

WINMARK CORP
Form 10-Q
October 23, 2018
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 29, 2018

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 000-22012

WINMARK CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Minnesota
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

41-1622691
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

605 Highway 169 North, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55441

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(763) 520-8500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | Accelerated filer |
| Non-accelerated filer | Smaller reporting company |
| | Emerging growth company |

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

Common stock, no par value, 3,901,202 shares outstanding as of October 12, 2018.

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WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1: Financial Statements

WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

| | September 29, 2018 | December 30, 2017 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,187,200 | \$ 1,073,200 |
| Restricted cash | 55,000 | 90,000 |
| Receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$900 and \$400 | 1,756,900 | 1,796,000 |
| Net investment in leases - current | 17,568,700 | 15,332,300 |
| Income tax receivable | — | 2,161,800 |
| Inventories | 128,200 | 97,100 |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,075,400 | 901,600 |
| Total current assets | 21,771,400 | 21,452,000 |
| Net investment in leases - long-term | 26,949,600 | 25,945,300 |
| Property and equipment, net | 725,500 | 486,800 |
| Goodwill | 607,500 | 607,500 |
| Other assets | 440,500 | 350,400 |
| | \$ 50,494,500 | \$ 48,842,000 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (DEFICIT) | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Notes payable, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$13,900 and \$13,900 | \$ 3,236,100 | \$ 3,236,100 |
| Accounts payable | 1,445,000 | 2,073,000 |
| Income tax payable | 902,800 | — |
| Accrued liabilities | 3,273,000 | 1,837,300 |
| Discounted lease rentals | 2,555,600 | 570,800 |
| Deferred revenue | 1,713,100 | 1,714,900 |
| Total current liabilities | 13,125,600 | 9,432,100 |
| Long-Term Liabilities: | | |
| Line of credit | 10,100,000 | 35,400,000 |
| Notes payable, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$86,000 and \$96,500 | 26,413,900 | 28,841,000 |
| Discounted lease rentals | 2,364,600 | 1,121,600 |
| Deferred revenue | 8,561,400 | 8,595,300 |

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| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Other liabilities | 1,211,900 | 845,000 |
| Deferred income taxes | 425,800 | 320,500 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 49,077,600 | 75,123,400 |
| Shareholders' Equity (Deficit): | | |
| Common stock, no par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized, 3,901,202 and 3,843,078 shares issued and outstanding | 4,597,400 | 1,476,200 |
| Retained earnings (accumulated deficit) | (16,306,100) | (37,189,700) |
| Total shareholders' equity (deficit) | (11,708,700) | (35,713,500) |
| | \$ 50,494,500 | \$ 48,842,000 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Royalties | \$ 12,865,900 | \$ 12,316,700 | \$ 35,735,900 | \$ 33,865,100 |
| Leasing income | 4,608,600 | 3,915,800 | 14,994,500 | 13,722,000 |
| Merchandise sales | 858,400 | 773,100 | 2,340,200 | 2,058,500 |
| Franchise fees | 383,300 | 342,900 | 1,162,300 | 1,180,300 |
| Other | 402,300 | 382,400 | 1,206,400 | 1,145,600 |
| Total revenue | 19,118,500 | 17,730,900 | 55,439,300 | 51,971,500 |
| Cost of merchandise sold | 811,500 | 728,300 | 2,235,000 | 1,942,400 |
| Leasing expense | 718,500 | 792,000 | 1,769,200 | 2,724,000 |
| Provision for credit losses | (55,600) | (13,300) | 148,400 | (26,200) |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 6,208,800 | 6,184,400 | 19,702,500 | 19,165,300 |
| Income from operations | 11,435,300 | 10,039,500 | 31,584,200 | 28,166,000 |
| Interest expense | (576,900) | (613,900) | (1,978,600) | (1,559,300) |
| Interest and other income (expense) | (1,000) | 28,000 | (13,300) | 29,900 |
| Income before income taxes | 10,857,400 | 9,453,600 | 29,592,300 | 26,636,600 |
| Provision for income taxes | (2,493,100) | (3,593,000) | (7,124,600) | (9,694,500) |
| Net income | \$ 8,364,300 | \$ 5,860,600 | \$ 22,467,700 | \$ 16,942,100 |
| Earnings per share - basic | \$ 2.15 | \$ 1.46 | \$ 5.81 | \$ 4.10 |
| Earnings per share - diluted | \$ 2.01 | \$ 1.36 | \$ 5.43 | \$ 3.84 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - basic | 3,886,473 | 4,024,692 | 3,864,077 | 4,131,269 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted | 4,164,339 | 4,314,412 | 4,140,816 | 4,416,185 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Net income | \$ 8,364,300 | \$ 5,860,600 | \$ 22,467,700 | \$ 16,942,100 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax: | | | | |
| Unrealized holding net gains (losses) arising during period | — | (700) | — | 15,900 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax | — | (700) | — | 15,900 |
| Income tax (expense) benefit related to items of other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Unrealized net gains/losses on marketable securities: | | | | |
| Unrealized holding net gains/losses arising during period | — | 300 | — | (6,000) |
| Income tax (expense) benefit related to items of other comprehensive income | — | 300 | — | (6,000) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | — | (400) | — | 9,900 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 8,364,300 | \$ 5,860,200 | \$ 22,467,700 | \$ 16,952,000 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net income | \$ 22,467,700 | \$ 16,942,100 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 233,700 | 275,700 |
| Provision for credit losses | 148,400 | (26,200) |
| Compensation expense related to stock options | 1,507,800 | 1,462,500 |
| Deferred income taxes | 105,300 | 153,400 |
| Gain on sale of marketable securities | — | (1,400) |
| Deferred initial direct costs | (1,198,600) | (369,200) |
| Amortization of deferred initial direct costs | 809,500 | 345,300 |
| Tax benefits on exercised stock options | 297,900 | 592,800 |
| Change in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Receivables | 39,100 | (228,900) |
| Income tax receivable/payable | 2,766,700 | (630,600) |
| Inventories | (31,100) | 20,500 |
| Prepaid expenses | (173,800) | 189,900 |
| Other assets | (90,100) | (18,700) |
| Accounts payable | (628,000) | (217,400) |
| Accrued and other liabilities | 1,775,800 | 754,400 |
| Rents received in advance and security deposits | (376,000) | 92,800 |
| Deferred revenue | (35,700) | (98,700) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 27,618,600 | 19,238,300 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from sale of marketable securities | — | 217,200 |
| Purchase of property and equipment | (472,400) | (53,800) |
| Purchase of equipment for lease contracts | (20,219,800) | (19,253,300) |
| Principal collections on lease receivables | 16,303,500 | 20,078,100 |
| Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities | (4,388,700) | 988,200 |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from borrowings on line of credit | 7,300,000 | 46,900,000 |
| Payments on line of credit | (32,600,000) | (28,400,000) |
| Proceeds from borrowings on notes payable | — | 12,500,000 |
| Payments on notes payable | (2,437,500) | (1,500,000) |
| Repurchases of common stock | (558,200) | (49,904,100) |
| Proceeds from exercises of stock options | 2,171,600 | 1,329,200 |
| Dividends paid | (1,584,100) | (1,343,800) |
| Proceeds from discounted lease rentals | 4,557,300 | — |
| Net cash used for financing activities | (23,150,900) | (20,418,700) |

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| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH | 79,000 | (192,200) |
| Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, beginning of period | 1,163,200 | 1,292,900 |
| Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash, end of period | \$ 1,242,200 | \$ 1,100,700 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES: | | |
| Cash paid for interest | \$ 2,015,000 | \$ 1,349,500 |
| Cash paid for income taxes | \$ 3,954,700 | \$ 9,514,800 |

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash reported within the Consolidated Condensed Balance Sheets to the total of the same amounts shown above:

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,187,200 | \$ 1,060,700 |
| Restricted cash | 55,000 | 40,000 |
| Total cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash | \$ 1,242,200 | \$ 1,100,700 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Management's Interim Financial Statement Representation:

The accompanying consolidated condensed financial statements have been prepared by Winmark Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company), without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company has a 52/53 week year which ends on the last Saturday in December. The information in the consolidated condensed financial statements includes normal recurring adjustments and reflects all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of such financial statements. The consolidated condensed financial statements and notes are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information and with the instructions for Form 10-Q, and therefore do not contain certain information included in the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and notes. This report should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Revenues and operating results for the nine months ended September 29, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications of previously reported amounts have been made to conform to the current year presentation. Such reclassifications did not impact net income or shareholders' equity (deficit) as previously reported.

2. Organization and Business:

The Company offers licenses to operate franchises using the service marks Plato's Closet®, Once Upon A Child®, Play It Again Sports®, Style Encore® and Music Go Round®. The Company uses its Winmark Franchise Partners® mark in connection with its strategic consulting and corporate development activities. The Company also operates both middle market and small-ticket equipment leasing businesses under the Winmark Capital® and Wirth Business Credit® marks.

3. Recent Accounting Pronouncements:

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842), which provides guidance on accounting for leases that supersedes existing lease accounting guidance. The ASU’s core principle is that a lessee should recognize lease assets and lease liabilities for those leases classified as operating leases under existing lease accounting guidance. The new standard also makes targeted changes to lessor accounting. In July 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-10, Codification Improvements to Topic 842 (Leases), which provides narrow amendments to clarify how to apply certain aspects of the new lease standard. In July 2018, the FASB also issued ASU 2018-11, Leases (Topic 842): Targeted Improvements, which provides an optional transition method that allows entities to elect to apply the standard prospectively at its effective date, versus recasting the prior periods presented. This guidance is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently in the process of evaluating the transition method and impact of the adoption of this ASU on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses of Financial Instruments, which changes the methodology for measuring credit losses on financial instruments and the timing of when such losses are recorded. This guidance will be effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of this ASU on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18 Statement of Cash Flows, Restricted Cash which provides guidance on the presentation of restricted cash within an entity’s cash flow statement. The Company adopted ASU 2016-18 in the

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first quarter of 2018 on a retrospective basis. Restricted cash is now presented with cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning of period and end of period total amounts shown on the statement of cash flows.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, which provides guidance for revenue recognition that supersedes existing revenue recognition guidance (but does not apply to nor supersede accounting guidance for lease contracts). The ASU's core principle is that an entity will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The ASU also requires more detailed disclosures to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers. The Company adopted ASU 2014-09 in the first quarter of 2018, using the full retrospective method.

The adoption of this guidance did not impact the Company's recognition of leasing revenues or revenue from royalties that are based on a percentage of franchisee sales. Upon adoption, initial franchise fees, which were previously recognized upon the opening of a franchise, are deferred and recognized over the term of the estimated life of the franchise. The effect of the required deferral of initial franchise fees received in a given year was mitigated by the recognition of revenue from fees retrospectively deferred from prior years. The Company bills and collects marketing fees from its franchisees at various times throughout the year. This amount is included in the Revenue: Other line of the Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations. Previously, marketing fees were recognized at the time of billing. In accordance with the new guidance, the Company recognizes marketing fee revenue on a straight line basis over the franchise duration. The Company previously recognized commission fees related to franchise agreement contracts as selling expenses when they were incurred. In accordance with the new guidance, the Company capitalizes the commission fees as costs of obtaining a contract and amortizes them over the franchise duration. (See Note 4 – Revenue Recognition: Franchising)

Adoption of the standard using the full retrospective method also required the Company to restate certain previously reported results, as shown in the tables below:

| Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations: | Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | As Previously Reported | Adjustments | As Restated | As Previously Reported | Adjustments | As Restated |
| Revenue: | | | | | | |
| Franchise fees | \$ 317,800 | \$ 25,100 | \$ 342,900 | \$ 1,262,500 | \$ (82,200) | \$ 1,180,300 |
| Other | 244,500 | 137,900 | 382,400 | 1,033,100 | 112,500 | 1,145,600 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 6,208,900 | (24,500) | 6,184,400 | 19,179,400 | (14,100) | 19,165,300 |

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| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| expenses | | | | | | |
| Provision for income taxes | (3,547,100) | (45,900) | (3,593,000) | (9,683,600) | (10,900) | (9,694,500) |
| Net income | 5,719,000 | 141,600 | 5,860,600 | 16,908,600 | 33,500 | 16,942,100 |
| Earnings per share - basic | \$ 1.42 | \$ 0.04 | \$ 1.46 | \$ 4.09 | \$ 0.01 | \$ 4.10 |
| Earnings per share - diluted | \$ 1.33 | \$ 0.03 | \$ 1.36 | \$ 3.83 | \$ 0.01 | \$ 3.84 |

Consolidated Balance Sheet:

December 30, 2017

As Previously

Reported

Adjustments

As Restated

ASSETS

Prepaid expenses

\$ 814,800

\$ 86,800

\$ 901,600

Other assets

—

350,400

350,400

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(DEFICIT):

Deferred revenue-Current

\$ 1,736,200

\$ (21,300)

\$ 1,714,900

Deferred revenue-Long term

1,465,500

7,129,800

8,595,300

Deferred income taxes

1,956,500

(1,636,000)

320,500

Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)

(32,154,400)

(5,035,300)

(37,189,700)

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4. Revenue Recognition: Franchising

The following is a description of the principal sources of revenue for the company's franchising segment. The Company's performance obligations under franchise agreements consist of (a) a franchise license, including a license to use one of our brands, (b) a point-of-sale software license, (c) initial services, such as pre-opening training and marketing support, and (d) ongoing services, such as marketing services and operational support. These performance obligations are highly interrelated so we do not consider them to be individually distinct and therefore account for them under ASC 606 as a single performance obligation, which is satisfied by providing a right to use our intellectual property over the estimated life of the franchise. The disaggregation of the Company's franchise revenue is presented within the Revenue lines of the Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations with the amounts included in Revenue: Other delineated below. For more detailed information about reportable segments, see Note 13 – "Segment Reporting".

Royalties

The Company collects royalties from each retail franchise based upon a percentage of retail store gross sales. The Company recognizes royalties as revenue when earned.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise sales include the sale of point-of-sale technology equipment to franchisees and the sale of a limited amount of sporting goods to certain Play It Again Sports franchisees. Merchandise sales, which includes shipping and handling charges, are recognized at a point in time when the product has been shipped to the franchisee. Sales taxes that are collected from customers and remitted to governmental authorities are accounted for on a net basis and therefore excluded from merchandise sales. Shipping and handling costs associated with outbound freight are accounted for as a fulfillment cost and included in cost of merchandise sold.

Franchise Fees

The Company collects initial franchise fees when franchise agreements are signed. The Company recognizes franchise fee revenue over the estimated life of the franchise, beginning with the opening of the franchise, which is when the Company has performed substantially all initial services required by the franchise agreement and the franchisee benefits from the rights afforded by the franchise agreement.

Marketing Fees

Marketing fee revenue is included in the Revenue: Other line of the Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations. The Company bills and collects annual marketing fees from its franchisees at various times throughout the year. The Company recognizes marketing fee revenue on a straight line basis over the franchise duration. The Company recognized \$0.3 million of marketing fee revenue for each of the three months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, and \$0.9 million for each of the nine months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017.

Software License Fees

Software license fee revenue is included in the Revenue: Other line of the Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations. The Company bills and collects software license fees from its franchisees when the point-of-sale system is provided to the franchisee. The Company recognizes software license fee revenue on a straight line basis over the franchise duration. The Company recognized \$0.1 million of software license fee revenue for each of the three months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, and \$0.2 million for each of the nine months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017.

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Contract Liabilities

The Company's contract liabilities for its franchise revenues consist of deferred revenue associated with franchise fees and software license fees described above. The table below presents the activity of the current and noncurrent deferred franchise revenue during the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, respectively:

| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 10,310,200 | \$ 10,408,500 |
| Franchise and software license fees collected from franchisees, excluding amount earned as revenue during the period | 1,354,500 | 1,295,600 |
| Fees earned that were included in the balance at the beginning of the period | (1,390,200) | (1,394,300) |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 10,274,500 | \$ 10,309,800 |

The following table illustrates future estimated revenue to be recognized for the remainder of 2018 and full fiscal years thereafter related to performance obligations that are unsatisfied (or partially unsatisfied) as of September 29, 2018.

| Contract Liabilities expected to be recognized in | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| 2018 | \$ 429,200 |
| 2019 | 1,711,800 |
| 2020 | 1,575,300 |
| 2021 | 1,436,500 |
| 2022 | 1,291,500 |
| Thereafter | 3,830,200 |
| | \$ 10,274,500 |

Commission Fees

The Company capitalizes incremental commission fees paid as a result of obtaining franchise agreement contracts. Capitalized commission fees of \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million are outstanding at September 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, respectively and are included in Prepaid expenses and Other assets of the Consolidated Condensed Balance Sheets.

Capitalized commission fees are amortized over the life of the franchise and are included in selling, general and administrative expenses. During the three months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the Company recognized \$24,800 and \$24,800 of commission fee expense, respectively. During the nine months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the Company recognized \$73,200 and \$74,700 of commission fee expense, respectively.

5. Fair Value Measurements:

The Company defines fair value as the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The Company uses three levels of inputs to measure fair value:

- Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2 – observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data available, which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

Due to their nature, the carrying value of cash equivalents, receivables, payables and debt obligations approximates fair value.

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6. Investment in Leasing Operations:

Investment in leasing operations consists of the following:

| | September 29, 2018 | December 30, 2017 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Direct financing and sales-type leases: | | |
| Minimum lease payments receivable | \$ 41,669,100 | \$ 36,119,700 |
| Estimated residual value of equipment | 4,254,200 | 4,762,700 |
| Unearned lease income net of initial direct costs deferred | (7,222,200) | (5,371,900) |
| Security deposits | (4,112,700) | (4,526,000) |
| Equipment installed on leases not yet commenced | 10,861,600 | 10,989,700 |
| Total investment in direct financing and sales-type leases | 45,450,000 | 41,974,200 |
| Allowance for credit losses | (969,200) | (711,200) |
| Net investment in direct financing and sales-type leases | 44,480,800 | 41,263,000 |
| Operating leases: | | |
| Operating lease assets | 736,800 | 1,045,400 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization | (699,300) | (1,030,800) |
| Net investment in operating leases | 37,500 | 14,600 |
| Total net investment in leasing operations | \$ 44,518,300 | \$ 41,277,600 |

As of September 29, 2018, the \$44.5 million total net investment in leases consists of \$17.6 million classified as current and \$26.9 million classified as long-term. As of December 30, 2017, the \$41.3 million total net investment in leases consists of \$15.3 million classified as current and \$26.0 million classified as long-term.

As of September 29, 2018, leased assets with two customers approximated 24% and 11%, respectively, of the Company's total assets. A portion of the lease payments receivable from these customers is assigned as collateral in non-recourse financing with financial institutions. See Note 10 – "Discounted Lease Rentals".

Future minimum lease payments receivable under lease contracts and the amortization of unearned lease income, net of initial direct costs deferred, is as follows for the remainder of fiscal 2018 and the full fiscal years thereafter as of September 29, 2018:

| Fiscal Year | Direct Financing and Sales-Type Leases | | Operating Leases |
|-------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Minimum Lease Payments Receivable | Income Amortization | Minimum Lease Payments Receivable |

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| | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 2018 | \$ 6,522,300 | \$ 1,832,900 | \$ 42,100 |
| 2019 | 23,754,600 | 4,580,700 | 76,900 |
| 2020 | 9,623,900 | 752,700 | — |
| 2021 | 1,742,200 | 54,000 | — |
| 2022 | 13,700 | 1,300 | — |
| Thereafter | 12,400 | 600 | — |
| | \$ 41,669,100 | \$ 7,222,200 | \$ 119,000 |

The activity in the allowance for credit losses for leasing operations during the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, respectively, is as follows:

| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 711,200 | \$ 896,000 |
| Provisions charged to expense | 148,400 | (26,200) |
| Recoveries | 210,700 | 13,800 |
| Deductions for amounts written-off | (101,100) | — |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 969,200 | \$ 883,600 |

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The Company's investment in direct financing and sales-type leases ("Investment In Leases") and allowance for credit losses by loss evaluation methodology are as follows:

| | September 29, 2018 | | December 30, 2017 | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Investment In Leases | Allowance for Credit Losses | Investment In Leases | Allowance for Credit Losses |
| Collectively evaluated for loss potential | \$ 45,450,000 | \$ 969,200 | \$ 41,974,200 | \$ 711,200 |
| Individually evaluated for loss potential | — | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 45,450,000 | \$ 969,200 | \$ 41,974,200 | \$ 711,200 |

The Company's key credit quality indicator for its investment in direct financing and sales-type leases is the status of the lease, defined as accruing or non-accrual. Leases that are accruing income are considered to have a lower risk of loss. Non-accrual leases are those that the Company believes have a higher risk of loss. The following table sets forth information regarding the Company's accruing and non-accrual leases. Delinquent balances are determined based on the contractual terms of the lease.

| | September 29, 2018 | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|---------------|
| | 0-60 Days Delinquent and Accruing | 61-90 Days Delinquent and Accruing | Over 90 Days Delinquent and Accruing | Non-Accrual | Total |
| Middle-Market | \$ 44,145,700 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 44,145,700 |
| Small-Ticket | 1,304,300 | — | — | — | 1,304,300 |
| Total Investment in Leases | \$ 45,450,000 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 45,450,000 |

| | December 30, 2017 | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|---------------|
| | 0-60 Days Delinquent and Accruing | 61-90 Days Delinquent and Accruing | Over 90 Days Delinquent and Accruing | Non-Accrual | Total |
| Middle-Market | \$ 40,657,500 | \$ 133,700 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 40,791,200 |
| Small-Ticket | 1,183,000 | — | — | — | 1,183,000 |
| Total Investment in Leases | \$ 41,840,500 | \$ 133,700 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 41,974,200 |

7. Earnings Per Share:

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The following table sets forth the presentation of shares outstanding used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share (“EPS”):

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Denominator for basic EPS — weighted average common shares | 3,886,473 | 4,024,692 | 3,864,077 | 4,131,269 |
| Dilutive shares associated with option plans | 277,866 | 289,720 | 276,739 | 284,916 |
| Denominator for diluted EPS — weighted average common shares and dilutive potential common shares | 4,164,339 | 4,314,412 | 4,140,816 | 4,416,185 |
| Options excluded from EPS calculation — anti-dilutive | 6,116 | 10,753 | 15,428 | 16,057 |

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8. Shareholders' Equity (Deficit):

Dividends

On January 24, 2018, the Company's Board of Directors approved the payment of a \$0.11 per share quarterly cash dividend to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 7, 2018, which was paid on March 1, 2018.

On April 25, 2018, the Company's Board of Directors approved the payment of a \$0.15 per share quarterly cash dividend to shareholders of record at the close of business on May 9, 2018, which was paid on June 1, 2018.

On July 25, 2018, the Company's Board of Directors approved the payment of a \$0.15 per share quarterly cash dividend to shareholders of record at the close of business on August 8, 2018, which was paid on September 4, 2018.

Repurchase of Common Stock

In the first nine months of 2018 the Company repurchased 3,770 shares of its common stock. Under the Board of Directors' authorization, as of September 29, 2018, the Company has the ability to repurchase an additional 139,218 shares of its common stock. Repurchases may be made from time to time at prevailing prices, subject to certain restrictions on volume, pricing and timing.

Stock Option Plans and Stock-Based Compensation

The Company had authorized up to 750,000 shares of common stock be reserved for granting either nonqualified or incentive stock options to officers and key employees under the Company's 2001 Stock Option Plan (the "2001 Plan"). The 2001 Plan expired on February 20, 2011. As of September 29, 2018, the Company has authorized up to 700,000 shares of common stock to be reserved for granting either nonqualified or incentive stock options to officers and key employees under the Company's 2010 Stock Option Plan (the "2010 Plan").

The Company also sponsors a Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (the "Nonemployee Directors Plan") and has reserved a total of 350,000 shares for issuance to directors of the Company who are not employees.

Stock option activity under the 2001 Plan, 2010 Plan and Nonemployee Directors Plan (collectively, the “Option Plans”) as of September 29, 2018 was as follows:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years) | Intrinsic Value |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Outstanding, December 30, 2017 | 658,184 | \$ 72.33 | 5.87 | \$ 37,723,800 |
| Granted | 35,000 | 143.20 | | |
| Exercised | (64,143) | 38.53 | | |
| Forfeited | (4,063) | 113.95 | | |
| Outstanding, September 29, 2018 | 624,978 | \$ 79.50 | 5.57 | \$ 54,061,200 |
| Exercisable, September 29, 2018 | 450,889 | \$ 64.15 | 4.50 | \$ 45,923,100 |

The fair value of options granted under the Option Plans during the first nine months of 2018 and 2017 were estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions and results:

| | Nine Months Ended | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------|---|
| | September | | September | |
| | 29, 2018 | | 30, 2017 | |
| Risk free interest rate | 2.73 | % | 1.90 | % |
| Expected life (years) | 6 | | 6 | |
| Expected volatility | 20.40 | % | 26.93 | % |
| Dividend yield | 1.17 | % | 1.14 | % |
| Option fair value | \$ 31.44 | | \$ 31.38 | |

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During the nine months ended September 29, 2018, option holders surrendered 2,249 shares of previously owned common shares as payment for options shares exercised as provided for by the Option Plans. All unexercised options at September 29, 2018 have an exercise price equal to the fair market value on the date of the grant.

Compensation expense of \$1,507,800 and \$1,462,500 relating to the vested portion of the fair value of stock options granted was expensed to “Selling, General and Administrative Expenses” in the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, respectively. As of September 29, 2018, the Company had \$3.9 million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to stock options that is expected to be recognized over the remaining weighted average vesting period of approximately 2.3 years.

9. Debt:

Line of Credit

As of September 29, 2018, there was \$10.1 million in borrowings outstanding under the Company’s revolving credit facility with CIBC Bank USA and BMO Harris Bank N.A. (the “Line of Credit”) bearing interest ranging from 4.16% to 5.25% leaving \$39.9 million available for additional borrowings.

The Line of Credit has been and will continue to be used for general corporate purposes. The Line of Credit is secured by a lien against substantially all of the Company’s assets, contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of debt service coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Line of Credit). As of September 29, 2018, the Company was in compliance with all of its financial covenants.

Notes Payable

As of September 29, 2018, the Company had \$18.5 million in principal outstanding from the \$25.0 million Series A notes issued in May 2015 and \$11.3 million in principal outstanding from the \$12.5 million Series B notes issued in August 2017 under its Note Agreement with Prudential Investment Management, Inc., its affiliates and managed accounts (“Prudential”).

The final maturity of the Series A and Series B notes is 10 years from the issuance date. For the Series A notes, interest at a rate of 5.50% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required

prepayments of the principal of \$500,000 quarterly for the first five years, and \$750,000 quarterly thereafter until the principal is paid in full. For the Series B notes, interest at a rate of 5.10% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required prepayments of the principal of \$312,500 quarterly until the principal is paid in full. The Series A and Series B notes may be prepaid, at the option of the Company, in whole or in part (in a minimum amount of \$1.0 million), but prepayments require payment of a Yield Maintenance Amount, as defined in the Note Agreement.

The Company's obligations under the Note Agreement are secured by a lien against substantially all of the Company's assets (as the notes rank pari passu with the Line of Credit), and the Note Agreement contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of fixed charge coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Note Agreement). As of September 29, 2018, the Company was in compliance with all of its financial covenants.

In connection with the Note Agreement, the Company incurred debt issuance costs, of which unamortized amounts are presented as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the related liability.

10. Discounted Lease Rentals:

The Company utilized certain lease receivables and underlying equipment as collateral to borrow from financial institutions at a weighted average rate of 6.34% at September 29, 2018 on a non-recourse basis. As of September 29, 2018, \$2.6 million of the \$4.9 million liability balance is classified as current.

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11. Income Taxes:

For the three months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the effective income tax rate was 23.0% and 38.0%, respectively. For the nine months ended September 29, 2018 and September 30, 2017, the effective income tax rate was 24.1% and 36.4%, respectively. The lower effective income tax rates in the 2018 periods when compared to the 2017 periods are primarily due to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21% beginning in 2018.

12. Commitments and Contingencies:

In May 2018, the Company entered into an amendment to its lease for its corporate headquarters facility that, among other things, provides for an extension of the lease term for ten years and four months, commencing on September 1, 2019. The Company is obligated to pay rent monthly under the lease, and will pay an estimated \$8.0 million in total rental payments over the entire term of the extended period of the lease. The Company is also obligated to pay estimated taxes and operating expenses (which change annually).

13. Segment Reporting:

The Company currently has two reportable business segments, franchising and leasing. The franchising segment franchises value-oriented retail store concepts that buy, sell, trade and consign merchandise, as well as provides strategic consulting services related to franchising. The leasing segment includes (i) Winmark Capital Corporation, a middle-market equipment leasing business and (ii) Wirth Business Credit, Inc., a small ticket financing business. Segment reporting is intended to give financial statement users a better view of how the Company manages and evaluates its businesses. The Company's internal management reporting is the basis for the information disclosed for its business segments and includes allocation of shared-service costs. Segment assets are those that are directly used in or identified with segment operations, including cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, inventory, property and equipment and investment in leasing operations. Unallocated assets include corporate cash and cash equivalents, current and deferred tax amounts and other corporate assets. Inter-segment balances and transactions have been eliminated. The following tables summarize financial information by segment and provide a reconciliation of segment contribution to operating income:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Franchising | \$ 14,509,900 | \$ 13,815,100 | \$ 40,444,800 | \$ 38,249,500 |

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| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Leasing | 4,608,600 | 3,915,800 | 14,994,500 | 13,722,000 |
| Total revenue | \$ 19,118,500 | \$ 17,730,900 | \$ 55,439,300 | \$ 51,971,500 |
| Reconciliation to operating income: | | | | |
| Franchising segment contribution | \$ 9,064,900 | \$ 8,332,900 | \$ 23,264,900 | \$ 21,544,600 |
| Leasing segment contribution | 2,370,400 | 1,706,600 | 8,319,300 | 6,621,400 |
| Total operating income | \$ 11,435,300 | \$ 10,039,500 | \$ 31,584,200 | \$ 28,166,000 |
| Depreciation and amortization: | | | | |
| Franchising | \$ 60,300 | \$ 66,300 | \$ 178,200 | \$ 211,200 |
| Leasing | 18,300 | 20,700 | 55,500 | 64,500 |
| Total depreciation and amortization | \$ 78,600 | \$ 87,000 | \$ 233,700 | \$ 275,700 |

| | As of September 29, 2018 | December 30, 2017 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Identifiable assets: | | |
| Franchising | \$ 4,061,400 | \$ 4,051,400 |
| Leasing | 45,981,600 | 42,153,600 |
| Unallocated | 451,500 | 2,637,000 |
| Total | \$ 50,494,500 | \$ 48,842,000 |

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ITEM 2: Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Overview

As of September 29, 2018, we had 1,236 franchises operating under the Plato’s Closet, Once Upon A Child, Play It Again Sports, Style Encore and Music Go Round brands and had a leasing portfolio of \$44.5 million. Management closely tracks the following financial criteria to evaluate current business operations and future prospects: royalties, leasing activity, and selling, general and administrative expenses.

Our most significant source of franchising revenue is royalties received from our franchisees. During the first nine months of 2018, our royalties increased \$1.9 million or 5.5% compared to the first nine months of 2017.

Leasing income net of leasing expense during the first nine months of 2018 was \$13.2 million compared to \$11.0 million in the same period last year. Fluctuations in period-to-period leasing income and leasing expense result primarily from the manner and timing in which leasing income and leasing expense is recognized over the term of each particular lease in accordance with accounting guidance applicable to leasing. For this reason, we believe that more meaningful levels of leasing activity are the purchases of equipment for lease customers and the medium- to long-term trend in the size of the leasing portfolio. During the first nine months of 2018, we purchased \$20.2 million in equipment for lease customers compared to \$19.3 million in the first nine months of 2017. Our leasing portfolio (net investment in leases — current and long-term) increased to \$44.5 million at September 29, 2018 from \$41.3 million at December 30, 2017.

Management continually monitors the level and timing of selling, general and administrative expenses. The major components of selling, general and administrative expenses include salaries, wages and benefits, advertising, travel, occupancy, legal and professional fees. During the first nine months of 2018, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.5 million, or 2.8% compared to the first nine months of 2017.

Management also monitors several nonfinancial factors in evaluating the current business operations and future prospects including franchise openings and closings and franchise renewals. The following is a summary of our franchising activity for the first nine months ended September 29, 2018:

| TOTAL | | | TOTAL | AVAILABLE | COMPLETED |
|------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 12/30/2017 | OPENED | CLOSED | 9/29/2018 | FOR | RENEWALS |
| | | | | RENEWAL | |

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| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|----|------|-------|----|----|
| Plato's Closet Franchises - US and Canada | 476 | 9 | (4) | 481 | 15 | 15 |
| Once Upon A Child Franchises - US and Canada | 360 | 19 | (3) | 376 | 13 | 13 |
| Play It Again Sports Franchises - US and Canada | 281 | 4 | (6) | 279 | 9 | 9 |
| Style Encore Franchises - US and Canada | 61 | 8 | (3) | 66 | — | — |
| Music Go Round Franchises - US | 33 | 1 | — | 34 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Franchised Stores | 1,211 | 41 | (16) | 1,236 | 38 | 38 |

Renewal activity is a key focus area for management. Our franchisees sign 10-year agreements with us. The renewal of existing franchise agreements as they approach their expiration is an indicator that management monitors to determine the health of our business and the preservation of future royalties. During the first nine months of 2018, we renewed 38 of the 38 franchise agreements available for renewal.

Our ability to grow our operating income is dependent on our ability to: (i) effectively support our franchise partners so that they produce higher revenues, (ii) open new franchises, (iii) increase lease originations and minimize write-offs in our leasing portfolio, and (iv) control our selling, general and administrative expenses.

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Results of Operations

We adopted ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, effective December 31, 2017 using the full retrospective method. Our prior period financial results have been restated to reflect this adoption. (See Note 3 – “Recent Accounting Pronouncements”).

The following table sets forth selected information from our Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations expressed as a percentage of total revenue:

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 | September 29, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
| Revenue: | | | | |
| Royalties | 67.3 | % 69.5 | % 64.5 | % 65.2 |
| Leasing income | 24.1 | 22.1 | 27.0 | 26.4 |
| Merchandise sales | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.9 |
| Franchise fees | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| Other | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Total revenue | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Cost of merchandise sold | (4.2) | (4.1) | (4.0) | (3.7) |
| Leasing expense | (3.8) | (4.4) | (3.2) | (5.2) |
| Provision for credit losses | 0.3 | — | (0.3) | — |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (32.5) | (34.9) | (35.5) | (36.9) |
| Income from operations | 59.8 | 56.6 | 57.0 | 54.2 |
| Interest expense | (3.0) | (3.5) | (3.6) | (3.0) |
| Interest and other income (expense) | — | 0.2 | — | — |
| Income before income taxes | 56.8 | 53.3 | 53.4 | 51.2 |
| Provision for income taxes | (13.0) | (20.3) | (12.9) | (18.6) |
| Net income | 43.8 | % 33.0 | % 40.5 | % 32.6 |

Comparison of Three Months Ended September 29, 2018 to Three Months Ended September 30, 2017

Revenue

Revenues for the quarter ended September 29, 2018 totaled \$19.1 million compared to \$17.7 million for the comparable period in 2017.

Royalties and Franchise Fees

Royalties increased to \$12.9 million for the third quarter of 2018 from \$12.3 million for the third quarter of 2017, a 4.5% increase. The increase is primarily from higher franchisee retail sales and from having additional franchise stores in the third quarter of 2018 compared to the same period last year.

Franchise fees of \$0.4 million for the third quarter of 2018 were comparable to \$0.3 million for the third quarter of 2017.

Leasing Income

Leasing income increased to \$4.6 million for the third quarter of 2018 compared to \$3.9 million for the same period in 2017. The increase is primarily due to a higher level of equipment sales to customers.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise sales include the sale of product to franchisees either through our Computer Support Center or through the Play It Again Sports buying group (together, "Direct Franchisee Sales"). Direct Franchisee Sales were \$0.9 million for the third quarter of 2018 compared to \$0.8 million in the same period of 2017.

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Cost of Merchandise Sold

Cost of merchandise sold includes in-bound freight and the cost of merchandise associated with Direct Franchisee Sales. Cost of merchandise sold was \$0.8 million for the third quarter of 2018 compared to \$0.7 million in the same period of 2017. Cost of merchandise sold as a percentage of Direct Franchisee Sales for the third quarter of 2018 and 2017 was 94.5% and 94.2%, respectively.

Leasing Expense

Leasing expense was \$0.7 million for the third quarter of 2018 compared to \$0.8 million for the third quarter of 2017.

Provision for Credit Losses

Provision for credit losses was \$(0.1) million for the third quarter of 2018. There were \$0.3 million in net recoveries during the third quarter of 2018.

Selling, General and Administrative

Selling, general and administrative expenses of \$6.2 million in the third quarter of 2018 were comparable to \$6.2 million in the same period of 2017.

Interest Expense

Interest expense of \$0.6 million for the third quarter of 2018 was comparable to \$0.6 million for the third quarter of 2017.

Income Taxes

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The provision for income taxes was calculated at an effective rate of 23.0% and 38.0% for the third quarter of 2018 and 2017, respectively. The decrease is primarily due to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21% beginning in 2018.

Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 29, 2018 to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017

Revenue

Revenues for the first nine months of 2018 totaled \$55.4 million compared to \$52.0 million for the comparable period in 2017.

Royalties and Franchise Fees

Royalties increased to \$35.7 million for the first nine months of 2018 from \$33.9 million for the first nine months of 2017, a 5.5% increase. The increase in royalties is primarily from higher franchisee retail sales and from having additional franchise stores in the first nine months of 2018 compared to the same period last.

Franchise fees of \$1.2 million for the first nine months of 2018 were comparable to \$1.2 million for the first nine months of 2017.

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Leasing Income

Leasing income increased to \$15.0 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$13.7 million for the same period in 2017. The increase is primarily due to a higher level of equipment sales to customers.

Merchandise Sales

Merchandise sales include the sale of product to franchisees either through our Computer Support Center or through the Play It Again Sports buying group (together, "Direct Franchisee Sales"). Direct Franchisee Sales were \$2.3 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$2.1 million in the same period of 2017.

Cost of Merchandise Sold

Cost of merchandise sold includes in-bound freight and the cost of merchandise associated with Direct Franchisee Sales. Cost of merchandise sold was \$2.2 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$1.9 million in the same period of 2017. Cost of merchandise sold as a percentage of Direct Franchisee Sales for the first nine months of 2018 and 2017 was 95.5% and 94.4%, respectively.

Leasing Expense

Leasing expense decreased to \$1.8 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$2.7 million for the first nine months of 2017. The decrease is primarily due to a decrease in the associated cost of equipment sales to customers discussed above.

Provision for Credit Losses

Provision for credit losses was \$0.1 million for the first nine months of 2018. There were \$0.1 million of net recoveries during the first nine months of 2018.

Selling, General and Administrative

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased to \$19.7 million in the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$19.2 million in the same period of 2017. The increase was primarily due to increases in compensation, benefits and development advertising expenses.

Interest Expense

Interest expense increased to \$2.0 million for the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$1.6 million for the first nine months of 2017. The increase is primarily due to higher average corporate borrowings when compared to the same period last year.

Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes was calculated at an effective rate of 24.1% and 36.4% for the first nine months of 2018 and 2017, respectively. The decrease is primarily due to the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21% beginning in 2018.

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Segment Comparison of Three Months Ended September 29, 2018 to Three Months Ended September 30, 2017

Franchising Segment Operating Income

The franchising segment's operating income for the third quarter of 2018 increased by \$0.8 million to \$9.1 million from \$8.3 million for the third quarter of 2017. The increase in segment contribution was primarily due to increased royalty revenues.

Leasing Segment Operating Income

The leasing segment's operating income for the third quarter of 2018 increased by \$0.7 million to \$2.4 million from \$1.7 million for the third quarter of 2017. The increase in segment contribution was primarily due to an increase in leasing income net of leasing expense.

Segment Comparison of Nine Months Ended September 29, 2018 to Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017

Franchising Segment Operating Income

The franchising segment's operating income for the first nine months of 2018 increased by \$1.8 million to \$23.3 million from \$21.5 million for the first nine months of 2017. The increase in segment contribution was primarily due to increased royalty revenues.

Leasing Segment Operating Income

The leasing segment's operating income for the first nine months of 2018 increased by \$1.7 million to \$8.3 million from \$6.6 million for the first nine months of 2017. The increase in segment contribution was primarily due to an increase in leasing income net of leasing expense.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity have historically been cash flow from operations and borrowings. The components of the consolidated condensed statements of operations that reduce our net income but do not affect our liquidity include non-cash items for depreciation and compensation expense related to stock options.

We ended the third quarter of 2018 with \$1.2 million in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash compared to \$1.1 million in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at the end of the third quarter of 2017.

Operating activities provided \$27.6 million of cash during the first nine months of 2018 compared to \$19.2 million provided during the same period last year. The increase in cash provided by operating activities in the first nine months of 2018 compared to 2017 was primarily due to the increase in net income and a decrease in cash paid for income taxes.

Investing activities used \$4.4 million of cash during the first nine months of 2018. The 2018 activities consisted primarily of the purchase of equipment for lease customers of \$20.2 million and principal collections on lease receivables of \$16.3 million.

Financing activities used \$23.2 million of cash during the first nine months of 2018. Our most significant financing activities during the first nine months of 2018 consisted of net payments on our line of credit and notes payable of \$27.7 million, \$1.6 million for the payment of dividends; partially offset by \$4.6 million in proceeds received from discounted lease rentals and \$2.2 million of proceeds from exercises of stock options. (See Note 8 — “Shareholders’ Equity (Deficit)”, Note 9 — “Debt” and Note 10 – “Discounted Lease Rentals”).

In May 2018, we entered into an amendment to our lease for our corporate headquarters facility that, among other things, provides for an extension of the lease term for ten years and four months, commencing on September 1, 2019. The Company is obligated to pay rent monthly under the lease, and will pay an estimated \$8.0 million in total rental payments over the entire term of the extended period of the lease. The Company is also obligated to pay estimated taxes and operating expenses (which change annually).

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As of September 29, 2018, we had no off balance sheet arrangements.

As of September 29, 2018, our borrowing availability under our Line of Credit was \$50.0 million (the lesser of the borrowing base or the aggregate line of credit). There were \$10.1 million in borrowings outstanding at September 29, 2018 under the Line of Credit bearing interest ranging from 4.16% to 5.25%, leaving \$39.9 million available for additional borrowings.

The Line of Credit has been and will continue to be used for general corporate purposes. In July 2019 and each subsequent July thereafter through the term of the facility, the aggregate commitments under the Line of Credit automatically reduce by \$5.0 million. The Line of Credit is secured by a lien against substantially all of our assets, contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of debt service coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Line of Credit).

As of September 29, 2018, we had \$18.5 million in principal outstanding from the \$25.0 million Series A notes issued in May 2015 and \$11.3 million in principal outstanding from the \$12.5 million Series B notes issued in August 2017 under our Note Agreement with Prudential.

The final maturity of the Series A and Series B notes is 10 years from the issuance date. For the Series A notes, interest at a rate of 5.50% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required prepayments of the principal of \$500,000 quarterly for the first five years, and \$750,000 quarterly thereafter until the principal is paid in full. For the Series B notes, interest at a rate of 5.10% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required prepayments of the principal of \$312,500 quarterly until the principal is paid in full. The Series A and Series B notes may be prepaid, at our option, in whole or in part (in a minimum amount of \$1.0 million), but prepayments require payment of a Yield Maintenance Amount, as defined in the Note Agreement.

Our obligations under the Note Agreement are secured by a lien against substantially all of our assets, and the Note Agreement contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of fixed charge coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Note Agreement).

As of September 29, 2018, we were in compliance with all of the financial covenants under the Line of Credit and Note Agreement.

We expect to generate the cash necessary to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and to pay the principal and interest on our outstanding debt from cash flows provided by operating activities and by opportunistically using other means to repay or refinance our obligations as we determine appropriate. Our ability to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and meet our debt service obligations depends on our future performance, which may be affected by financial, business, economic, and other factors including the risk factors described under Item 1A of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2017. If we do not have enough money to pay our debt service obligations, we may be required to refinance all or part of our existing debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity. In such an event, we may not be able to refinance our debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity on terms acceptable to us or at all. Also, our ability to carry out any of these activities on favorable terms, if at all, may be further impacted by any financial or credit crisis which may limit access to the credit markets and increase our cost of capital.

We utilize discounted lease financing to provide funds for a portion of our leasing activities. Rates for discounted lease financing reflect prevailing market interest rates and the credit standing of the lessees for which the payment stream of the leases are discounted. We believe that discounted lease financing will continue to be available to us at competitive rates of interest through the relationships we have established with financial institutions.

We believe that the combination of our cash on hand, the cash generated from our franchising business, cash generated from discounting sources and our Line of Credit will be adequate to fund our planned operations through 2019.

Critical Accounting Policies

The Company prepares the consolidated condensed financial statements of Winmark Corporation and Subsidiaries in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As such, the Company is required to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that it believes are reasonable based on information available. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the

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financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the periods presented. There can be no assurance that actual results will not differ from these estimates. The critical accounting policies that the Company believes are most important to aid in fully understanding and evaluating the reported financial results include the following:

Revenue Recognition — Royalty Revenue and Franchise Fees

The Company collects royalties from each retail franchise based on a percentage of retail store gross sales. The Company recognizes royalties as revenue when earned. At the end of each accounting period, estimates of royalty amounts due are made based on applying historical weekly sales information to the number of weeks of unreported franchisee sales. If there are significant changes in the actual performance of franchisees versus the Company's estimates, its royalty revenue would be impacted. During the first nine months of 2018, the Company collected \$170,400 less than it estimated at December 30, 2017. As of September 29, 2018, the Company's royalty receivable was \$1,387,200.

The Company collects initial franchise fees when franchise agreements are signed and recognizes the initial franchise fees as revenue over the estimated life of the franchise, beginning when the franchise is opened. Franchise fees collected from franchisees but not yet recognized as income are recorded as deferred revenue in the liability section of the consolidated condensed balance sheet. As of September 29, 2018, deferred franchise fee revenue was \$8,268,500.

Leasing Income Recognition

Leasing income for direct financing leases is recognized under the effective interest method. The effective interest method of income recognition applies a constant rate of interest equal to the internal rate of return on the lease. Generally, when a lease is more than 90 days delinquent (where more than three monthly payments are owed), the lease is classified as being on non-accrual and the Company stops recognizing leasing income on that date. Payments received on leases in non-accrual status generally reduce the lease receivable. Leases on non-accrual status remain classified as such until there is sustained payment performance that, in the Company's judgment, would indicate that all contractual amounts will be collected in full.

In certain circumstances, the Company may re-lease equipment in its existing portfolio. As this equipment may have a fair value greater than its carrying amount when re-leased, the Company may be required to account for the lease as a sales-type lease. At inception of a sales-type lease, revenue is recorded that consists of the present value of the future minimum lease payments discounted at the rate implicit in the lease. In subsequent periods, the recording of income is consistent with the accounting for a direct financing lease.

For leases that are accounted for as operating leases, income is recognized on a straight-line basis when payments under the lease contract are due.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The Company maintains an allowance for credit losses at an amount that it believes to be sufficient to absorb losses inherent in its existing lease portfolio as of the reporting dates. Leases are collectively evaluated for potential loss. The Company's methodology for determining the allowance for credit losses includes consideration of the level of delinquencies and non-accrual leases, historical net charge-off amounts and review of any significant concentrations.

A provision is charged against earnings to maintain the allowance for credit losses at the appropriate level. If the actual results are different from the Company's estimates, results could be different. The Company's policy is to charge-off against the allowance the estimated unrecoverable portion of accounts once they reach 121 days delinquent. (See Note 6 — "Investment in Leasing Operations").

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company currently uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The determination of the fair value of the awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model is affected by stock price as well as assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables. These variables include implied

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volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends.

The Company evaluates the assumptions used to value awards on an annual basis. If factors change and the Company employs different assumptions for estimating stock-based compensation expense in future periods or if the Company decides to use a different valuation model, the future periods may differ significantly from what it has recorded in the current period and could materially affect operating income, net income and earnings per share.

Forward Looking Statements

The statements contained in this Item 2 “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” that are not strictly historical fact, including without limitation, the Company’s belief that it will have adequate capital and reserves to meet its current and contingent obligations and operating needs, as well as its disclosures regarding market rate risk are forward looking statements made under the safe harbor provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. Such statements are based on management’s current expectations as of the date of this Report, but involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward looking statements. Investors are cautioned to consider these forward looking statements in light of important factors which may result in material variations between results contemplated by such forward looking statements and actual results and conditions. See the section appearing in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2017 entitled “Risk Factors” and Part II, Item 1A in this Report for a more complete discussion of certain factors that may cause the Company’s actual results to differ from those in its forward looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason.

ITEM 3: Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company incurs financial market risk in the form of interest rate risk. Risk can be quantified by measuring the financial impact of a near-term adverse increase in short-term interest rates. At September 29, 2018, the Company had available a \$50.0 million line of credit with CIBC Bank USA and BMO Harris Bank, N.A. The interest rates applicable to this agreement are based on either the bank’s base rate or LIBOR for short-term borrowings (twelve months or less). The Company had \$10.1 million of debt outstanding at September 29, 2018 under this line of credit, all of which was in the form of short-term borrowings subject to daily changes in the bank’s base rate or LIBOR. The Company’s earnings would be affected by changes in these short-term interest rates. With the Company’s borrowings at September 29, 2018, a one percent increase in short-term rates would reduce annual pretax earnings by \$101,000. The Company had no interest rate derivatives in place at September 29, 2018.

None of the Company's cash and cash equivalents at September 29, 2018 was invested in money market mutual funds, which are subject to the effects of market fluctuations in interest rates.

Foreign currency transaction gains and losses were not material to the Company's results of operations for the nine months ended September 29, 2018. During fiscal 2017, less than 6% of the Company's total revenues and 1% of expenses were denominated in a foreign currency. Based upon these revenues and expenses, a 10% increase or decrease in the foreign currency exchange rates would impact annual pretax earnings by approximately \$365,000. To date, the Company has not entered into any foreign currency forward exchange contracts or other derivative financial instruments to hedge the effects of adverse fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

ITEM 4: Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of its disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Based upon, and as of the date of that evaluation, the principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its principal executive officer

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and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during its most recently completed fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, its internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1: Legal Proceedings

We are not a party to any material litigation and are not aware of any threatened litigation that would have a material adverse effect on our business.

ITEM 1A: Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, including the important information in "Forward-Looking Statements," you should carefully consider the "Risk Factors" discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 30, 2017. If any of those factors were to occur, they could materially adversely affect our financial condition or future results, and could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in its forward-looking statements in this report. We are aware of no material changes to the Risk Factors discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 30, 2017.

ITEM 2: Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Purchase of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of a Publicly Announced Plan(1) | Maximum Number of Shares that may yet be Purchased Under the Plan |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| July 1, 2018 to August 4, 2018 | — 3,770 | \$ — \$ 148.05 | — — | 142,988 139,218 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|------|---|---------|
| August 5, 2018 to September 1, 2018 | | | | |
| September 2, 2018 to September 29, 2018 | — | \$ — | — | 139,218 |

(1) The Board of Directors' authorization for the repurchase of shares of the Company's common stock was originally approved in 1995 with no expiration date. The total shares approved for repurchase has been increased by additional Board of Directors' approvals and is currently limited to 5,000,000 shares, of which 139,218 may still be repurchased

ITEM 3: Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

ITEM 4: Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

ITEM 5: Other Information

All information required to be reported in a report on Form 8-K during the period covered by this Form 10-Q has been reported.

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ITEM 6: Exhibits

- 3.1 Articles of Incorporation, as amended (Exhibit 3.1)(1)
- 3.2 By-laws, as amended and restated to date (Exhibit 3.2)(2)
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002*
- 101 Interactive Data Files Pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: Financial statements from the quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Winmark Corporation and Subsidiaries for the quarter ended September 29, 2018, formatted in XBRL: (i) Consolidated Condensed Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations, (iii) Consolidated Condensed Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) Consolidated Condensed Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements.
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*Filed Herewith

- (1) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, effective August 24, 1993 (Reg. No. 333-65108).
- (2) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2006.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

WINMARK CORPORATION

Date: October 23, 2018 By: /s/ Brett D. Heffes
Brett D. Heffes
Chief Executive Officer and Director
(principal executive officer)

Date: October 23, 2018 By: /s/ Anthony D. Ishaug
Anthony D. Ishaug

Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
(principal financial and accounting officer)