served as one of our directors since March 2004.

Larry C. Glasscock, age 60. Chairman of the Board of WellPoint, Inc., a health benefits company. Mr. Glasscock served as President and Chief Executive Officer of WellPoint, Inc. from November 2004 (following the merger between Anthem, Inc. and WellPoint Health Networks Inc.) until June 2007 and as Chairman of WellPoint, Inc. since November 2005. Prior to Anthem's merger with WellPoint Health Networks in November 2004, Mr. Glasscock had served as Anthem's President and Chief Executive Officer since 2001 and also as Anthem's Chairman since 2003. He is a director of Zimmer Holdings, Inc. Mr. Glasscock has served as one of our directors since August 2007.

James H. Hance, Jr., age 64. Chairman of the Board of Sprint Nextel. Retired Vice Chairman of Bank of America Corporation, a financial services holding company. He served as the Vice Chairman of Bank of America Corporation from 1993 until January 31, 2005 and as the Chief Financial Officer of Bank of America Corporation from 1988 until April 2004. He is a director of Cousins Properties Incorporated, Duke Energy Corporation, and Rayonier Corporation. Mr. Hance also serves as a Senior Advisor to The Carlyle Group. Mr. Hance has served as one of our directors since February 2005.

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Daniel R. Hesse, age 55. President and Chief Executive Officer of Sprint Nextel. Before becoming the President and Chief Executive Officer of Sprint Nextel on December 17, 2007, Mr. Hesse was Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Embarq Corporation. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Sprint's Local Telecommunications Division from June 2005 until the Embarq spin-off in May 2006. Before that, Mr. Hesse served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Terabeam Corp., a wireless telecommunications service provider and technology company, from 2000-2004. Prior to serving at Terabeam Corp., Mr. Hesse spent 23 years at AT&T during which he held various senior management positions, including President and Chief Executive Officer of AT&T Wireless Services. He serves on the board of directors of Clearwire Corporation and on the National Board of Governors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Mr. Hesse has served as one of our directors since December 2007.

V. Janet Hill, age 61. Since 1981, Mrs. Hill has been Vice President of Alexander & Associates, Inc., a corporate consulting firm. Mrs. Hill also serves as a director of Wendy's/Arby's Group, Inc. and Dean Foods, Inc. Mrs. Hill served as a director of Nextel Communications, Inc. from November 1999 until its merger with Sprint Corporation in August 2005, and she has served as one of our directors since 2005.

Frank Ianna, age 59. Chief Executive Officer and Director, Attila Technologies LLC, a Technogenesis® Company incubated at Stevens Institute of Technology. Mr. Ianna retired from AT&T in 2003 after a 31-year career serving in various executive positions, most recently as President of Network Services. Following his retirement, Mr. Ianna served as a business consultant, executive and board member for several private and nonprofit enterprises. Mr. Ianna is a director of Tellabs, Inc. and Clearwire Corporation. Mr. Ianna has served as one of our directors since March 2009.

Sven-Christer Nilsson, age 64. Owner and Founder, Ripasso AB, Ängelholm, Sweden, a private business advisory company. Mr. Nilsson serves as an advisor and board member for companies throughout the world. He previously served in various executive positions for The Ericsson Group from 1982 through 1999, including as its President and Chief Executive Officer from 1998 through 1999. Mr. Nilsson is a director of Ceva, Inc., Tilgin AB, and Assa Abloy AB. He serves as the Chairman of Swedish ICT Research AB, an industrial research institute in the information technology and communications field, and as the Chairman of the Swedish Public Service Broadcasting Foundation. Mr. Nilsson has served as one of our directors since November 2008.

William R. Nuti, age 45. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President of NCR Corporation, a global technology company. Mr. Nuti has served as Chief Executive Officer and President of NCR since August 2005, and as Chairman of NCR since October 2007. Before joining NCR, Mr. Nuti had served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Symbol Technologies, Inc. from 2003 to 2005, and as President and Chief Operating Officer of Symbol Technologies from 2002 to 2003. Mr. Nuti joined Symbol Technologies in 2002 following more than 10 years at Cisco Systems, where he advanced to the dual role of senior vice president of the company's Worldwide Service Provider Operations and senior vice president of U.S. Theater Operations. Mr. Nuti has served as one of our directors since June 2008.

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Rodney O Neal, age 55. Chief Executive Officer and President of Delphi Corporation, a global supplier of mobile electronics and transportation systems. Mr. O Neal has served as Chief Executive Officer and President of Delphi since January 2007. He previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Delphi from January 2005 until January 2007. In 2000, Mr. O Neal was named Executive Vice President of the former Safety, Thermal & Electrical Architecture Sector at Delphi. In 2003, he was named president of the Dynamics, Propulsion, and Thermal Sector. Previously, he served in a variety of domestic and international operating assignments for both Delphi and its former parent company, General Motors. He is a director of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Mr. O Neal has served as one of our directors since August 2007.

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote *for* the election of the ten nominees for director in this Proposal 1.

Director Not Standing for Re-Election

The following information is given with respect to Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr. who is not standing for re-election at our annual meeting. Mr. Hockaday will continue to serve on our board until the annual meeting.

Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr., age 72. Retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Hallmark Cards, Inc., a manufacturer of greeting cards. Mr. Hockaday served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hallmark Cards, Inc. from 1985 to 2001. He is a director of Crown Media Holdings, Inc., Ford Motor Company, and Estee Lauder, Inc. Mr. Hockaday has served as one of our directors since June 1997.

Table of Contents**Compensation of Directors**

The following table provides compensation information for our current and former directors who served during 2008. Because Mr. Ianna's service did not commence until March 2009, he is not listed in the table below. Compensation information for Mr. Hesse, our President and Chief Executive Officer, can be found in the Executive Compensation section of this proxy statement.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (1)(\$)	Stock Awards (2)(\$)	Option Awards (2)(\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation (3)(\$)	Total (\$)
Robert R. Bennett	136,000	129,516					265,516
Gordon M. Bethune	129,375	132,015				3,369	264,759
Larry C. Glasscock	132,000(4)	125,864					257,864
James H. Hance, Jr.	299,000	131,899				5,137	436,036
V. Janet Hill	121,000	129,516				174	250,690
Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr.	114,000(4)	132,015				5,179	251,194
Sven-Christer Nilsson(5)	13,667	32,765					46,432
William R. Nuti(6)	53,833	55,389					109,222
Rodney O. Neal	117,000	125,864					242,864
Former Directors							
Keith J. Bane(7)	55,250	44,508				2,194	101,952
Frank M. Drendel(7)	41,250	44,508				985	86,743
Linda Koch Lorimer(7)	43,250(4)	47,007				879	91,136
William H. Swanson(7)	56,875(4)	47,007				5,890	109,772
Ralph V. Whitworth(8)	99,583	21,659					119,437

- (1) Includes annual retainer fees; Chairman, committee and/or committee chair fees; and board and committee meeting fees.
(2) Represents the compensation costs of stock awards for financial reporting purposes for 2008 as determined under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), *Share-Based Payment*, or SFAS 123R.

For a discussion of the assumptions used in determining the compensation cost associated with stock awards, see note 12 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. We did not issue stock options to outside directors as part of our 2008 outside director compensation program.

On May 13, 2008, we issued 14,815 restricted stock units, or RSUs, to each of our outside directors serving on the board at the time in connection with their annual RSU grant for 2008. The grant date fair market value of the 2008 RSU grant to each of our outside directors is \$134,224, which is the product of the per share grant date fair market value multiplied by the number of RSUs granted. To determine the grant date fair market value, we used the trading price of our common stock at the close of market on the May 13, 2008 grant date.

The number of RSUs granted to each of our outside directors was calculated by dividing the director's annual RSU grant value of \$100,000 by \$6.75, which was the 30-calendar day stock price average for our common stock beginning on March 27, 2008 and ending on April 25, 2008.

Any new outside director joining the board receives a grant of prorated RSUs upon his or her appointment. The methodology for determining the number of potential RSUs awarded is described on page 17 under Restricted Stock Units. Three directors received a grant of prorated RSUs upon joining the board in 2008. On February 11, 2008, the board's Compensation Committee granted 2,226 RSUs to

Mr. Whitworth.

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On June 9, 2008, the board's Compensation Committee granted 10,965 RSUs to Mr. Nuti. On November 5, 2008, the board's Compensation Committee granted 10,144 RSUs to Mr. Nilsson, with such grant becoming effective as of November 10, 2008, which was the effective date of Mr. Nilsson's board appointment.

As of December 31, 2008, the outside directors held stock awards in the form of RSUs as set forth in the following table:

Name	Aggregate Number of Sprint Nextel RSUs Outstanding at December 31, 2008
Robert R. Bennett	14,815
Gordon M. Bethune	14,815
Larry C. Glasscock	14,815
James H. Hance, Jr.	14,815
V. Janet Hill	14,815
Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr.	14,815
Sven-Christer Nilsson	10,144
William R. Nuti	10,965
Rodney O. Neal	14,815
Former Directors	
Keith J. Bane	
Frank M. Drendel	
Linda Koch Lorimer	
William H. Swanson	
Ralph V. Whitworth	

Although we issued no cash dividends in 2008, it is our policy that any cash dividend equivalents on the RSUs granted to the outside directors are reinvested into RSUs, which vest when the underlying RSUs vest. The aggregate number of RSUs disclosed in this table includes the dividend accruals on the underlying RSUs, if any. This table reflects the number of stock awards outstanding as of December 31, 2008 attributable to compensation paid by us to our directors.

As of December 31, 2008, the outside directors held outstanding option awards, all of which are vested, as set forth in the following table:

Name	Aggregate Number of Shares Underlying Sprint Nextel Option Awards Outstanding at December 31, 2008
Robert R. Bennett	
Gordon M. Bethune	
Larry C. Glasscock	
James H. Hance, Jr.	
V. Janet Hill	172,473
Irvine O. Hockaday, Jr.	44,118
Sven-Christer Nilsson	
William R. Nuti	
Rodney O. Neal	
Former Directors	
Keith J. Bane	
Frank M. Drendel	
Linda Koch Lorimer	33,356
William H. Swanson	
Ralph V. Whitworth	

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This table includes options granted to Mr. Hockaday and Ms. Lorimer under Sprint's 1997 Long-Term Stock Incentive Program in February 2002. Options granted to Mrs. Hill were granted under the Nextel incentive equity plan prior to the Sprint-Nextel merger. Since the merger, we have not issued stock options to our outside directors as part of our outside director compensation program.

- (3) Consists of tax gross-up payments made in 2008 for certain benefits provided in 2007, tax gross-up payments made in 2009 for certain benefits provided in 2008 and charitable matching contributions in 2008 of \$2,500 made with respect to Mr. Bethune and \$5,000 made with respect to each of Messrs. Hance, Hockaday and Swanson. Our Sprint Foundation matching gift program and other benefits are described below on page 17. Beginning in 2006, no tax gross-ups are provided on the value of communications services and equipment utilized by our outside board members.
- (4) Messrs. Glasscock, Hockaday and Swanson participated in our Directors' Shares Plan in 2008 and elected to use their annual and additional retainer fees and meeting fees to purchase shares of our common stock in lieu of receiving cash payments. Ms. Lorimer participated in our Deferred Compensation Plan and elected to defer receipt of her retainer and meeting fees. Our Directors' Shares Plan and our Deferred Compensation Plan are described below on page 16.
- (5) Mr. Nilsson joined our board effective November 10, 2008.
- (6) Mr. Nuti joined our board on June 9, 2008.
- (7) Messrs. Bane, Drendel and Swanson and Ms. Lorimer retired from our board on May 13, 2008.
- (8) Mr. Whitworth joined our board on February 11, 2008 and resigned from our board on October 23, 2008.

Our outside directors are directors who are not employees of our company. The compensation of our outside directors is partially equity-based and is designed to comply with our *Corporate Governance Guidelines*, which provide that the guiding principles behind our outside director compensation practices are: (1) alignment with shareholder interests, (2) preservation of outside director independence and (3) preservation of the fiduciary duties owed to all shareholders. Our outside directors are also reimbursed for direct expenses relating to their activities as members of our board of directors.

Annual Retainers, Additional Retainers and Meeting Fees

Our outside directors are each paid \$70,000 annually plus meeting fees and the following additional retainers:

the Chairman receives an additional annual retainer of \$150,000;

the Chair of the Audit Committee receives an additional annual retainer of \$20,000;

the Chair of the Compensation Committee receives an additional annual retainer of \$15,000; and

the Chairs of the Finance Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee each receive an additional annual retainer of \$10,000.

For each meeting attended, we pay our outside directors the following fees:

\$2,000 for in-person board and committee meetings; and

\$1,000 for board and committee meetings held telephonically.

As discussed above, our directors are entitled to participate in our Deferred Compensation Plan, a nonqualified and unfunded plan under which our outside directors can defer receipt of all or part of their annual and additional retainer fees and meeting fees into various investment funds and stock indices, including a fund that tracks our common stock. In 2008, Ms. Lorimer participated in our Deferred Compensation Plan. Also, as discussed above, our directors may participate in our Directors' Shares Plan, under which they can elect to use all or part of their annual and additional retainer fees and meeting fees to purchase shares of our common stock in lieu of receiving cash payments. Our outside directors can also elect to defer receipt of these shares. In 2008,

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Messrs. Glasscock, Hockaday and Swanson participated in our Directors' Shares Plan. On an annual basis, our outside directors are given the opportunity to either enroll in or discontinue their participation in one or both of these plans.

Restricted Stock Units

Each of our outside directors receives a targeted annual grant of \$100,000 in RSUs representing shares of our common stock. Generally, the RSUs are granted each year on the date of the annual meeting of shareholders and each grant vests in full upon the subsequent annual meeting. Any new outside board member joining the board receives a grant of prorated RSUs upon his or her appointment that vests in full upon the subsequent annual meeting. The dollar value of the outside directors' targeted annual grant (\$100,000) is prorated for the time period between the date of the director's initial appointment to the board and the date of the subsequent annual meeting. The prorated RSU grant is intended to offer a competitive compensation package to our outside directors, immediately align the interests of outside directors with our shareholders' interests, and be consistent with the manner in which the cash retainers are paid upon an outside director joining the board.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

Our director stock ownership guidelines require our outside directors to hold equity or equity interests in our common stock with a value of at least \$140,000, which is two times the annual retainer fee. Each outside director is expected to meet this ownership level by the second anniversary of the director's initial election or appointment to the board. Our director stock ownership guidelines provide the board with flexibility to grant exceptions based on its consideration of individual circumstances. As of December 31, 2008, of our current outside directors who have served on our board for two or more years, one was in compliance with our director stock ownership guidelines and five were not in compliance with our director stock ownership guidelines due to the reduction in our share price that occurred during 2008. The same stock and stock equivalents that count towards the stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers (as described below under "Executive Compensation - Compensation Discussion and Analysis") are used to determine our outside directors' compliance with the director stock ownership guidelines.

In addition, active outside directors are required to retain for a period of at least 12 months all shares or share equivalents (*e.g.*, options or RSUs) received from us, except for shares (i) sold for the payment of taxes as a result of shares becoming available to the outside director or (ii) delivered to pay for the acquisition of additional shares through the exercise of a stock option or otherwise. The 12-month period begins on the date any restrictions or vesting periods have lapsed on the shares or share equivalents (including stock options). The outside directors are subject to this holding period until they leave our board.

Other Benefits

We believe that it serves the interests of our company and our shareholders to enable our outside directors to utilize our communications services. Accordingly, each outside director is entitled to receive an unlimited number of wireless units, including accessories, and the related wireless service, wireline long distance services and long distance calling cards with a maximum limit of \$12,000 per year. Outside directors may also receive specialized equipment, such as a repeater or AIRAVE™ device, on an as-needed basis, with equipment valued at greater than \$1,000 requiring Compensation Committee approval. In addition to the value of the communications service, the value of any additional services and features (*e.g.*, ringtones, call tones, directory assistance), and the lease value of the wireless devices, replacements and associated accessories are included in the value of the communications benefit. The value of any communications benefits realized by a director is subject to federal, state or local income taxes, which taxes are paid by the director. There may be other circumstances in which units are provided to board members (such as demonstration, field testing and training units, or units for use while traveling internationally); these units must be returned or they will be converted to a consumer account and applied toward the wireless units under this communications benefit once the units reach production.

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Under our charitable matching gifts program, the Sprint Foundation matches contributions made to qualifying organizations on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to the annual donor maximum of \$5,000. The annual maximum contribution per donor, per organization is \$2,500. As described in the director compensation table, Messrs. Bethune, Hance, Hockaday and Swanson were the only outside directors for whom the Sprint Foundation provided matching charitable contributions in 2008.

We currently do not offer retirement benefits to outside directors, and none of our current outside directors are eligible to receive benefits under a pre-existing retirement plan originally adopted by our board of directors in 1982. The board amended that retirement plan in 1996 to eliminate the retirement benefit for any outside director who did not have five years of credited service as of the date of the amendment.

Corporate Governance Matters

Our board and senior management devote considerable time and attention to corporate governance matters. We maintain a comprehensive set of corporate governance initiatives that include the following:

refinement of our policies and goals with respect to the determination of executive compensation programs, including increasing emphasis on performance-based equity compensation, as further described below under Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis;

implementing a majority vote standard in an uncontested election of directors;

implementing an executive compensation clawback policy, which is discussed on page 40;

implementing a policy regarding independent executive consultants, which is discussed on page 27;

conducting annual board, committee and director self evaluations;

declassification of the board;

adherence to strict independence standards for directors that meet or exceed NYSE listing standards;

requiring the outside directors to hold executive sessions without management present, no less than three times a year, at or in conjunction with regularly-scheduled board meetings;

requiring the Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to be composed entirely of independent directors;

publication on our website of our *Corporate Governance Guidelines* and charters for all standing committees of the board, which detail important aspects of our governance policies and practices;

maintaining limits on the number of other public company boards and audit committees on which our directors may serve;

maintaining a policy that prohibits our independent registered public accounting firm from providing professional services, including tax services, to any employee or board member or any of their immediate family members that would impair the independence of our independent registered public accounting firm;

maintaining stock ownership guidelines for vice presidents and above and outside directors; and

maintaining limits on payments made in any future severance agreement with any officer at the level of senior vice president or above as further described below under Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

We value the views of our shareholders and other interested parties. Consistent with this approach, our board has established a system to receive, track and respond to communications from shareholders and other interested parties addressed to our board or to our outside directors. A statement regarding our board

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communications policy is available at www.sprint.com/governance. Any shareholder or other interested party who wishes to communicate with our board or our outside directors may write to Board Communications Designee, Sprint Nextel Corporation, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66251, KSOPHF0302-3B424, or send an email to boardinquiries@sprint.com. Our board has instructed the Board Communications Designee to examine incoming communications to determine whether the communications are relevant to our board's roles and responsibilities. The Board Communications Designee will review all appropriate communications and report on the communications to the chair of or the full Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Chairman of our full board, or the outside directors, as appropriate. The Board Communications Designee will take additional action or respond to letters in accordance with instructions from the relevant board source. Communications relating to accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters will be referred promptly to members of the Audit Committee in accordance with our policy on communications with the board of directors.

James H. Hance, Jr. currently serves as our Chairman. As detailed in our *Corporate Governance Guidelines*, the responsibilities and authority of our Chairman are designed to facilitate the board's oversight of management and ensure the appropriate flow of information between the board and management, and include the following:

determining an appropriate schedule for board meetings and seeking to ensure that the outside directors can perform their duties responsibly while not interfering with the operations of the company;

setting agendas for board meetings, with the understanding that agenda items requested on behalf of the outside directors will be included on the agenda;

determining the quality, quantity and timeliness of the flow of information from management that is necessary for the outside directors to perform their duties effectively and responsibly, with the understanding that the outside directors will receive any information requested on their behalf by the Chairman;

coordinating, developing the agenda for, chairing and moderating meetings of the outside directors;

acting as principal liaison between outside directors and the Chief Executive Officer, or CEO, on sensitive issues and, when necessary, ensure the full discussion of those sensitive issues at board meetings;

providing input to the Compensation Committee regarding the CEO performance and meet, along with the chair of the Compensation Committee, with the CEO to discuss the board's evaluation;

assisting the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the board and our company's officers in assuring compliance with and implementation of the *Corporate Governance Guidelines*, and providing input to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee on revisions to the guidelines; and

providing input to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee regarding the appointment of chairs and members of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

The Chairman and the other directors may, from time to time, with the CEO's knowledge and in most instances with members of management present, meet with outside parties on issues of importance to all shareholders.

A current copy of our *Corporate Governance Guidelines* and the charters for all standing committees of the board are available at www.sprint.com/governance. They may also be obtained by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251 or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com.

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Independence of Directors

Our board has adopted a definition of director independence that in several areas exceeds the listing standards of the NYSE. Our *Corporate Governance Guidelines* require that at least two-thirds of our board be independent. Under our *Corporate Governance Guidelines*, our board will determine affirmatively whether a director is independent on an annual basis and disclose these determinations in our annual proxy statement. That determination is set forth below. A director will not be independent unless the board, considering all relevant circumstances, determines that the director does not have a material relationship with us, including any of our consolidated subsidiaries. A director will not be independent if:

during the preceding five years, the director or an immediate family member (as defined below) of the director was employed by our company;

during any 12-month period in the last three years, the director or an immediate family member of the director received more than \$120,000 per year in direct compensation from us, other than excluded compensation (as defined below);

during the preceding five years: (1) the director was affiliated with or employed by an independent registered public accounting firm that is or was the internal or external auditor of our company; (2) the director has an immediate family member who is a current partner of such firm; (3) the director has an immediate family member who is a current employee of such firm and personally works on our audit; or (4) the director or an immediate family member was a partner or employee of such firm and personally worked on our audit within that time;

during the preceding five years, an executive officer of our company served on the compensation committee of the board of another company that concurrently employed the director or an immediate family member of the director as an executive officer;

an executive officer of our company serves on the board of a company that employs the director or an immediate family member of the director as an executive officer;

during the current or previous fiscal year, the director or an immediate family member of the director accepted any payments (other than those arising from investments in our securities, excluded compensation, or other non-discretionary compensation) from us in excess of \$45,000;

the director is an employee of, or an immediate family member of the director is an executive officer of, any company to which we made, or from which we received, payments (other than those arising solely from investments in our securities) that during any of the preceding three fiscal years exceeded the greater of 2% of the other company's consolidated gross revenues or \$1,000,000; or

the director is a partner in or controlling shareholder or executive officer of any organization to which we made, or from which we received, payments (other than those arising solely from investments in our securities) that during any of the preceding three fiscal years exceeded the greater of 3% of the recipient's (i.e., our company's or the other organization's) consolidated gross revenues or \$200,000.

Our board may determine that a director who does not meet the standards in the fifth, sixth or eighth bullet points above nevertheless is independent. Following any such determination, our board will disclose a detailed explanation of its determination in our annual proxy statement. In no event will our board make such determination for a director for more than two consecutive years.

Our board uses the following definitions to determine director independence:

excluded compensation means director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service, provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service;

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executive officer has the meaning set forth in Rule 303A.02 of the NYSE, as amended from time to time; and

immediate family member means any person included in such term as it is defined in Rule 303A.02 of the NYSE or the rules and regulations of the SEC.

In determining the independence of the outside directors, our board considered whether our outside directors, their immediate family members, and the companies with which they are employed as an executive officer (if applicable) have any relationships with our company that would prevent them from meeting the independence standards listed above, as well as the listing standards of the NYSE. In performing its review, our board considered the responses provided by the outside directors in their director questionnaires and determined that the following director nominees for re-election at the 2009 Annual Meeting have no material relationship with our company and are independent using the definition described above: Mrs. Hill and Messrs. Bennett, Bethune, Glasscock, Hance, Ianna, Nilsson, Nuti and O'Neal. Based on these standards, each of our outside directors who are standing for re-election are independent directors. The Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are composed entirely of independent directors.

Board Committees and Director Meetings

Board Meetings

During 2008, our board of directors held 17 meetings. Our board of directors has the following standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Finance Committee, a Compensation Committee, an Executive Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Directors are expected to devote sufficient time to prepare properly for and attend meetings of our board, its committees and executive sessions, and to attend our annual meeting of shareholders. All directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of the board and board committees on which they served during 2008, and 12 of the 13 directors who served on our board at the time of our 2008 annual meeting attended that annual meeting.

Meetings of Outside Directors

In addition to board and committee meetings, our outside directors met eight times in 2008 without management present.

The Audit Committee

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist our board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to:

the integrity of our financial statements and related disclosures, as well as related accounting and financial reporting processes;

our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;

our independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications, independence, audit and review scope, and performance;

the audit scope and performance of our internal audit function; and

our ethics and compliance program.

The Audit Committee also has sole authority for the appointment, retention, termination, compensation, evaluation and oversight of our independent registered public accounting firm. The committee's principal responsibilities in serving these functions are described in the Audit Committee Charter that was adopted by our board of directors and is annually reviewed and revised as necessary.

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Current copies of the Audit Committee Charter and our code of ethics, *The Sprint Nextel Code of Conduct*, both of which comply with SEC rules and the NYSE corporate governance standards, are available at www.sprint.com/governance. Copies of the Audit Committee Charter and *The Sprint Nextel Code of Conduct* may also be obtained by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251, or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com.

The Sprint Nextel Code of Conduct describes the ethical and legal responsibilities of directors and employees of our company and our subsidiaries, including senior financial officers and executive officers. All of our directors and employees (including all senior financial officers and executive officers) are required to comply with *The Sprint Nextel Code of Conduct*. In support of the ethics code, we have provided employees with a number of avenues for the reporting of potential ethics violations or similar concerns or to seek guidance on ethics matters, including a 24/7 telephone helpline. The Audit Committee has established procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, including the confidential, anonymous submission by our employees of any concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters to the Ethics Helpline at 1-800-788-7844, by mail to the Audit Committee, c/o Sprint Nextel Corporation, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66251, KSOPHF0302-3B424, or by email to boardinquiries@sprint.com. Our Chief Ethics Officer reports regularly to the Audit Committee and annually to the entire board on our Ethics and Compliance program.

The Chair of the Audit Committee is Mr. Hance. The other members are Messrs. Bennett and Glasscock. Each of the members is financially literate and able to devote sufficient time to serving on the Audit Committee. Our board has determined that each of the Audit Committee members is an independent director under the independence requirements established by our board and the NYSE corporate governance standards. Our board has also determined that Messrs. Bennett, Glasscock and Hance each possess the qualifications of an audit committee financial expert as defined in SEC rules. The Audit Committee met ten times in 2008.

The Finance Committee

The primary functions of the Finance Committee include:

reviewing and approving our financing activities consistent with the authorization levels set forth in our fiscal policy;

reviewing and making recommendations to the board on our capital structure, annual budgets, enterprise risk management program, fiscal policy, investment policy and other significant financial initiatives; and

reviewing and approving proposed acquisitions, dispositions, mergers, joint ventures and similar transactions consistent with the authorization levels set forth in our fiscal policy.

The committee's principal responsibilities in serving these functions are described in the Finance Committee Charter that was adopted by our board of directors and is annually reviewed and revised as necessary.

The Chair of the Finance Committee is Mr. Bennett. The other members are Messrs. Glasscock and Hance. Each member of the Finance Committee satisfies the independence requirements established by our board and the independence requirements of the NYSE corporate governance standards. The Finance Committee met 18 times in 2008.

A current copy of the charter for the Finance Committee is available at www.sprint.com/governance. It may also be obtained by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251, or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com.

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The Compensation Committee

The primary functions of the Compensation Committee include:

discharging the board's responsibilities relating to compensation of our executives in general and our principal senior officers in particular;

reporting on executive compensation in our annual proxy statement in accordance with applicable rules and regulations; and;

reviewing with management plans for the orderly development and succession of senior officers.

The committee's principal responsibilities in serving these functions are described in the Compensation Committee Charter that was adopted by our board of directors and is annually reviewed and revised as necessary. Additional information regarding the Compensation Committee's processes and procedures can be found below in Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Generally, the committee's primary processes for establishing and overseeing outside director compensation and the role of company personnel and compensation consultants are similar to those regarding executive compensation. Any appropriate changes to outside director compensation are made following recommendation to the board by the Compensation Committee. In accordance with its charter, the Compensation Committee may delegate authority to subcommittees or any committee member when appropriate.

The Chair of the Compensation Committee is Mr. Bethune. The other members are Mrs. Hill and Messrs. Nuti and O'Neal. Each member of the Compensation Committee satisfies the independence requirements established by our board and the independence requirements of the NYSE corporate governance standards. The Compensation Committee met 14 times in 2008.

A current copy of the charter for the Compensation Committee is available at www.sprint.com/governance. It may also be obtained by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251, or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Messrs. Bethune, O'Neal and Swanson, Mrs. Hill and Ms. Lorimer served on the Compensation Committee during 2008. There were no compensation committee interlocks or insider participation during 2008.

The Executive Committee

The primary function of the Executive Committee is to exercise powers of the board on matters of an urgent nature that arise between regularly scheduled board meetings.

The Chair of the Executive Committee is Mr. Hesse. The other members are Messrs. Bennett, Bethune, Hance and Hockaday. The Executive Committee did not meet in 2008.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The primary function of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to ensure that our company has effective corporate governance policies and procedures and an effective board and board review process. In fulfilling this function, the committee:

assists the board by identifying individuals qualified to become directors;

recommends to the board for approval the director nominees for the next annual meeting of the shareholders;

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recommends to the board for approval the chairs and members of each board committee; and

develops, reviews and recommends to the board corporate governance policies and practices designed to benefit our shareholders. The committee's principal responsibilities in serving its primary function are described in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter that was adopted by our board of directors and is annually reviewed and revised as necessary.

In evaluating prospective candidates or current board members for nomination, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee considers all factors it deems relevant, including, but not limited to, the candidate's: (1) character, including reputation for personal integrity and adherence to high ethical standards; (2) judgment; (3) knowledge and experience in leading a successful company, business unit or other institution; (4) independence from our company; (5) ability to contribute diverse views and perspectives; (6) business acumen; and (7) ability and willingness to devote the time and attention necessary to be an effective director—all in the context of an assessment of the needs of the board at that point in time.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews with the board the appropriate characteristics and background needed for directors. This review is undertaken not only in considering new candidates for board membership, but also in determining whether to nominate existing directors for another term. The committee determines the current director selection criteria and conducts searches for prospective directors whose skills and attributes reflect these criteria. To assist in the recruitment of new members to our board, the committee employs one or more third-party search firms. All approvals of nominations are determined by the full board.

It is the policy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also to consider candidates recommended by shareholders. These recommendations should be sent to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, c/o Corporate Secretary, Sprint Nextel Corporation, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251. To be timely, your recommendation must be received by our Corporate Secretary between December 13, 2009 and January 12, 2010. Your recommendation must include the following for each candidate you intend to recommend:

name, age, business address and residence address;

principal occupation or employment;

the class and number of shares of our stock beneficially owned;

a description of all arrangements or understandings relating to the nomination between or among you, each nominee, and any other person or persons;

the signed consent of each nominee to serve as a director if so elected;

any other information that is required by law to be disclosed in connection with solicitations of proxies for the election of directors; and

a statement signed by the nominee that indicates whether the nominee, if elected as a director, intends to comply with our *Corporate Governance Guidelines*.

The notice must also include your name and address and the class and number of shares of our stock that you own.

Majority Voting

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Our bylaws provide that each nominee for director in an uncontested election will be elected if the votes cast for that nominee exceed the votes cast against that nominee. Votes cast do not include abstentions and broker

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non-votes. The date for determining if an election is contested or uncontested has been set at 14 days before we file our definitive proxy statement. This requirement is intended to help us determine for our proxy statement whether director nominees will be elected under a majority or plurality standard prior to soliciting proxies.

Our *Corporate Governance Guidelines* provide that an incumbent nominee who receives fewer votes for than against in an uncontested election is expected to tender promptly his or her resignation. The committee will recommend, and the board will determine, whether or not to accept the tendered resignation within 90 days of the certification of the shareholder vote with respect to the director election. Our board's decision will be publicly disclosed.

In connection with the board's three-year independent director evaluation in February 2006, the board agreed to permit the rights issuable pursuant to our rights plan to expire in June 2007 in accordance with the plan. We currently do not have a shareholder rights plan in place.

The Chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is Mr. Hockaday. The other members are Mrs. Hill and Messrs. Bethune, Ianna, Nilsson and O'Neal. Each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee satisfies the independence requirements established by our board and the independence requirements of the NYSE corporate governance standards. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met eight times in 2008.

A current copy of the charter for the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and our *Corporate Governance Guidelines* are available at www.sprint.com/governance. They may also be obtained by writing to Sprint Nextel Shareholder Relations, 6200 Sprint Parkway, Mailstop KSOPHF0302-3B424, Overland Park, Kansas 66251 or by email at shareholder.relations@sprint.com. Like the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter, the *Corporate Governance Guidelines* were adopted by our board of directors and are annually reviewed and revised as necessary.

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed our audited consolidated financial statements with management. The Audit Committee has also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees), as amended, relating to the auditors' judgment about the quality of our accounting principles, judgments and estimates, as applied in our financial reporting.

The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm its independence.

The Audit Committee met with senior management periodically during 2008 to consider the adequacy of our internal controls and discussed these matters with our independent registered public accounting firm and with appropriate financial personnel. The Audit Committee also discussed with senior management our disclosure controls and procedures and the certifications by our CEO and our Chief Financial Officer, which are required by the SEC for certain of our filings with the SEC. The Audit Committee met privately with the independent registered public accounting firm, our internal auditors and other members of management, each of whom has unrestricted access to the Audit Committee.

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Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the board that our audited consolidated financial statements be included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the SEC.

The Audit Committee

James H. Hance, Jr., Chair

Robert R. Bennett

Larry C. Glasscock

Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed Sprint Nextel's Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on these reviews and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the board that Sprint Nextel's Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement.

The Compensation Committee

Gordon M. Bethune, Chair

V. Janet Hill

William R. Nuti

Rodney O. Neal

Executive Compensation

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This compensation discussion and analysis describes the compensation program for our named executive officers for 2008.

Our named executive officers are: Daniel R. Hesse, President and CEO; Robert H. Brust, Chief Financial Officer, or CFO; Keith O. Cowan, President Strategic Planning and Corporate Initiatives and Acting President CDMA; Steven L. Elfman, President, Network Operations and Wholesale; Robert L. Johnson, Chief Service Officer; Paul N. Saleh, our former CFO; William G. Arendt, our former Acting CFO and Controller and former Senior Vice President and Controller; Leonard J. Kennedy, our former General Counsel; and Mark E. Angelino, our former President Sales & Distribution. On January 25, 2008, we terminated the employment of Messrs. Saleh and Angelino. On November 14, 2008, we terminated the employment of Mr. Arendt. On December 19, 2008, we terminated the employment of Mr. Kennedy. Based on SEC rules, we are required to include the former executive officers Messrs. Saleh, Arendt, Kennedy and Angelino as named executive officers in this proxy statement.

Objectives of our Executive Compensation Program

Our compensation program is designed to:

retain our executive officers and attract qualified and experienced executives who can contribute to our growth with the ultimate objective of improving shareholder value;

motivate our executives to achieve critical operating and financial objectives;

align the interests of our executives with those of our shareholders by having a significant portion of the compensation package consist of equity-based awards, which serves to encourage our executives to think and act like owners of our company;

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encourage our executive officers to focus on and balance our short- and long-term business strategy in their day-to-day decision making and thereby mitigate the possibility that they undertake excessively risky business strategies to maximize short-term reward;

promote our tax, accounting and financial objectives; and

adhere to corporate governance best practices.

Our incentive plans tie executive remuneration to our performance, striking a balance between our short- and long-term performance, and between remuneration for achieving operating and financial objectives and producing a return for our shareholders. Target opportunities under our short- and long-term incentive plans comprise the substantial majority of the compensation packages of each of our named executive officers, motivating them to achieve our objectives.

Use of Compensation Consultants and Management Involvement

The Compensation Committee annually retains a compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee charter provides that, at least once every three years, it will retain a compensation consultant to report on whether our current compensation programs and arrangements provide an appropriate level of (1) compensation and retention incentive to principal senior officers, and (2) compensation to the non-employee members of the board of directors.

For 2008 and year-to-date 2009, the Compensation Committee has retained Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. as its independent compensation consultant. Frederic W. Cook & Co. provides no services to us other than advisory services for executive and director compensation and works with management only at the request and under the direction of the Compensation Committee. In 2008, to ensure independence, the Compensation Committee adopted a policy on executive compensation consultants that codifies this relationship. Frederic W. Cook & Co. has reviewed the compensation components and levels for our named executive officers and advised the Compensation Committee on the appropriateness of our compensation programs, including our incentive and equity-based compensation plans, retention incentives and any proposed employment agreements, as these matters arose during the year. Frederic W. Cook & Co. also provides recommendations on new compensation plans, programs and arrangements, and assists with the design and drafting and provides an opinion on the reasonableness of such plans, programs or arrangements. Representatives of Frederic W. Cook & Co. attend Compensation Committee meetings at the Compensation Committee's request and make themselves available to provide guidance to the Compensation Committee on a variety of compensation issues as they arise. The primary point of contact at Frederic W. Cook & Co. communicates with the chair of the Compensation Committee frequently and interacts frequently with all the Compensation Committee members independent of management.

Frederic W. Cook & Co. prepares the benchmarking data with respect to an annual peer group compensation survey and reviews the appropriateness of such data. Frederic W. Cook & Co. also reviews our process for determining, and the compensation decisions made with respect to, comparisons of our named executive officers and the officers of those companies included in our peer group and market benchmarking surveys.

Personnel in our human resources department support the work of the Compensation Committee and its consultants. In addition, our CEO periodically discusses the design of compensation programs and the compensation levels of our other named executive officers and certain key personnel with the Compensation Committee.

Use of Peer Group and Market Survey Benchmarking Data

The primary data considered by the Compensation Committee in determining the elements of annual compensation is the peer group data and the market survey data. As a benchmarking process and in order for the Compensation Committee to understand how our current compensation structure aligns with the external market,

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the Compensation Committee compared the median and 75th percentile compensation level for each element of compensation of executives from groups of telecommunications and high-technology companies with the compensation of each of our named executive officers. For 2008, we derived this data from two sources: a market data assessment of a peer group of companies conducted by Frederic W. Cook & Co. and market survey data compiled by Towers Perrin.

Peer Group Data

The peer group was developed by Frederic W. Cook & Co. and approved by the Compensation Committee. To ensure that competitive data reasonably represents the external market in which we compete for talent, companies are selected for the peer group based on similarity of their business model and product offerings, as well as comparability from a size perspective. Size is assessed on a variety of bases, including annual revenue, market capitalization, net income and number of employees. The following table illustrates the companies included in the peer group in 2008:

Alltel Corporation	Electronic Data Systems Corporation	Qwest Communications International Inc.
AT&T Inc.	Hewlett-Packard Company	The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
Comcast Corporation	Motorola, Inc.	Time Warner Inc.
Computer Sciences Corporation	QUALCOMM Incorporated	Verizon Communications Inc.

Dell Inc.

Frederic W. Cook & Co. reviewed the compensation provided for the named executive officers of each of the peer group companies and provided the Compensation Committee with a summary of the market data, including the median and the 25th and 75th percentiles for each element of compensation.

When possible, Frederic W. Cook & Co. used the compensation of a peer group named executive officer with the same title or function as each of our named executive officers. In some cases, the titles of the named executive officers of our peer group companies did not closely match the titles or responsibilities of our named executive officers and, in these situations, Frederic W. Cook & Co. used the hierarchical pay compensation information of the executive officer with the same ranking in the peer group company's proxy statement. For example, the compensation of our third highest paid named executive officer would be compared with the compensation of the third highest executive officer of the applicable peer group company. Because the data used in this analysis was based on compensation paid two years previously, the compensation amounts were adjusted for the estimated increase in the cost of labor.

For purposes of benchmarking market rates and considering changes to the compensation of our named executive officers in 2009, we removed Alltel Corporation (now known as Verizon Communications Inc.), which had been acquired. Additionally, Sun Microsystems, Texas Instruments and Xerox were added to the peer group of companies. These additional companies were included in the peer group to expand the comparison group and, thereby, improve the statistical reliability of the data.

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We obtained survey data from Towers Perrin that included the median and 75th percentile compensation levels for each element of compensation for key executive positions of a group of telecommunications and high-technology companies that elect to participate in their surveys. The telecommunications and high-technology focus was intended to ensure that the companies included within the data sample represented those with similar business and financial models to ours and with which we most closely compete for top talent. The companies included in the 2008 market survey were as follows:

Accenture Ltd.	Electronic Data Systems Corporation	Qwest Communications International Inc.
AT&T Inc.	Hewlett-Packard Company	Time Warner Inc.
Computer Sciences Corporation	Motorola, Inc.	Verizon Communications Inc.
Cox Communications, Inc.	Nortel Networks Corporation	

This Towers Perrin survey aggregated the data of the participating telecommunications and high-technology companies. Where titles of our named executive officers do not match those of the officers of this composite group, we used the compensation for a position with a similar job function for purposes of our analysis. Because the data used in this analysis was based on compensation paid for the prior year, the compensation amounts were adjusted for the estimated increase in the cost of labor.

Tax Deductibility of Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits to \$1 million the amount of non-performance-based remuneration that we may deduct from our taxable income in any tax year with respect to our CEO and the three other most highly compensated executive officers, other than the CFO, at the end of the year. Base salary, certain equity-based awards and perquisites and other personal benefits are not considered performance-based remuneration. A company, however, may deduct from its taxable income without regard to the \$1 million limit the full value of all performance-based compensation under Section 162(m), such as annual cash incentive compensation and stock option awards, if certain requirements are met, including that the maximum number of stock options that may be awarded and the maximum amount of other performance-based remuneration that may be payable to any one executive officer have been disclosed to and approved by shareholders prior to the award or payment.

The Compensation Committee considers Section 162(m) deductibility in designing our compensation program and incentive-based compensation plans. In general, we design our short-term and long-term incentives plans to be compliant with the performance-based compensation rules of Section 162(m), thereby ensuring full deductibility. However, in certain circumstances, the Compensation Committee has determined it necessary in order to retain executives in and attract candidates for senior level positions to offer compensation packages in which the non-performance-based elements exceed the \$1 million Section 162(m) limit.

In 2008 for Section 162(m) purposes under our short-term incentive compensation (or STIC) plan, the second through fourth quarters payouts were intended to be treated as performance-based compensation. With respect to our long-term incentive compensation (or LTIC) plan, the 2008 stock option awards and the performance unit and resulting RSU awards granted under our LTIC plan under the enhanced near-term incentive compensation opportunity (or ENTI), other than the performance unit and RSU awards to Mr. Hesse for the second and third quarters, were intended to be treated as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m). The 2008 time-based RSU award component of the LTIC plan does not satisfy the requirements to be considered performance-based compensation under Section 162(m).

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The Compensation Committee annually reviews the compensation packages of our named executive officers and other key personnel, as presented in the form of tally sheets. These tally sheets set forth all components of compensation, a summary of the outstanding equity holdings of each named executive officer as of year end and the value of such holdings under various assumed share prices, the present value of retirement benefits and other benefit plans and programs and perquisites. The tally sheets also set forth the estimated value that each of our named executive officer would realize upon separation under various scenarios including: voluntary termination of employment with and without good reason; involuntary termination of employment with and without cause; termination of employment in connection with a change in control; and death or disability. The Compensation Committee uses these tally sheets when considering adjustments to base salaries and awards of equity-based or other remuneration, and in establishing incentive plan opportunity levels. Although the Compensation Committee reviews and considers the amounts realizable by our named executive officers under different termination scenarios, as well as the current stock and equity-based award holdings, value received upon vesting of previously awarded equity-based awards and exercise of in-the-money previously awarded stock options, these are not primary considerations in the assessment and determination of annual compensation for our named executive officers.

The following comprise the primary elements of the 2008 compensation program for our named executive officers:

Element	Form of Compensation	Purpose	Performance Objective(s)
Base Salary	Cash	Provides competitive, fixed compensation to attract and retain exceptional executive talent.	None.
Short-Term Incentive	Cash	Creates a strong financial incentive for achieving or exceeding critical operating and financial objectives.	For First Quarter 2008: adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization, or OIBDA; post-paid wireless churn; net iDEN subscriber additions; and calls to customer care. For the Second through Fourth Quarters 2008: adjusted OIBDA; post-paid wireless churn; free cash flow (which is defined in the LTIC as net cash from operating activities excluding certain items); and calls to customer care.

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Element	Form of Compensation	Purpose	Performance Objective(s)
Long-Term Incentive	Non-qualified stock options and time-based RSUs, as well as performance-based RSUs granted under the ENTI.	Create a strong long term financial incentive for achieving or exceeding critical goals thereby producing positive returns for our shareholders and aligns executive interests with those of shareholders, as well as enhancing executive retention.	With respect to performance-based RSUs granted under the ENTI, adjusted OIBDA; post-paid wireless churn; free cash flow; and calls to customer care.

A summary of the primary elements of compensation with respect to each of our named executive officers for 2008 is set forth in the table below:

	2008 Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plan			2008 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan
	Base Salary(1)	Target Opportunity	Actual Payout	Target Opportunity
Daniel R. Hesse	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 2,651,388	\$ 10,000,000
Robert H. Brust	\$ 642,308	\$ 867,750	\$ 1,121,933	\$ N/A
Keith O. Cowan	\$ 725,000	\$ 906,250	\$ 1,177,854	\$ 5,000,000
Steven L. Elfman	\$ 412,500	\$ 535,641	\$ 687,198	\$ 3,000,000
Robert L. Johnson	\$ 460,000	\$ 460,000	\$ 597,862	\$ 1,280,000
Former Executive Officers:				
Paul N. Saleh	\$ 75,000	\$ 67,031	\$ 70,852	\$ N/A
William G. Arendt	\$ 329,000	\$ 253,999	\$ 351,093	\$ 640,384
Leonard J. Kennedy	\$ 515,000	\$ 423,523	\$ 558,472	\$ 1,565,334
Mark E. Angelino	\$ 49,760	\$ 37,357	\$ 48,553	\$ N/A

(1) The base salary includes prorated amounts for Messrs. Brust, Elfman, Saleh, Arendt, Kennedy and Angelino based on length of employment. The annual salary of Messrs. Brust and Elfman is set forth below.

The amounts indicated for each named executive officer under the column entitled "2008 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan Target Opportunity" represents the target amount granted rather than the actual amount earned under the program. Actual amounts earned, if any, may be above or below the indicated value and depend on a variety of factors including whether the executive meets the applicable vesting requirements, changes in our share price, and, in the case of the ENTI, whether the applicable performance goals are attained.

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Mr. Brust commenced employment with us on May 1, 2008. In lieu of participating in the 2008 and 2009 LTIC plans, Mr. Brust received a sign-on equity award valued at \$6,000,000, which is detailed below in (2) and (3). To attract Mr. Brust, his employment agreement provided for: (1) a \$1,650,000 cash sign-on bonus (a) 250,000 of which was payable in 2008, (b) \$700,000 of which was payable as soon as practicable after December 31, 2008, and (c) the final \$700,000 of which is payable as soon as practicable after December 31, 2009; (2) a sign-on option award to purchase 677,201 shares of our common stock that vest 50% on May 1, 2010 and 50% on May 1, 2011; and (3) 469,484 sign-on RSU award, that vest 50% on May 1, 2010 and 50% on May 1, 2011. For additional information regarding Mr. Brust's compensation, see Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards.

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Other elements of the compensation program for our named executive officers consist of:

retention programs;

employee benefit plans and retirement programs;

limited personal benefits and perquisites; and

a deferred compensation program.

Base Salary

We determined the base salary of each of our named executive officers based on a number of factors, including the:

nature, responsibilities and reporting relationships of the position;

salary levels for incumbents in comparable positions at peer companies, as well as other executives within our organization; and

experience and tenure of the executive.

We periodically make adjustments to the base salaries of executive officers based on the factors listed above, as well as our performance and that of the executive officer. In 2008, the Compensation Committee completed its annual review of the base salaries of our named executive officers who were employed by us at that time. As of February 25, 2009, the base salary of our named executive officers remained unchanged from 2008 and is as follows:

Mr. Hesse \$1,200,000;

Mr. Brust \$ 1,000,000;

Mr. Cowan \$725,000;

Mr. Elfman \$650,000; and

Mr. Johnson \$460,000.

Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plans

Each of our named executive officers participated in our annual STIC plan for 2008, which provides for the payment of cash compensation if specified financial and operational objectives are achieved. The STIC plan is an important part of how we reward our employees, and we believe that indicates our commitment to producing solid financial results.

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In 2008, we established target opportunities under the STIC plan for each named executive officer as a multiple of his base salary. To hold those employees with the highest levels of responsibility accountable for our performance, we vary incentive target opportunities under the STIC plan in proportion with each named executive officer's role and responsibilities.

The employment agreement of Mr. Hesse provided for a target opportunity under the 2008 STIC plan of not less than 170% of base salary and an annual payment of not more than 200% of his target opportunity. We determined the target opportunities under the STIC plan of each of the other named executive officers based on job responsibilities and a number of other factors, including the short-term incentive compensation levels paid to employees with comparable responsibilities by the companies in the benchmarking analyses. We also considered the target opportunities of each named executive officer as compared with the levels for other members of our senior management team.

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Because we were engaged in restructuring and turnaround initiatives in 2008, the Compensation Committee adopted a quarterly performance measurement approach that was intended to provide flexibility in the selection of performance goals and targets. This approach ensured that target performance objectives were set at levels sufficiently difficult to justify the payouts and also enabled the Compensation Committee to consider progress against our turnaround initiatives throughout the year.

In early 2008, the Compensation Committee established financial and operational objectives as a basis for determining the amount of payments made under the STIC plan for the first quarter 2008 if our performance met or exceeded these objectives. The Compensation Committee believed that the performance objectives set for the first quarter 2008 would emphasize our achievement of certain critical near-term objectives necessary for a turnaround by providing incentives for the senior management team and other plan participants to focus on (1) the customer experience as measured by wireless post-paid churn and calls from subscribers to customer care, (2) profitability as measured by adjusted OIBDA and (3) increasing our focus on iDEN customer additions.

In March 2008, the Compensation Committee established performance objectives for the second through fourth quarters of 2008. The Compensation Committee believed that the performance objectives set for the second through fourth quarters of 2008 would focus our organization on achieving certain critical near-term objectives necessary for a turnaround by providing incentives for the senior management team and other plan participants to (1) improve the customer experience as measured by wireless post-paid churn and reducing the calls from subscribers to customer care, and (2) improve profitability as measured by adjusted OIBDA and cash generation.

In focusing on these objectives during 2008, the Compensation Committee hoped to position us to stabilize negative subscriber trends in future periods.

For the first quarter 2008, the four performance objectives and their respective weightings were (1) adjusted OIBDA or adjusted operating income before depreciation and amortization and special items, which was weighted at 30%; (2) service calls from subscribers to customer care, which was weighted at 30%; (3) post-paid wireless churn, which was weighted at 20%; and (4) net iDEN subscriber additions, which was weighted at 20%. For the adjusted OIBDA objective, for the first quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$1.88 to \$1.98 billion, with a threshold set at \$1.78 billion. For that quarter, we reported actual adjusted OIBDA at \$2.009 billion. We do not include the performance goals for service calls from subscribers to customer care. We set the service calls to customer care target at a level that was challenging but obtainable. We also do not include the performance goals for post-paid wireless churn. We set the post-paid wireless churn target at a level that was challenging but obtainable. In addition, we do not include the performance goals for net iDEN subscriber additions. We set the net iDEN subscriber additions target at a level that was challenging but obtainable.

For the second quarter of 2008, the four performance objectives and their respective weightings were (1) adjusted OIBDA, which was weighted at 20%; (2) service calls from subscribers to customer care, which was weighted at 20%; (3) post-paid wireless churn, which was weighted at 40%; and (4) free cash flow, which was weighted at 20%. For the adjusted OIBDA objective, for the second quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$1.65 to \$1.738 billion, with a threshold set at \$1.575 billion. For that quarter, we reported actual adjusted OIBDA at \$2.096 billion. For the free cash flow objective, for the second quarter of 2008, the target was set at (\$12) to \$5 million, with a threshold set at (\$87) million. For that quarter, we reported actual free cash flow at (\$8) million. We do not include the performance goals for service calls from subscribers to customer care. We set the service calls to customer care target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the second quarter, the target level was set at a level that was 9% below the first quarter target, which we believed was challenging to obtain. We also do not include the performance goals for post-paid wireless churn. We set the post-paid wireless churn target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the second quarter, the target level was set with the belief that the objective was more challenging to obtain than the first quarter.

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For the third quarter of 2008, the four performance objectives and their respective weightings were (1) adjusted OIBDA, which was weighted at 20%; (2) service calls from subscribers to customer care, which was weighted at 20%; (3) post-paid wireless churn, which was weighted at 40%; and (4) free cash flow, which was weighted at 20%. For the adjusted OIBDA objective, for the third quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$1.55 to \$1.65 billion, with a threshold set at \$1.51 billion. For that quarter, we reported actual adjusted OIBDA at \$1.824 billion. For the free cash flow objective, for the third quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$215 to \$265 million, with a threshold set at \$175 million. For that quarter, we reported actual free cash flow at \$1.059 billion. We do not include the performance goals for service calls from subscribers to customer care. We set the service calls to customer care target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the third quarter, the target level was set at a level that was 13% below the second quarter target, which we believed was challenging to obtain. We also do not include the performance goals for post-paid wireless churn. We set the post-paid wireless churn target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the third quarter, the target level was set with the belief that the objective was more challenging to obtain than the second quarter.

For the fourth quarter of 2008, the four performance objectives and their respective weightings were (1) adjusted OIBDA, which was weighted at 20%; (2) service calls from subscribers to customer care, which was weighted at 20%; (3) post-paid wireless churn, which was weighted at 40%; and (4) free cash flow, which was weighted at 20%. For the adjusted OIBDA objective, for the fourth quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$1.6 to \$1.8 billion, with a threshold set at \$1.375 billion. For that quarter, we reported actual adjusted OIBDA at \$1.735 billion. For the free cash flow objective, for the fourth quarter of 2008, the target was set at \$350 to \$550 million, with a threshold set at \$213 million. For that quarter, we reported actual free cash flow at \$536 million. We do not include the performance goals for service calls from subscribers to customer care. We set the service calls to customer care target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the fourth quarter, the target level was set at a level that was 5% below the third quarter target, which we believed was challenging to obtain. We also do not include the performance goals for post-paid wireless churn. We set the post-paid wireless churn target at a level that was challenging but obtainable, and, for the fourth quarter, the target level was set with the belief that the objective was more challenging to obtain than the third quarter.

The STIC plan provided that payouts to each named executive officer were determined using three variables:

the named executive officer's targeted opportunity;

our actual performance compared with each performance objective; and

the relative weightings of each performance objective.

The STIC plan provided for a range of payouts above and below each named executive officer's targeted opportunity so long as our actual results exceeded minimum threshold levels. To further our goal of tying a significant portion of each named executive officer's total annual compensation to our business performance, the plan provided that we would make a STIC payment equal to the named executive officer's targeted opportunity only if our actual results met the targeted objectives. Similarly, the plan provided for a payment in excess of a named executive officer's targeted opportunity if our actual performance exceeded the targeted objectives. The plan also provided that, if our actual performance was below the target objectives but exceeded the minimum threshold levels, we would make a payment that was below the named executive officer's targeted opportunity. Named executive officers were not eligible for payouts under the plan if our actual performance did not meet the minimum threshold level for the targeted objectives.

For the first quarter of 2008, our adjusted OIBDA and calls from subscribers to customer care performance exceeded the target level, our net iDEN subscriber additions met the target level and our post-paid wireless churn met the threshold level but did not meet the target level. For the second quarter of 2008, our adjusted OIBDA, calls from subscribers to customer care and post-paid wireless churn exceeded our target, and our free cash flow met the target level. For the third quarter of 2008, our adjusted OIBDA and free cash flow exceeded the target

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level, and our post-paid wireless churn met the threshold level but did not meet the target level. Our calls from subscribers to customer care performance met the target level. For the fourth quarter of 2008, our calls from subscribers to customer care exceeded the target level, our adjusted OIBDA and free cash flow met the target level, and our post-paid wireless churn did not meet the target threshold.

For the second, third and fourth quarters of 2008, the Compensation Committee established Section 162(m) objectives for the named executive officers potentially subject to Section 162(m) at a small fraction of a percentage of our adjusted operating income excluding amortization in the second and third quarter, and our adjusted operating income less depreciation in the fourth quarter. The Compensation Committee exercised their discretion to make payments under the STIC plan at levels below the limits achieved under the Section 162(m) objective in those quarters.

Under the terms of our incentive compensation plans, the Compensation Committee retains the discretion to reduce the size of any award or payout. In 2008, the Compensation Committee exercised its discretion and reduced the payout made to all employees participating in the STIC Plan in the first quarter 2008 with respect to the calls to customer care metric. In making the determination to reduce the payout with respect to this metric, the Compensation Committee considered when our costs savings realized from improvements in the calls to customer care metric will be realized and how the metric has improved with each successive implementation of the unified billing platform across the customer base which contributed significantly to exceeding this metric.

For the 2008 STIC plan, the aggregate payout percentage, as compared to targeted opportunity for our current named executive officers was approximately 130%. With respect to our former named executive officers, the aggregate payout percentages as compared to targeted opportunity were as follows: Saleh 106%; Arendt 138%; Kennedy 132%; and Angelino 130%. The payout percentages for the former named executive officers vary depending on their respective dates of departure.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan

Each of our named executive officers participated in our LTIC plan for 2008, under which we award equity-based incentive compensation. Typically, the Compensation Committee grants equity awards to eligible employees, including our named executive officers, at its February meeting. In 2008, however, equity awards were granted at the meeting on March 26, 2008 because the Compensation Committee delayed completing its review of our incentive compensation arrangements until the 2008 strategy and supporting metrics were complete. Equity grants to certain newly hired employees, including named executive officers, are made on the date of hire.

Enhanced Near-Term Incentive Compensation Opportunity. Given our need to focus on achieving certain critical near-term objectives necessary for a turnaround of our performance, as discussed further below, the Compensation Committee designed part of the 2008 LTIC plan to provide incentives for our named executive officers and other plan participants to reduce wireless post-paid churn and improve the customer experience, use our resources efficiently and maximize free cash flow. To further the focus of senior management on these critical objectives, the Compensation Committee allocated one half of each participant's 2008 LTIC plan targeted opportunity, which we refer to as the ENTI, to be in the form of dollar denominated performance units, or Performance Units, payable in RSU awards, based on our actual performance in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2008 using the same performance objectives as the second, third and fourth quarter 2008 STIC plan. The 50% portion of each 2008 LTIC plan participant's targeted objective to be made in the form of Performance Units were equally allocated to each of the second, third and fourth quarters of 2008 under the ENTI. The Performance Units were payable based on our actual performance during the applicable period as compared to the financial or operating metric established for each performance objective and relative weightings for each performance objective for each of the three quarterly performance periods in 2008 established with respect to the STIC plan discussed above under Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plans.

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Each performance objective for the applicable quarterly performance period had a threshold, target and maximum level of payment opportunity, with the maximum payment opportunity equal to 250% of the participant's target opportunity. To calculate each incentive award amount, an eligible participant's incentive target opportunity was multiplied by the weightings and the payout results for each performance objective. In order to comply with the performance-based requirements under Section 162(m), for our named executive officers, other than Mr. Hesse in the second and third quarters of 2008, the payout for Section 162(m) purposes was limited to a maximum payout under an adjusted operating income objective. For 2008, the payout earned under the performance objectives described in the previous paragraph did not exceed this maximum payout.

All payouts of Performance Units were in the form of RSU awards that vest six months from the end of the applicable quarterly performance period. We determined the number of RSUs in which each Performance Unit would convert by dividing the payout under the applicable Performance Units by the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation. Under the 2008 LTIC plan, the 50% portion of each plan participant's targeted opportunity that remains following the allocation to the Performance Units under the ENTI discussed above were made in a combination of non-qualified stock options and RSU awards, weighted equally based on expected fair value on the date of grant. The Compensation Committee made the allocation between stock options and RSU awards to reward our executive officers to the extent that they created value for the shareholders and to ensure that the program supports our retention objectives.

The stock options will vest ratably in equal amounts on February 11, 2009, February 11, 2010 and February 11, 2011 and have an exercise price equal to the closing price of a share of our common stock on the date of the grant. The RSU awards, which are designed to enhance our retention of executive officers, will vest entirely on February 11, 2011.

2009 Compensation Determinations

2009 Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plan

In January 2009, the Compensation Committee established the performance objectives and other terms of our STIC plan for 2009. The 2009 STIC plan provides for a payment of incentive compensation based on the achievement of the following specified performance objective during 2009:

adjusted OIBDA, weighted at 50%;

post-paid churn, weighted at 20%;

post-paid net subscriber additions, weighted at 20%; and

calls from subscribers to customer care, weighted at 10%.

As compared to second through fourth quarters of 2008, the performance objectives for our 2009 STIC plan have changed by eliminating free cash flow as an objective and substituting it with post-paid net subscriber additions. Also, the objectives are weighted at different rates as compared to 2008 because of our current business focus for 2009. The Compensation Committee believes that these changes are important in order to place a strong emphasis on the most critical objectives to drive turnaround and improve our performance in 2009.

For 2009, the Compensation Committee has established two six-month performance periods. The biannual approach was adopted in lieu of the quarterly approach used in 2008 because, although we believe we are making progress against key turnaround initiatives, the Compensation Committee wanted to maintain flexibility to revisit the performance schedule at mid-year. This flexibility enables the setting of goals that are sufficiently challenging to justify and support the costs associated with payout at various levels of performance and also protects against the possibility of a compensation windfall or deficit during a period in which the economic

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environment is highly volatile. The first period is from January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, and the second is from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Each performance period has discrete performance objectives, and employees generally must be employed on December 31, 2009 in order to be eligible to receive compensation for both periods.

The award payment under the 2009 STIC plan will be determined based on our results using three variables:

the individual's annual incentive target opportunity, which is based on a percentage of his or her base salary;

our performance compared with each of the performance objectives mentioned above; and

relative weightings for each performance objective.

Each of the performance objectives will have a threshold, target and maximum level of payment opportunity. The minimum payment opportunity is equal to 25% of the individual's target opportunity, a target opportunity of 100% and a maximum payment opportunity is equal to 200% of the individual's target opportunity. The determination of payments for the named executive officers is intended to comply with the performance-based requirements under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. Hesse's employment agreement provides for a target opportunity under the STIC plan of not less than 170% of base salary or \$2,040,000 for 2009. Mr. Brust's employment agreement provides for a target opportunity under the STIC plan of not less than 130% of base salary or \$1,300,000 for 2009. Mr. Cowan's employment agreement provides for a target opportunity under STIC plan of not less than 125% of base salary or \$906,250 for 2009. Mr. Elfman's employment agreement provides for a target opportunity under STIC plan of not less than 125% of base salary or \$812,500 for 2009. Mr. Johnson's employment agreement provides for a target opportunity under the STIC plan of not less than 100% of base salary or \$460,000 for 2009.

The actual incentive amounts paid under the 2009 STIC plan will be based on our actual results during 2009 in relation to the established performance objectives, and these payments may be greater or less than the target amounts that have been established.

2009 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan

In January 2009, the Compensation Committee established the 2009 performance objective and other terms of our LTIC plan. In light of the current economic conditions, in February 2009, the Compensation Committee decided that participants, including our senior management, should have at least a 15% reduction in their LTI awards for 2009. As compared to the 2008 LTIC plan, the 2009 plan varies in several areas. The 2009 LTIC plan shifted away from the ENTI to a three year Performance Unit award, as well as stock option awards in order to maximize shares available under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan. In addition, although we dropped the free cash flow objective from the STIC plan for 2009, we have added it as the objective under the 2009 LTIC plan for the first year's performance period, which is discussed in more detail below.

Subject to the 15% reduction described above, seventy-five percent of the value of each participant's targeted opportunity will be in the form of non-qualified stock option grants, the number of which will be based on the value of each option determined using the Black-Scholes valuation model. The exercise price of each option was the closing price of our common stock on the grant date, and the options will vest ratably in equal amounts on February 25, 2010, February 25, 2011, February 25, 2012, and February 25, 2013.

Subject to the 15% reduction described above, the remaining 25% of the value of each participant's targeted opportunity will be made in the form of a Performance Unit award. The value of each Performance Unit is \$1.00. The Performance Unit award is allocated equally to each of the 2009, 2010, and 2011 performance periods, and is payable in cash or unrestricted shares at the end of 2011. If paid out in shares of our common stock, the number of shares awarded will be determined by dividing the payout amount by the average high and low stock price on the date the Compensation Committee approves the form of payment.

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The Performance Unit payout will be based on our achievement of specified results in each annual performance period. The performance objective for year one is free cash flow and includes a threshold of 25%, a target achievement level of 100% and a maximum achievement level of 200% based on the achievement of those specified results. If the threshold performance goals are not attained, all of the Performance Units will be forfeited. The Compensation Committee may change the objective for the second and third annual performance periods. The payouts may be greater or less than the target amounts that will be established. Except for the Performance Unit award to Mr. Hesse, which is allocated to the 2011 calendar year performance period, the design of the plan is intended to comply with the performance-based requirements under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Retention Programs

The Compensation Committee periodically evaluates whether we are at risk of losing the services of any of our named executive officers and other key personnel who we believe are critical to the success of our business. To ensure that we retain the employment of our named executive officers and other key personnel who we believe may be at particular risk of voluntarily terminating employment, the Compensation Committee from time to time awards cash bonuses, RSUs or stock options to further our retention objectives and promote a commonality of interests with shareholders. In determining whom to award, and the number of RSUs or stock options to be awarded, the Compensation Committee considers the current stock and equity-based award holdings of each named executive officer and other key personnel under consideration. RSU awards made for retention purposes do not comply with the Section 162(m) performance-based requirements.

During 2008, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Arendt 20,824 RSUs that were scheduled to vest on June 9, 2009. This award vested upon Mr. Arendt's involuntary termination without cause on November 14, 2008 and is included in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table. During 2008, the Compensation Committee also awarded Mr. Kennedy 29,462 RSUs that were scheduled to vest on June 9, 2009. This award vested upon Mr. Kennedy's involuntary termination without cause on December 19, 2008, and is included in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table. During 2008, the Compensation Committee also awarded Mr. Johnson 26,316 RSUs that are scheduled to vest June 9, 2009.

Employee Benefit Plans and Programs

Our compensation program includes a comprehensive array of health and welfare benefits. Our named executive officers participate in the same benefit programs, plans and arrangements that are provided to all of our eligible employees. We pay all of the costs for some of these benefit plans, and participants contribute a portion of the cost for other benefit plans.

Retirement Programs

Our retirement program includes a 401(k) plan. For 2008, under the Sprint Nextel 401(k) Plan, we matched participant's contributions up to 5% of eligible compensation regardless of the achievement of performance targets. For 2009, under the 401(k) Plan, we will match participant's contributions up to 4% of eligible compensation from January 1, 2009 to March 6, 2009 and will not match participant's contributions to the plan after March 6, 2009 unless we meet certain performance targets. The Compensation Committee made the determination that if we exceed our adjusted OIBDA target in 2009, as discussed under 2009 Compensation Determinations 2009 Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plan, then 10% of the over achievement would be distributed to participants on a matching basis up to a maximum of 4% of their eligible compensation. The match for 2009, including any discretionary amount, will be made in the first quarter of 2010. The 401(k) Plan provides the participants, with our help, the ability to add to their retirement benefits and the opportunity to build financial security for their future.

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Deferred Compensation

Our named executive officers are entitled to participate in the Sprint Nextel Deferred Compensation Plan, a nonqualified and unfunded plan under which they may defer to future years the receipt of certain compensation that would otherwise be paid to them in the year in which it was earned. The plan provides our named executive officers the ability to defer income in addition to the 401(k) Plan. Under the plan for 2008, we matched contributions made by our named executive officers in an amount up to 5% of eligible earnings above the applicable annual limit, which for 2008 was \$230,000, to compensate highly-compensated employees for limitations placed on our 401(k) Plan by federal tax law. Participants elect to allocate deferred and matching contributions among one or more hypothetical investment options, which include one option that tracks our common stock and other options that track broad bond and equity indices. Messrs. Saleh and Hesse participated in this plan during 2008. For 2009, none of the named executive officers are participating in the Deferred Compensation Plan.

The amount of matching contributions made by us to participating named executive officers and any above market earnings are included in the All Other Compensation column of the Summary Compensation Table.

Personal Benefits and Perquisites

We provide very few personal benefits and perquisites to our named executive officers. The few personal benefits and perquisites that we do provide are summarized in the footnotes to the Summary Compensation Table below, and consist primarily of non-business use of our corporate aircraft, primarily for our CEO and CFO, and communications equipment installed in residences. The Compensation Committee established an overall security program for Mr. Hesse, our CEO, for our benefit. Under the security program, we currently provide Mr. Hesse with residential security systems and equipment, and he is required to use our aircraft for non-business as well as business travel. Mr. Hesse is permitted to have his family accompany him on the corporate aircraft for business and non-business travel. Mr. Brust, our CFO, has a provision in his employment agreement that allows the personal use of our corporate aircraft, which was part of a comprehensive compensation package negotiated with Mr. Brust. The Compensation Committee determined that this provision was necessary in order to attract Mr. Brust, who had a very specific skill set that we desired, to work for us following his retirement from Eastman Kodak Company, where he gained valuable experience working with a challenged company.

Executive Severance Policy

The Compensation Committee decided, in its judgment, that severance to our named executive officers is needed to mitigate the risks associated with leaving their former employer or position and assuming the challenges of a new position, in addition to providing financial protection and transition to new employment opportunities. Under our executive severance policy, the board will seek shareholder approval for any future severance agreement or arrangement with a senior executive that provides (a) severance pay in excess of two times the senior executive's base salary plus bonus and (b) continuation of group health, life insurance and other benefits in excess of 24-months following the executive's termination. The policy permits (x) accelerated vesting of RSUs, stock options and any other equity-based awards or (y) continued vesting during the severance period of any such awards. The policy also requires that we seek shareholder approval of any future severance agreement or arrangement that provides for the reimbursement of excise taxes imposed under IRC Section 4999 to a senior level executive.

For additional information regarding severance benefits to which our named executive officers are entitled, see Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or Change of Control.

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Change in Control

The Sprint Nextel Change in Control Severance Plan, which became effective January 1, 2007, provides severance benefits to a select group of senior management, including Messrs. Hesse, Cowan, Elfman and Johnson, in the event of a qualified termination of employment in connection with a transaction that results in a change in control of us. The plan is designed to increase the willingness of participants to remain with us notwithstanding the employment uncertainties related to a possible change in control of us.

If a transaction that could result in a change in control was under consideration, we expect that our named executive officers would face uncertainties about how the transaction may affect their continued employment with us, which we believe would distract their attention from their day-to-day responsibilities. In the event of any transaction that would result in a change in control is proposed or under consideration, we believe it is in our shareholders' best interest if our named executive officers remain employed with us. These arrangements accomplish this goal by providing each named executive officer with a meaningful severance benefit in the event that a change in control occurs and, within a specified period of time after the change in control, the named executive officers' employment is involuntarily terminated without cause or voluntarily terminated for good reason. Any benefit received by an officer under a change-in-control agreement would be reduced to the extent of any severance benefit he may earn under any other applicable program or severance policy so that there would be no duplication of benefits.

Although the Compensation Committee considers the estimated value an executive would realize upon termination in connection with a change in control, the Compensation Committee does not rely heavily upon that information in deciding the elements of annual compensation for our named executive officers. Continued retention and management objectivity in very limited and unusual circumstances is the primary purpose of these change in control arrangements, and retention and motivation to achieve performance goals in a normal operating environment are the focus in establishing elements of annual compensation. For additional information regarding benefits upon a change in control of us to which our named executive officers are entitled, see Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or Change of Control.

Clawback Policy

In 2007, our board implemented a clawback policy. The policy provides that, in addition to any other remedies available to us under applicable law, we may recover (in whole or in part) any bonus, incentive payment, commission, equity-based award or other compensation received by certain executives, including our named executive officers, if the board or any committee of the board determines that such bonus, incentive payment, commission, equity-based award or other compensation is or was based on any financial results or operating objectives that were impacted by the officer's knowing or intentional fraudulent or illegal conduct, and our board or a committee of the board determines that recovery is appropriate.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

In August 2005, we adopted stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers, other members of our senior management team and our outside directors. The board believes ownership by executives of a meaningful financial stake in our company serves to align executives' interests with those of our shareholders. Our guidelines require that our CEO hold shares of our common stock with a value equal to five times his base salary, and that the other named executive officers currently employed by us hold shares of our common stock with a value equal to three times their respective base salaries. Eligible shares and share equivalents counted toward ownership include:

common or preferred stock, including those purchased through our Employee Stock Purchase Plan;

restricted stock or restricted stock units;

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intrinsic value of vested, in-the-money stock options; and

share units held in our 401(k) plan and various deferred compensation plans.

Persons subject to the stock ownership guidelines have five years to achieve the ownership requirement beginning on the later of January 1, 2006 and the date on which the person becomes subject to the ownership guidelines. As of December 31, 2008, Messrs. Hesse, Cowan and Johnson are on track to achieve the five year ownership target, but none have met 100% of the stock ownership requirement. Messrs. Brust and Elfman were hired in 2008 and will have five years to meet their ownership requirement beginning in 2009.

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The table below summarizes the compensation of our named executive officers that is attributable to the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006. The named executive officers are our Chief Executive Officer and President, our Chief Financial Officer, and our three other most highly compensated executive officers ranked by their total compensation in the table below. In addition, our former Chief Financial Officer, former Acting Chief Financial Officer, former General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, and former President, Sales and Distribution are included.

Each of our named executive officers has an employment agreement with us. With respect to Messrs. Saleh, Arendt and Kennedy, who were employed by Nextel prior to the Sprint-Nextel merger, we assumed the obligations under their respective employment agreements in connection with the merger.

For more information regarding our compensation philosophy and a discussion of the elements of our compensation program, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis. For additional information on how our Compensation Committee views annual equity compensation, see Supplement to the Summary Compensation Table on page 44, which shows the value of stock and option awards granted to our named executive officers in 2008 based on grant date fair value and intrinsic value.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (1)(\$)	Bonus (2)(\$)	Stock Awards (3)(\$)	Option Awards (3)(\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan	All other Compensation	Total (\$)
						(4)(\$)	(5)(\$)	
Daniel R. Hesse Chief Executive Officer and President	2008	1,200,000		9,246,053	5,816,704	2,651,388	287,228	19,201,373
	2007	23,077	2,650,000	125,448	195,771			2,994,296
Joined 12-17-07								
Robert H. Brust Chief Financial Officer	2008	642,308	950,000	836,725	788,880	1,121,933	609,530	4,949,376
Joined 5-1-08								
Keith O. Cowan President, Strategic Planning and Corporate Initiatives and Acting President, CDMA	2008	725,000	500,000	4,177,370	1,644,200	1,177,854	95,057	8,319,481
Wholesale								
Joined 5-4-08								
Robert L. Johnson Chief Service Officer	2008	460,000	115,000	1,582,869	839,897	597,862	12,410	3,608,038
Former Executive Officers:								
Paul N. Saleh Former Chief Financial Officer Departed 1-25-08	2008	171,251		5,712,894	3,552,540	70,852	4,137,848	13,645,385
	2007	775,385		2,435,164	3,073,579	628,875	35,394	6,948,397
	2006	750,000	900,000	1,122,067	3,378,557	157,500	88,237	6,396,361
William G. Arendt Former Acting Chief Financial Officer	2008	365,635	150,000	1,103,410	759,079	351,093	1,380,084	4,109,301
Departed 11-14-08								
Leonard J. Kennedy Former General Counsel and Corporate	2008	574,423		2,449,760	1,549,084	558,472	1,996,422	7,128,161

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Secretary

Departed 12-19-08

Mark E. Angelino Former President, Sales and Distribution	2008	103,667	2,444,448	1,406,929	48,553	2,189,436	6,193,033
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Departed 1-25-08

- (1) Includes any portion of base salary earned in a fiscal year that the named executive officer elected to have deferred under our deferred compensation plan. See the Nonqualified Deferred Compensation table on page 51 for information regarding contributions to our deferred compensation plan.
- (2) Represents a sign-on bonus for Mr. Brust, \$250,000 of which Mr. Brust must repay if he leaves the company before May 1, 2009 unless he is terminated without cause; bonus relating to the closing of our transaction with Clearwire Corporation for Mr. Cowan; payment to off-set travel expenses until he relocates his primary residence for Mr. Johnson and a bonus for Mr. Arendt provided in recognition of his service as Acting Chief Financial Officer.

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In 2007, represents a sign-on bonus for Mr. Hesse.

In 2006 represents a retention payment to Mr. Saleh pursuant to a retention plan in connection with the Sprint-Nextel merger. Payments under our annual short-term incentive plan are reflected as Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation.

- (3) Represents the compensation costs recognized for financial reporting purposes for RSU, deferred share and stock option awards in a fiscal year, determined under SFAS 123R, rather than an amount paid to or realized by the named executive officer. Under SFAS 123R, the fair market value of a stock award is determined as of the date of grant, and that amount is amortized over all periods during which the named executive officer is required to provide service to us in exchange for the award that is, the vesting period. For performance-based awards, the compensation cost is adjusted based on whether the performance conditions are achieved or probable of being achieved. Because our equity-based awards are subject to vesting over a number of years, compensation cost for equity-based awards includes costs related to awards granted previously by us and Nextel prior to the Sprint-Nextel merger, as well as awards granted in 2008, 2007 and 2006. See the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table on page 44 for the grant date fair value of stock and option awards granted in 2008. For a discussion of the assumptions used in determining the compensation costs associated with stock and option awards, see note 12 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.
- (4) For 2008, represents amounts paid under our 2008 STIC plan during 2008 and 2009 for service performed in 2008. Each named executive officer received a 2008 STIC payout of 106% to 138% of their targeted opportunity based on actual performance in 2008 compared to quarterly financial and operating objectives under our 2008 plan. Under their employment agreements, for post-termination days, Messrs. Saleh and Kennedy earned the higher of target or actual performance, Mr. Arendt earned actual performance and Mr. Angelino earned the lower of target or actual performance. The portion of the 2008 STIC payout for post-termination periods is included in All Other Compensation (Severance Benefits). For more information regarding our 2008 STIC plan, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Elements of Compensation Short-Term Incentive Compensation Plans.

For 2007, represents amounts paid under our 2007 STIC plan during 2008 for service performed in 2007. Each named executive officer received a 2007 STIC payout for company-wide objectives of 42.5% of their targeted opportunity and 17.0% to 22.1% of their targeted opportunity for their functional objectives, based on our actual performance in 2007 compared to the financial and operating objectives under the plan.