

Turning Point Brands, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
March 29, 2018
TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o

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 under §240.14a-12

Turning Point Brands, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

☐ Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Edgar Filing: Turning Point Brands, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

☐ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

March 29, 2018

To our Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Turning Point Brands, Inc. on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The meeting will be held at the offices of Frost Brown Todd LLC, 400 West Market Street, 32nd Floor, Louisville, Kentucky 40202 at 9:30 a.m. eastern daylight time.

The official Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and Proxy Card are enclosed with this letter.

Please take the time to read carefully each of the proposals for stockholder action described in the accompanying proxy materials. Whether or not you plan to attend, you can ensure that your shares are represented at the meeting by promptly completing, signing and dating your proxy card and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Stockholders of record can also vote by touch-tone telephone from the United States, using the toll-free number on the proxy card, or by the Internet, using the instructions on the proxy card. If you attend the meeting, you may revoke your proxy and vote your shares in person.

Your interest and participation in the affairs of the Company are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lawrence S. Wexler

Lawrence S. Wexler

President and Chief Executive Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TURNING POINT BRANDS, INC.

**5201 Interchange Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40229**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD MAY 8, 2018**

To the Stockholders:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Turning Point Brands, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at the offices of Frost Brown Todd LLC, 400 West Market Street, 32nd Floor, Louisville, Kentucky 40202 on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. eastern daylight time.

At the Annual Meeting you will be asked to:

- elect seven directors to the Board of Directors, each for a term of one year;
- ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP as the Company's independent auditors; and
- transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

A Proxy Statement describing matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting is attached to this notice. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 12, 2018 are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
/s/ James W. Dobbins
James W. Dobbins
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Louisville, Kentucky
March 29, 2018

IMPORTANT

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR VOTE USING ONE OF THE VOTING METHODS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED MATERIALS. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR PROXY AND VOTE YOUR SHARES IN PERSON.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 8, 2018: Our Proxy Statement related to our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended on December 31, 2017 and our Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended on December 31, 2017 are available on our website at www.turningpointbrands.com in the Investor Relations section.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

<u>SUMMARY OF MATTERS REQUIRING STOCKHOLDER ACTION</u>	1
<u>Proposal 1—Election of Directors</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Proposal 2—Ratification of the Appointment of the Company’s Independent Auditors</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Other Matters</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT PROXIES AND VOTING</u>	2
<u>Record Date and Voting Securities</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>How to Vote</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Changing Your Vote</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OUR BOARD</u>	4
<u>Director Biographies</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Meetings of the Board of Directors</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Corporate Governance</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Committees of the Board</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Consideration of Candidates for Director</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Compensation of Directors</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Code of Business Conduct and Ethics</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	10
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	12
<u>Executive Compensation Objectives and Philosophy</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Equity Compensation Plan Information</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	18

<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Proposal 1—Election of Directors</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Proposal 2—Ratification of Independent Auditors</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDERS’ COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>FORM 10-K</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	<u>23</u>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TURNING POINT BRANDS, INC.

**5201 Interchange Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40229**

PROXY STATEMENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD MAY 8, 2018

This proxy statement and accompanying proxy card are being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors (the **Board**) of Turning Point Brands, Inc., a Delaware corporation, to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the **Annual Meeting**) and any adjournments thereof. In this proxy statement, references to the Company, **we**, **us** or **our** refer to Turning Point Brands, Inc. This proxy statement and accompanying proxy card are first being mailed to stockholders on or about March 29, 2018.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the offices of Frost Brown Todd LLC, 400 West Market Street, 32nd Floor, Louisville, Kentucky 40202 on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. eastern daylight time, for the purposes set forth in this proxy statement and the accompanying notice of Annual Meeting.

SUMMARY OF MATTERS REQUIRING STOCKHOLDER ACTION

Proposal 1—Election of Directors

The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of the Company's common stock present in person or represented by proxy is required to elect each nominee. Election by a plurality means that the director nominee with the most votes for the available slot is elected for that slot. You may vote **FOR** each nominee or you may **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY** to vote for each nominee. Unless you **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY** to vote for a nominee, your proxy will be voted **FOR** the election of the individuals nominated as directors.

*The Board recommends that you vote **FOR** the nominees.*

Proposal 2—Ratification of the Appointment of the Company's Independent Auditors

The proposal to ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 will be approved if more shares present (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are voted **FOR** ratification than are voted **AGAINST** ratification. You may vote **FOR** or **AGAINST** ratification, or you may **ABSTAIN** from voting on this proposal. A vote to **ABSTAIN** will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

*The Board recommends that you vote **FOR** this proposal.*

Other Matters

As of the date of this proxy statement, the Board knows of no matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting other than those matters discussed in this proxy statement. If any other matters should properly come before the Annual Meeting and call for a vote of stockholders, validly executed proxies in the enclosed form returned to us will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board, or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in accordance with the judgment of the proxy holders. Any such additional matter will be approved if more shares present (in person or by proxy) and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting are voted in favor of such matters than are voted against.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT PROXIES AND VOTING

Record Date and Voting Securities

The Board has fixed the record date (the **Record Date**) for the Annual Meeting as the close of business on March 12, 2018. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. At the close of business on the Record Date, there were outstanding 19,222,804 shares of common stock, each of which is entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting. Shares of common stock represented by properly executed proxies received before the close of voting at the Annual Meeting will be voted as directed by such stockholders, unless revoked as described below.

Solicitation of Proxies

The cost of solicitation of proxies being solicited on behalf of the Board will be borne by us. In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited personally, by telephone or other means by our directors, officers or employees, who receive no additional compensation for these solicitation activities. We will, upon request, reimburse brokerage houses and persons holding common stock in the names of their nominees for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in sending materials to their principals.

How to Vote

Stockholders of Record

If you are a stockholder and your shares are registered directly in your name with our stock transfer agent, EQ Shareowner Services, you are considered the **stockholder of record** of those shares. If you are a stockholder of record, you can give a proxy to be voted at the meeting:

- » over the telephone by calling a toll-free number (1-800-690-6903);
- » online (www.proxyvote.com); or
- » by completing, signing, dating, and mailing the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided.

Even if you plan to attend the meeting, we encourage you to submit a proxy. If you do give a proxy, we must receive it by 11:59 p.m., eastern daylight time, on May 7, 2018, or your vote will not be recorded. If you prefer, you may instead vote in person at the meeting.

The telephone and online voting procedures have been set up for your convenience and are designed to authenticate your identity, enable you to give voting instructions, and confirm that those instructions are recorded properly. If you are a stockholder of record and you would like to vote by telephone or online, please refer to the instructions set forth on the enclosed proxy card.

By giving your proxy, you authorize the individuals named on the proxy card to vote your shares in accordance with your instructions. These individuals will also have the obligation and authority to vote your shares as they see fit on any other matter properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting. If for any reason a director nominee is not

available to serve, the individuals named as proxy holders may vote your shares at the Annual Meeting for another nominee. The proxy holders for this year's Annual Meeting are James Dobbins and Brian Wigginton.

If you are a stockholder of record and you sign and return your proxy card (or give your proxy by telephone or online) without specifying how you want your shares to be voted with respect to both proposals, our proxy holders will vote your shares FOR the election of each of the nominees to the Board, and FOR the ratification of the appointment of RSM US LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. With respect to any other matter that properly comes before the Annual Meeting, the proxy holders will vote your shares as recommended by the Board or, if no recommendation is given, using their own discretion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Street Name Stockholders

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank (known as holding shares in street name), you have the right to instruct your broker or bank how to vote your shares, and the broker or bank is required to vote in accordance with your instructions. To provide those instructions by mail, please complete, sign, date, and return your voting instruction card in the postage-paid envelope provided by your broker or bank. Alternatively, if the broker or bank that holds your shares offers online or telephone voting, you will receive information from your broker or bank about how to submit your voting instructions by those methods. Alternatively, you may vote in person at the meeting, but only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker or bank that holds your shares.

If you are a street name stockholder and you do not instruct your broker or bank how to vote, your broker or bank is not permitted to vote your shares on the election of directors (known as a broker non-vote). Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the election of directors. Your broker will, however, have discretionary authority to vote your shares on the proposal regarding the ratification of the appointment of RSM US LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

Changing Your Vote

If you are a stockholder of record, you may change your vote by submitting another proxy by telephone or online, by mailing another properly signed proxy card bearing a later date than your original one, or by attending the Annual Meeting and casting your vote in person. You also may revoke a proxy that you previously provided by delivering timely written notice of revocation of your proxy to our Corporate Secretary at 5201 Interchange Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40229.

If you hold your shares in street name and you wish to change or revoke your voting instructions, you will need to follow the instructions in the materials your broker or bank provided to you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OUR BOARD

Director Biographies

Thomas F. Helms, Jr. Thomas F. Helms, Jr. founded the Company in 1988 by acquiring certain loose leaf assets of Lorillard, Inc. and served as Chairman and CEO. Mr. Helms has been a director of our company since 1997, serving as our Non-Executive Chairman since May 2016. Mr. Helms previously served as our Executive Chairman from May 2006 to May 2016. Before that, Mr. Helms served as Non-Executive Chairman of the Board from June 1997 to May 2006. Mr. Helms served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Culbro Corporation's smokeless tobacco division from 1983 until shortly before its sale to American Maize-Products Company in 1986. From 1979 to 1982, Mr. Helms was General Manager of the Etherea Cosmetics and Designer Fragrances Division of Revlon, Inc. From 1964 to 1979, Mr. Helms was employed in marketing and sales positions in various divisions of Revlon, Inc. Mr. Helms currently serves as a director of Standard Diversified Opportunities, Inc. (SDOI), our largest stockholder.

We believe Mr. Helms is well-qualified to serve as a director due to his many years of experience in the tobacco industry, and in particular with our company, as well as his role in forming our predecessor. This experience provides him with a deep knowledge of both our industry and our company, which provides valuable insight to our Board.

Lawrence S. Wexler. Mr. Wexler has served as our President and CEO since June 2009 and as President and Chief Operating Officer of North Atlantic Trading Company, Inc. (NATC), our primary operating subsidiary, since June 2006. Before June 2006, Mr. Wexler had been the Chief Operating Officer of NATC since June 2005, and before that, the President and Chief Operating Officer of one of our other subsidiaries beginning December 2003. Mr. Wexler was a consultant to a number of emerging marketing, communication and financial companies, advising them on financial, marketing and strategic matters, at times in an operating role from 1998 to 2003. From 1977 to 1998, he was employed by Philip Morris, USA in various positions in the Sales, Marketing and Finance Departments. As Group Director, Discount Brands, his group introduced the *Basic* and *Alpine* brands. He served as Senior Vice President of Marketing from 1992 to 1993 and Senior Vice President Finance, Planning and Information Services from 1993 until his departure in 1998. Mr. Wexler has served since 2015 as a director of TMA, a non-profit provider of information regarding the global tobacco and vapor industries. Mr. Wexler holds a bachelor of science in administrative science from Yale and a master of business administration from Stanford.

We believe Mr. Wexler is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his many years of experience at our company and his prior leadership positions at other companies, both within and outside of our industry. In addition, as Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wexler provides valuable insight to the Board on our day-to-day operations.

Gregory H. A. Baxter. Gregory H. A. Baxter has served as a director of our company since April 2006. In 2015, Mr. Baxter was elected as a director of SDOI and currently serves as its Executive Chairman. Mr. Baxter has been an independent corporate finance consultant primarily for middle-market corporations and closely held businesses since 2005. Previously, from 2003 to 2005, he was Managing Director and Head, Hedge Fund Sales and Marketing at Diaz & Altschul Capital Management, where his primary focus was bringing its investment products to prospective corporate and institutional clients. He was also a member of the Investment Committee. Immediately before joining Diaz & Altschul, he was Managing Director and Head of Generalist/Cross-Border Mergers & Acquisitions at SG Cowen Securities Corporation, the U.S. investment bank of French bank, Société Générale from 2000 to 2002. There, he re-established the cross-border effort and worked globally in industries such as food, retail, consumer products, transportation and oil and gas. He was also a member of the SG Cowen Fairness Opinion Review Committee. Before SG Cowen, he was at Rothschild Inc. for almost six years, from 1994 to 2000, where he specialized in advising on industrial/engineering companies, including automotive, domestic and cross-border mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. He was also a founding member of SW Capital, an M&A boutique that specialized in middle-market

transactions for Fortune 500 companies. Before that, he was a Vice President of Irving Trust Company's Corporate Financial Counseling Department, providing M&A and other corporate finance advice to the bank's clients. Mr. Baxter holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Victoria in Canada and a master of business administration from the Ivey Business School in London.

We believe Mr. Baxter is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his significant experience as a financial consultant and his experience with corporate investments, mergers and acquisitions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

H. C. Charles Diao. H. C. Charles Diao has served as a director of our company since November 2012. Mr. Diao is Senior Vice President of Finance and Corporate Development and Corporate Treasurer of DXC Technology Company and previously Vice President and Corporate Treasurer of its predecessor, Computer Science Corp since 2012, with responsibility for and management of global treasury operations, corporate finance and capital markets, corporate development and M&A, pension plans and risk management/insurance. From 2008 to 2012, Mr. Diao was Managing Director and founder of Diao & Co., LLC, a firm that provided M&A and strategic advisory services to corporate clients, and the Chief Investment Officer of Diao Capital Management LLC, an affiliate that managed alternative investments on behalf of institutional family offices. Mr. Diao was formerly a Senior Managing Director at Bear Stearns where he was the Group Head for Special Situations Credit, a partner within the firm's TMT investment banking practice and a member of the firm's Investment Banking Committee and IPO Committee. Mr. Diao served as a member of the board of directors of Media General Inc., the successor via merger to New Young Broadcasting Holdings Inc., from August 2012 until January 2017. He was Chairman of its Nominating and Governance Committee and a member of its Audit and Finance Committee. He holds a B.S.E. from Princeton University and a masters of business administration from Harvard Business School.

We believe Mr. Diao is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his prior directorships and senior management experience, as well as his corporate leadership, financial and operational management experience.

David Glazek. David Glazek has served as a director of our company since November 2012 and is our lead independent director. Mr. Glazek is a Partner of Standard General L.P. (Standard General), the majority owner of SDOI, and he has been with Standard General since 2008. He was formerly an investment banker at Lazard Frères & Co. from 2000 to 2003 and from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Glazek holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. Mr. Glazek currently serves as a director of SDOI.

We believe Mr. Glazek is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his significant finance and private equity experience, which provides depth to the Board's analysis of financing considerations.

George W. Hebard III. George W. Hebard III has served as a director of our company since May 2014. Mr. Hebard has been a Managing Director of Barington Capital Group, a New York investment firm, since January 2014. Mr. Hebard is currently a director of Ebix, Inc. (NASDAQ: EBIX). Mr. Hebard served as Interim Principal Executive Officer and Interim Chief Operating Officer of Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a position he held as an employee from May 2012 to December 2013 and as a consultant from January 2014 to March 2016. From September 2011 to April 2012, Mr. Hebard was a Managing Director at Icahn Capital L.P., the entity through which Carl C. Icahn manages investment funds. Before joining Icahn Capital, from 2005 to 2011, Mr. Hebard served as a Managing Director at Blue Harbour Group, an investment firm in Greenwich, Connecticut. Before Blue Harbour Group, Mr. Hebard served as a Managing Director at Ranger Partners from 2002 to 2003, and before Ranger Partners, Mr. Hebard was an Associate at Icahn Associates Corp. from 1998 to 2002. Mr. Hebard was a director of Enzon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. from February 2012 to November 2013. He has a masters of business administration from INSEAD and an A.B. in Economics from Princeton University.

We believe Mr. Hebard is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his management experience and his extensive experience with public equity investments, providing additional depth to the Board's analysis of investment and acquisition opportunities.

Arnold Zimmerman. Arnold Zimmerman has served as a director of our company since January 2013. Since 2007, he has been President of Catchers Mitt LLC, a marketing consulting company focused on personal care products. From 2002 to 2007, Mr. Zimmerman was the Chairman and CEO of 291 Digital LLC, a graphics imaging and printing company, and from 1999 to 2002 he was Chairman, President and CEO of AM Products Company. He has also held senior executive positions at Revlon-North America and the L'Oréal Retail Hair Products Division from 1967 to 1992.

Mr. Zimmerman holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Miami.

We believe Mr. Zimmerman is well-qualified to serve as a director of our company because of his significant directorship experience and experiences leading a number of consumer product companies.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board met on nine occasions during our fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, and each incumbent director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and its committees on which

TABLE OF CONTENTS

such director served during his period of service. Each member of the Board attended the Company's 2017 annual meeting of stockholders, and the Company expects all members of the Board to attend the Annual Meeting. Six regular Board meetings are currently scheduled for the fiscal year 2018. Executive sessions of non-employee directors, without management directors or employees present, are typically scheduled in conjunction with each regularly scheduled Board meeting. Our Lead Independent Director presides over these sessions. During 2017, there were five such executive sessions.

Corporate Governance

Board Structure

Our Board oversees the management of our company, reviews our long-term strategic plans and exercises direct decision-making authority in key areas such as choosing the Chief Executive Officer, setting the scope of such officer's authority to manage our business day to day, and evaluating his or her performance.

Our Board consists of seven directors. In accordance with our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, the number of directors on our Board will be determined from time to time by vote of the Board. Thomas Helms, Jr., who served as our Executive Chairman until May 2016, continues to serve as our Non-Executive Chairman. We believe that the Company and its stockholders are best served by having Mr. Helms serve in this position because he is the person most familiar with our history, business model, and the challenges we face in our industry. Mr. Helms's wealth of knowledge regarding Company operations and the industry in which we compete positions him to best identify matters for Board review and deliberation.

David Glazek currently serves as our Lead Independent Director. The duties of the Lead Independent Director are set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines which may be found on our website, www.turningpointbrands.com.

Each director is to hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal. Vacancies and newly created directorships on the Board may be filled at any time by vote of the remaining directors.

Under our certificate of incorporation, for so long as we or one of our subsidiaries is party to certain distribution agreements with Bolloré, S.A. ("Bolloré"), no person who is a Bolloré competitor or who is an officer, director or representative of a Bolloré competitor or any entity that owns more than a 20% equity interest in a Bolloré competitor will be entitled to serve on the Board. We may require that any director or nominee for director certify that he or she is not disqualified from service on the Board pursuant to these provisions, and the Board is authorized to make such reasonable determinations as shall be necessary to implement the above limitation.

Risk Oversight

The Board is responsible for overseeing the Company's risk management strategies, including the Company's implementation of appropriate processes to administer day-to-day risk management. The Board is informed about risk management matters as part of its role in the general oversight and approval of corporate matters. The Board gives guidance to the Company's management on the risks it believes face the Company, such as the matters disclosed as risk factors in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K. Furthermore, the Board has delegated certain risk management responsibilities to its Audit and Compensation Committees.

Through the Audit Committee's charter, the Board has authorized it to oversee the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies. The Audit Committee, in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, regularly and comprehensively (i) reviews and discusses with management and the independent auditor any significant risks or exposures and

assesses the steps management has taken to minimize such risks, (ii) discusses with management and the independent auditor, and oversees the Company's underlying policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management, and (iii) reviews and discusses with the independent auditor any significant risks identified during the auditor's risk assessment procedures.

Through the Compensation Committee's charter, the Board has authorized it to oversee officer and director compensation programs. The Compensation Committee, in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, designs the compensation packages applicable to the executive officers and Board members. The Compensation Committee also consults with management on the payments of bonuses and grants of equity awards to key employees.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee jointly perform an annual risk assessment of our compensation programs for all employees to determine whether these programs encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking. In conducting this review, each of our compensation programs is evaluated on a number of criteria aimed at identifying any incentive programs that deviate from our risk management objectives. Based on this review in 2017, the committees concluded that we have the right combination of rewards and incentives to drive company performance, without encouraging unnecessary or excessive risk taking by our employees.

The Board's oversight roles, including the roles of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee, combined with the leadership structure of the Board to include Company management, allow the Board to effectively administer risk management policies while also effectively and efficiently addressing Company objectives.

Director Independence

Our Board has determined that under NYSE Rules, Messrs. Diao, Glazek, Hebard and Zimmerman are independent directors. The Board believes that these directors are also independent as that term is defined in the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder. In determining Mr. Glazek's independence, the Board considered Mr. Glazek's position as a director of SDOI and that he is a Partner of Standard General.

Committees of the Board

Our Board has three standing committees: an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Under the rules of NYSE, the membership of the Audit Committee is required to consist entirely of independent directors. In addition, under applicable NYSE and SEC rules our Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are required to consist entirely of independent directors. The following is a brief description of our committees.

Audit Committee

Our Audit Committee is composed of Messrs. Diao, Hebard and Zimmerman, each of whom satisfies the financial literacy requirements under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and listing standards of the NYSE. Beginning June 15, 2017, Mr. Diao serves as chair of the Audit Committee. The Board has determined that Mr. Diao qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as such term is defined under applicable rules of the SEC. Mr. Baxter served as chair of the Audit Committee until June 15, 2017. The Audit Committee also satisfies the member independence and other requirements under current NYSE listing standards and SEC rules. Our Audit Committee, among other things, is responsible for:

- selecting a qualified firm to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements;
- the quality and integrity of our financial statements, our financial reporting process and our systems of internal accounting and financial records;
- helping to ensure the independence and performance of the independent registered public accounting firm;
- discussing the scope and results of the audit with the independent registered public accounting firm, and reviewing, with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, our interim and year-end results of operations;
- developing procedures for employees to submit concerns anonymously about questionable accounting or audit matters;
- reviewing our policies on risk assessment and risk management;
- the performance of our internal audit function;
- reviewing related party transactions; and

approving or, as required, pre-approving, all audit and all permissible non-audit services, other than de minimis non-audit services, to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm.

Our Audit Committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and the NYSE. Our Audit Committee charter may be found at our website, www.turningpointbrands.com, in the Investor Relations section. The Audit Committee met six times during 2017.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee is composed of Messrs. Glazek, Hebard and Zimmerman. Mr. Glazek serves as the chair of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee satisfies the member independence requirements under current NYSE listing standards and SEC rules. Our Compensation Committee, among other things, is responsible for:

- reviewing, approving and determining, or making recommendations to our Board regarding, the compensation of our executive officers;

- administering our equity compensation plans;

- reviewing, approving and making recommendations to our Board regarding incentive compensation and equity compensation plans; and

- establishing and reviewing general policies relating to compensation and benefits of our employees.

Our Compensation Committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and the NYSE. Our Compensation Committee charter may be found at our website,

www.turningpointbrands.com, in the Investor Relations section. The Compensation Committee met two times during 2017.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is composed of Messrs. Diao, Glazek and Hebard. Mr. Hebard serves as the chair of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee satisfies the member independence requirements under current NYSE listing standards and SEC rules. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is, among other things, responsible for:

- identifying, evaluating and selecting, or making recommendations to our Board regarding, nominees for election to our Board and its committees;

- evaluating the performance of our Board and of individual directors;

- considering and making recommendations to our Board regarding the composition of our Board and its committees;

- reviewing developments in corporate governance practices;

- reviewing and recommending to the Board for approval any changes in the compensation of directors;

- evaluating the adequacy of our corporate governance practices and reporting; and

- developing and making recommendations to our Board regarding corporate governance guidelines and matters.

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and the NYSE. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter may be found at our website, www.turningpointbrands.com, in the Investor Relations section. The Nominating and

Corporate Governance Committee met two times during 2017.

Consideration of Candidates for Director

Stockholder recommendations for Board membership should include, among other items, the name of the candidate, age, contact information, present principal occupation or employment, qualifications and skills, background, last five years' employment and business experience, a description of current or previous service as director of any corporation or organization, other relevant biographical information, the nominee's consent to service on the Board, and all other information relating to such person as would be required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies under Regulation 14A of the Exchange Act. A stockholder nominee will be requested to complete a detailed questionnaire in the form that current directors and officers complete.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee seeks to achieve a balance of knowledge, experience, and capability on the Board, and in assessing nominees, considers such factors as it deems in the

TABLE OF CONTENTS

best interest of the Company and its stockholders. The manner in which the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee evaluates a potential nominee will not differ based on whether the nominee is recommended by a stockholder of the Company.

Compensation of Directors

As described more fully below, the following table summarizes the total compensation earned for fiscal year 2017 for each of the non-employee directors.

Our non-employee directors (other than Mr. Glazek) currently receive an annual retainer of \$65,000 which increased from \$50,000 on June 1, 2017, but no meeting fees. Beginning June 1, 2017, our Board Chairman is paid an annual retainer of \$35,000. The chair of the Audit Committee is paid an annual fee of \$32,500 which increased from \$25,000 on June 1, 2017 and Audit Committee members are paid an annual fee of \$10,000. For services provided to us beyond those typically provided by corporate directors, the Board may approve compensation of up to \$2,000 per day for outside directors on a case-by-case basis. Employees of ours on our Board do not receive cash compensation for service on our Board, but are eligible to receive stock option grants or restricted stock awards for service on our Board as part of their annual compensation.

The following table summarizes information about director compensation for the year ended December 31, 2017. Mr. Wexler was compensated as an officer and, therefore, did not receive any compensation for service on the Board in 2017. Mr. Glazek did not receive any compensation from us for serving on the Board in 2017.

Name	Fees earned or paid in	
	cash (\$)	Total (\$)
Gregory H. A. Baxter ⁽¹⁾	70,208	70,208
H. C. Charles Diao ⁽²⁾	76,875	76,875
George W. Hebard III ⁽³⁾	68,750	68,750
Thomas F. Helms, Jr. ⁽⁴⁾	79,167	79,167
Arnold Zimmerman ⁽⁵⁾	64,167	64,167

(1) Mr. Baxter received \$70,208, composed of Board member fees of \$58,750 and an Audit Committee chair retainer of \$11,458. Mr. Baxter ceased being a member of our Audit Committee on June 15, 2017.

(2) Mr. Diao received \$76,875, composed of Board member fees of \$58,750, Audit Committee member fees of \$5,000 and an Audit Committee chair retainer of \$13,125. Mr. Diao became our Audit Committee chair on June 15, 2017.

(3) Mr. Hebard received \$68,750, composed of Board member fees of \$58,750 and Audit Committee member fees of \$10,000.

(4) Mr. Helms received \$79,167, composed of Board member fees of \$58,750 and a Chairman retainer of \$20,417.

(5) Mr. Zimmerman received \$64,167, composed of Board member fees of \$58,750 and Audit Committee member fees of \$5,417. Mr. Zimmerman joined our Audit Committee on June 15, 2017.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our Board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of our directors and employees, including our executive officers. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.turningpointbrands.com in the Investor Relations section. We intend to disclose any amendments to our Code of

Business Conduct and Ethics, or waivers of its requirements, on our website or in filings under the Exchange Act.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board has adopted corporate governance guidelines that serve as a flexible framework within which our Board and its committees operate. These guidelines cover a number of areas including, the size and composition of the Board, Board membership criteria and director qualifications, director responsibilities, meetings of independent directors, committee responsibilities and assignments, Board member access to management and independent advisors, director communications with third parties, director compensation, director orientation and continuing education, evaluation of senior management and management succession planning. A copy of our corporate governance guidelines is available on our website at www.turningpointbrands.com in the Investor Relations section.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The tables below set forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock and SDOIs of our common stock by:

Each person or entity known to us who beneficially owns five percent or more of the common stock;

Each of our directors and named executive officers; and

All of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Other than with respect to the common stock beneficially owned by beneficial owners of more than 5% of our issued and outstanding common stock, the table below states beneficial ownership as of March 16, 2018. The amounts and percentages of common stock beneficially owned are reported on the basis of the regulations of the SEC governing the determination of beneficial ownership of securities. Under these rules, a person is deemed to be a beneficial owner of a security if that person has or shares voting power, which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or investment power, which includes the power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of such security. A person is also deemed to be a beneficial owner of any securities of which that person has a right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days. Under these rules, more than one person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of the same securities. Included in the amount of common stock beneficially owned are shares of common stock subject to exercisable options or warrants or options or warrants that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 16, 2018. The calculation of percent owned by each person assumes that all vested options held by such person have been exercised. The calculation of percent owned by all directors and executive officers as a group assumes that all vested options beneficially held by them and warrants have been exercised.

Turning Point Brands, Inc.

Name of Beneficial Holder	Position or Title of Beneficial Holder	Percentage of Shares Beneficially Owned		
		Shares Beneficially Owned	Shares Beneficially Owned	
Standard Diversified Opportunities, Inc. ⁽¹⁾	Principal Stockholder	9,842,373	51.2	%
Standard General L.P. ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	Principal Stockholder	10,297,692	53.6	%
Thomas F. Helms, Jr. ⁽⁴⁾	Director	492,562	2.6	%
Lawrence S. Wexler ⁽⁵⁾	President & Chief Executive Officer, Director	432,939	2.2	%
Mark A. Stegeman ⁽⁶⁾	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	41,734		*
James W. Dobbins ⁽⁷⁾	Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary	133,746		*
Gregory H.A. Baxter ⁽⁸⁾	Director	47,933		*
H.C. Charles Diao ⁽⁹⁾	Director	52,728		*
David Glazek ⁽³⁾⁽¹⁰⁾	Director	-		*
George W. Hebard III ⁽¹¹⁾	Director	13,432		*
Arnold Zimmerman ⁽¹²⁾	Director	62,592		*
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (11 persons)⁽¹³⁾		1,369,882	6.9	%

*Indicates less than 1%

- (1) This information is based solely on a review of a stock ownership report on Schedule 13D filed by this shareholder with the SEC on June 12, 2017.

Standard General serves as investment manager to each of Standard General Master Fund L.P., P Standard General Ltd. and Standard General Focus Fund L.P. (the Funds) and, in that capacity, exercises voting and investment control over the shares held by the Funds. Soohyung Kim is the Chief Executive Officer of Standard General and a director of the general partner of Standard General. By virtue of the foregoing, Standard General and Mr. Kim may be deemed to beneficially own, and have shared voting and dispositive power over, all of the shares held by the Funds. Each of Mr. Kim, Standard General and the Funds disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares reported except to the extent of its or his pecuniary interest in such shares. Of the listed shares 9,842,373 are held by Standard Diversified Opportunities, Inc.

- (2) (3) The address of Standard General and Mr. Glazek is 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10153.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Includes 490,062 shares held by Helms Management Corp. All of the voting capital stock of Helms Management (4)Corp. is owned by Mr. Helms, who serves as chairman of its board of directors, and all of the non-voting capital stock of Helms Management Corp. is owned by a trust established by Mr. Helms for the benefit of his children. Pursuant to a loan and voting agreement among Mr. Helms, Helms Management Corp. and Standard General, on November 19, 2012, Helms Management Corp. pledged 1.46 million shares of common stock to secure a loan from Standard General. As of March 16, 2016, all but 150,000 of the shares owned by Helms Management Corp remain pledged to Standard General.

Includes 41,709 shares subject to exercisable stock options. The amount included in the table above includes (5)56,334 shares held by Mr. Wexler's children, including shares they hold as custodians for Mr. Wexler's grandchildren.

(6)Includes 41,687 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

(7)Includes 49,705 shares subject to exercisable stock options

(8)Includes 45,640 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

(9)Includes 41,728 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

(10)Mr. Glazek is a Partner of Standard General but disclaims beneficial ownership in shares of common stock held by Standard General or the Funds.

(11)Includes 10,432 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

(12)Includes 41,728 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

(13)Includes 277,374 shares subject to exercisable stock options.

Standard Diversified Opportunities, Inc.

Name of Beneficial Holder	Position or Title of Beneficial Holder	Class A Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Class A Beneficially Owned	Class B Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Class B Beneficially Owned	Total Shares Beneficially Owned	Percentage of Total Shares Beneficially Owned
Standard General L.P. ⁽¹⁾	Principal Stockholder	7,385,277	86.6 %	7,360,075	91.5 %	14,745,352	89.0 %
Thomas F. Helms, Jr.	Director	275,451	3.2 %	272,624	3.4 %	548,075	3.3 %
Lawrence S. Wexler	President & Chief Executive Officer, Director	—	—	—	—	—	*
Mark A. Stegeman	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer	—	—	—	—	—	*
James W. Dobbins	Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary	—	—	—	—	—	*
Gregory H.A. Baxter	Director	32,862	*	4,000	*	36,862	*

H.C. Charles Diao	Director	5,200	*	5,200	*	10,400	*
David Glazek	Director	—	—	—	—	—	*
George W. Hebard III	Director	—	—	—	—	—	*
Arnold Zimmerman	Director	—	—	—	—	—	*
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (11 persons)							
		313,513	3.7 %	281,824	3.5 %	595,337	3.6 %

* Indicates less than 1%

(1) This information is based solely on a review of a stock ownership reports on Schedule 13D, and amendment to which was most recently filed by this shareholder with the SEC on January 5, 2018.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's directors and officers, and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a registered class of the Company's equity securities, to file with the SEC initial reports of stock ownership and reports of changes in stock ownership and to provide the Company with copies of all such filed forms. Based solely on its review of such copies or written representations from reporting persons, the Company believes that all reports were filed on a timely basis during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, with the exception of the following: (i) Thomas F Helms Jr. filed a late Form 4 on August 22, 2017 to report the sale of 100,000 shares of common stock on August 16, 2017.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

This section addresses our executive compensation program for our named executive officers. It includes a discussion of our compensation objectives and philosophy and the material elements of compensation earned by, or awarded or paid to, our named executive officers, which include our principal executive officer and our two other most highly compensated executive officers. This section also describes the compensation actions taken during 2017 and is intended to provide a further understanding of the amounts displayed in the required tabular disclosures. The information set forth in this section is presented pursuant to the reduced disclosure rules applicable to Emerging Growth Companies.

Our named executive officers for 2017 were:

• Lawrence S. Wexler, our President & Chief Executive Officer;
 • James W. Dobbins, our Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary; and
 • Mark A. Stegeman, our Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Stegeman resigned all positions he held with the Company and its subsidiaries effective as of March 13, 2018.

Executive Compensation Objectives and Philosophy

One objective of our executive compensation program is to attract and retain qualified, energetic employees who are enthusiastic about our mission and culture. A further objective is to provide incentives and reward each senior executive for his or her contribution to our growth and operating and financial improvement. In addition, we strive to promote an ownership mentality among key leadership executives.

Our Compensation Committee is solely responsible for authorizing the compensation of our named executive officers. In doing so, the Compensation Committee may consult from time to time with the named executive officers. However, the Compensation Committee will at all times retain full responsibility for determining the compensation of our named executive officers, and no named executive officer will participate in the Compensation Committee's approval of his or her compensation.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table shows information regarding the compensation of our named executive officers for services performed in the years ended December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Option Awards (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) ⁽³⁾	All Other Compensation (\$) ⁽⁴⁾	Total (\$)
Lawrence S. Wexler	2017	734,812	77,367	491,400	810,935	26,980	2,141,494
<i>President & Chief Executive Officer</i>	2016	695,488	—	—	883,218	30,616	1,609,322
James W. Dobbins	2017	371,945	31,510	163,800	205,306	16,788	789,339
<i>Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary</i>	2016	358,382	—	—	225,899	20,337	604,618

Edgar Filing: Turning Point Brands, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Mark A. Stegeman	2017	348,873	16,100	93,600	178,463	16,283	653,319
<i>Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer</i>	2016	331,464	127,971	—	192,500	14,203	666,138

Option Awards reflect the grant date fair value of each award, determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Pursuant to SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to service-based (1)vesting conditions. For additional information on the assumptions made in the valuation for the awards reflected in this column, please see Note 16 to our Consolidated Financial Statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017 in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Stock Awards reflect the grant date fair value of each award, determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Pursuant to SEC rules, the amounts shown exclude the impact of estimated forfeitures related to vesting (2)conditions. For additional information on the assumptions made in the valuation for the awards reflected in this column, please see Note 16 to our Consolidated Financial Statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017 in our Annual Report on Form 10-K.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(3) Performance bonuses in respect of a given year were generally determined in March of the following year and paid shortly thereafter.

For 2017, Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman received non-qualified deferred compensation of \$13,480, \$3,278, and \$2,783, respectively, and they each received a matching contribution under our 401(k) defined contribution plan (including a discretionary contribution equal to 1% of base salary) of \$13,500. For 2016, Messrs.

Wexler and Dobbins received a car allowance through May of \$6,600 and \$4,400, respectively, and non-qualified (4) deferred compensation of \$10,766 and \$2,687, respectively, and they each received a matching contribution under our 401(k) defined contribution plan (including a discretionary contribution equal to 1% of base salary) of \$13,250. For 2016, Mr. Stegeman received a matching contribution under our 401(k) defined contribution plan (including a discretionary contribution equal to 1% of base salary) of \$12,788 and non-qualified deferred compensation of \$1,415.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table

Elements of Executive Compensation

Elements of executive compensation include: salary, bonus, equity-based compensation, welfare benefits and perquisites, a Company match to our 401(k) defined contribution plan (including contributions to our Restoration Plan (discussed below), where applicable) and other retirement benefits. Each of the named executive officers is party to an individual employment agreement with us. Effective December 31, 2003, we froze our defined benefit retirement plan for our salaried employees, although Messrs. Helms and Dobbins retain benefits under this plan. Individual elements of compensation and the applicable compensation arrangements are described in more detail below.

Salary

The named executive officers receive a fixed annual salary to compensate them for services they render. Pursuant to employment agreements dated November 23, 2015, and effective as of May 10, 2016, the base salaries for each of Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman were increased to \$722,925, \$365,271 and \$350,000, respectively. Effective April 15, 2017, the base salary for Mr. Wexler was increased by 2.3% from his 2016 level, to \$739,191, Mr. Dobbins base salary was increased by 2.5% from his 2016 level to \$374,403 and Mr. Stegeman's base salary was increased by 2.3% from his 2016 level to \$357,875.

Bonus

Our executive compensation program is designed to reward business success and each senior executive's contribution to our operating and financial performance. In measuring a senior executive's contribution to us, our Board considers our growth and various financial metrics. We also consider an executive's performance in managing us in light of general economic conditions, as well as specific company, industry and competitive conditions. Our senior executives participate in a discretionary incentive bonus payment under our Management Bonus Program based on the Board's assessment of our financial performance and individual performance. The incentive bonus compensation paid to the named executive officers in 2017 for fiscal year 2016 was based upon final financial performance as assessed by the Board based upon our audited 2016 financial statements and such officer's individual performance in 2016. The incentive bonus compensation paid to the named executive officers in 2018 for fiscal year 2017 was based on similar performance criteria with respect to 2017.

Equity-Based Compensation - 2015 Plan

In April 2015, we adopted the Turning Point Brands, Inc. 2015 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2015 Plan"). The 2015 Plan authorizes the Compensation Committee to provide equity-based or other incentive-based compensation for the purpose of attracting and retaining directors, employees and certain consultants and providing our directors,

employees and such consultants incentives and rewards for superior performance. The 2015 Plan is designed to comply with the requirements of applicable federal and state securities laws, and the Code, including allowing us to issue awards that may comply with the performance-based exclusion from the deduction limitations under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Certain of our senior executives are eligible to receive grants of stock options, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock under the 2015 Plan. In addition to restricted stock and stock options, we also grant 5-year performance-based restricted stock units (PRSUs), which represent the conditional right to receive one share of our common stock upon satisfaction of the vesting requirements. PRSUs offer the named executive officers a financial interest in the Company and serve to retain the named executive officers as the awards vest upon satisfaction of a specific performance measure at a pre-determined time.

In connection with our IPO, we issued 141 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Stegeman, and in August 2016, in connection with his employment agreement, we granted Mr. Stegeman options to purchase 53,996 shares of

TABLE OF CONTENTS

our common stock at an exercise price of \$9.26, 50% of which were vested immediately and 25% of which will vest on each of the first and second anniversaries of their grant date. In 2017, Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman were granted options to purchase 16,819, 6,850 and 3,500 shares of our common stock, respectively, at an exercise price of \$15.41; 34% of these options vested on January 1, 2018, and 33% will vest on each of January 1, 2019 and 2020. In 2017, Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman were granted 31,500, 10,500 and 6,000 5-year PRSUs, respectively, which vest five years from the grant date upon the Company's achievement of certain levels of return on invested capital (ROIC); 50% will vest if ROIC is 12.5%, 75% will vest if ROIC is 15%, and 100% will vest if ROIC is 17.5%.

Equity-Based Compensation - 2006 Plan

As of March 16, 2018, there remained outstanding 564,157 unexercised stock options under our 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2006 Plan). No additional awards may be granted under the 2006 Plan.

Welfare Benefits & Perquisites

We provide the named executive officers with health, dental and vision insurance plans, term life and disability insurance, and certain perquisites. Except with respect to specific perquisites, senior executives may generally elect to participate in these plans on the same basis and terms as all employees.

401(k) Matching Contributions

We provide a company match to the 401(k) defined contribution plan to all eligible employees. For the 2016 and 2017 401(k) plan years, we contributed 4% of the participant's annual base salary to those eligible salaried employees contributing 4% or greater of their salary. For those eligible salaried employees contributing less than 4% of annual base salary, we matched the contribution by 100%. In each of 2016 and 2017, we also made a discretionary contribution equal to 1% of the participant's annual base salary to those eligible salaried employees.

Restoration Plan

We adopted a Restoration Plan in 2013 (the Restoration Plan) to give parity in benefits to executives with those benefits offered to employees generally via our 401(k) defined contribution plan. The Restoration Plan credits bookkeeping liability accounts for selected executives each year in amounts equal to amounts those executives would otherwise have been credited under the 401(k) plan. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), allowed only up to \$270,000 (in 2017; indexed each year) in total compensation to be considered in allocating contributions to a tax-qualified plan, so credits will be made to the non-qualified Restoration Plan for selected executives on compensation paid above that level, at the same percentage rate as applies to employees generally on pay below that level through the 401(k) plan. Amounts credited to the Restoration Plan grow based on the S&P 500 equity index returns each year. Benefits accrued under the Restoration Plan are not set aside in a trust account, and cannot be paid to the covered executive officer until the seventh month after termination of employment, at which time benefits are forfeited if the termination is deemed for cause. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction on acceleration of payment, we may elect, in our sole discretion and without the covered executive's consent, to pay the balance of an executive's benefits to the executive in a lump sum at any time so long as the payment results in the termination and liquidation of the executive's entire account under the Restoration Plan and the payment does not exceed applicable dollar amounts under Code Section 402(g)(1)(B). Each of the named executive officers participates in the Restoration Plan.

Retirement Plan

We have a noncontributory, defined benefit retirement plan (the Retirement Plan), which originally covered all full-time employees, including officers, upon completing one year of service. Effective December 31, 2003, we froze the Retirement Plan for our salaried employees. Mr. Dobbins is the only named executive officer who participated in the Retirement Plan during 2016 and 2017.

A participant in the Retirement Plan becomes fully vested before normal retirement at age 65 upon the completion of five years of service. Based on years of service, Mr. Dobbins is fully vested under the Retirement Plan. Benefits are also provided under the Retirement Plan in the event of early retirement at or after age 55 and the completion of at least ten years of service (or special early retirement after completion of 30 years of service) and in the event of retirement for disability after completion of five years of service. The amount of the

TABLE OF CONTENTS

contribution, payment or accrual with respect to a specified person is not and cannot readily be separately or individually calculated by the actuaries for the Retirement Plan. Benefits under the Retirement Plan are based upon application of a formula to the specified average compensation and years of credited service at normal retirement age. Compensation covered by the Retirement Plan consists of the average annual salary during any five consecutive calendar years in the last ten years of an employee's service, which affords the highest salary, or, if employed for less than five years, the average annual salary for the years employed. The Retirement Plan benefits are not subject to any deduction for social security payments.

Employment Agreements

In November 2015, we entered into new employment agreements with each of Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman which became effective and replaced their prior employment agreements upon the completion of our IPO in May 2016 (collectively, the 2016 Employment Agreements).

Upon a termination of employment by us without cause or by the applicable executive for good reason (each as defined in the applicable executive's 2016 Employment Agreement), each of Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman would be entitled to severance payments comprised of the following: (1) accrued compensation and benefits; (2) continuation of then-current base salary for 12 months, to be paid in accordance with our normal payroll practices; (3) a cash severance bonus equal to the average annual cash bonus received by the applicable executive for the 24-month period before the termination date; and (4) a lump sum payment equal to the cost of COBRA continuation coverage for the executive and his eligible dependents for 12 months.

In the event of a termination of employment by us without cause or by the applicable executive for good reason within one year following a change of control (as such term is defined in the applicable executive's 2016 Employment Agreement), or within 12 months of the effective date of his 2016 Employment Agreement, each of Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman would be entitled to severance payments comprised of the following (in lieu of any other severance payments under the 2016 Employment Agreements): (1) the accrued compensation and benefits; (2) continuation of then-current base salary for 24 months, to be paid in accordance with our normal payroll practices; (3) a cash severance bonus equal to two-times the average annual cash bonus received by the applicable executive for the 24-month period before the termination date; and (4) a lump sum payment equal to the cost of COBRA continuation coverage for the executive and his eligible dependents for 12 months.

In general, the foregoing severance payments and other benefits are subject to the applicable executive executing and delivering a release of claims to us. Pursuant to their respective 2016 Employment Agreements, Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins and Stegeman are each subject to certain restrictive covenants, including non-competition and non-solicitation restrictions during the employment term, and for a post-termination period equal to the number of months the executive is entitled to receive salary continuation pursuant to the severance provisions described above.

In addition, if any payment made to Messrs. Wexler, Dobbins or Stegeman would be subject to the excise tax under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, then the amounts payable to the applicable executive will be reduced to the maximum amount that does not trigger the excise tax, unless the executive would be better off (on an after-tax basis) receiving all such payments and benefits and paying all applicable income and excise taxes.

Lawrence S. Wexler

Mr. Wexler's 2016 Employment Agreement provides for an initial term of one year, subject to automatic extensions for successive one-year terms unless earlier terminated, or unless either party provides notice of non-renewal at least 60 days before the end of the applicable term. Pursuant to his 2016 Employment Agreement, Mr. Wexler is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$722,925, subject to adjustment by the Board. Mr. Wexler is eligible to receive an

annual cash bonus award, with a target bonus opportunity equal to 100% of base salary. The annual bonus is payable upon the achievement of designated performance metrics pursuant to our Management Bonus Program, as determined by the Board.

James W. Dobbins

Mr. Dobbins's 2016 Employment Agreement provides for an initial term of one year, subject to automatic extensions for successive one-year terms unless earlier terminated, or unless either party provides notice of non-renewal at least 60 days before the end of the applicable term. Pursuant to his 2016 Employment Agreement,

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mr. Mr. Dobbins is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$365,271, subject to adjustment by the Board. Mr. Dobbins is eligible to receive an annual cash bonus award, with a target bonus opportunity equal to 50% of base salary. The annual bonus is payable upon the achievement of designated performance metrics pursuant to our Management Bonus Program, as determined by the Board.

Mark A. Stegeman

Mr. Stegeman's 2016 Employment Agreement provides for an initial term of one year, subject to automatic extensions for successive one-year terms unless earlier terminated, or unless either party provides notice of non-renewal at least 60 days prior to the end of the applicable term. Under his employment agreement, Mr. Stegeman is entitled to receive an annual base salary of \$350,000, subject to adjustment by the Board. Mr. Stegeman is eligible to receive an annual cash bonus award, with a target bonus opportunity equal to 50% of his base salary. The annual bonus is payable upon the achievement of designated performance metrics pursuant to our Management Bonus Program, as determined by the Board. Pursuant to his 2016 Employment Agreement, during 2016, Mr. Stegeman was issued options to purchase 53,996 shares of Company stock at an exercise price of \$9.26 per share.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth specified information concerning equity awards held by each of the named executive officers as of December 31, 2017.

Name	Date of grant		Option Awards		Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Stock Awards	
			Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) exercisable	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) unexercisable			Equity incentive plan awards: Number of unearned shares, units or other rights that have not vested (#)	Equity incentive plan awards: Market or payout value of unearned shares, units or other rights that have not vested (\$)
Lawrence S. Wexler	11/4/2008	(1)	31,296	—	1.06	11/4/2018	—	—
	8/8/2014	(1)	4,695	—	3.83	8/8/2024	—	—
	3/31/17	(5)	—	—	—	—	31,500	491,400
	5/17/2017	(2)(6)	—	16,819	15.41	5/17/2027	—	—
James W. Dobbins	11/4/2008	(1)	20,864	—	1.06	11/4/2018	—	—
	8/25/2011	(1)	31,296	—	3.83	8/25/2021	—	—

Edgar Filing: Turning Point Brands, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

	8/8/2014	(1)	5,216	—	3.83	8/8/2024	—	—
	3/31/17	(5)	—	—	—	—	10,500	163,800
	5/17/2017	(2)(6)	—	6,850	15.41	5/17/2027	—	—
Mark A. Stegeman	5/11/2016	(3)	—	—	—	—	141	1,727
	8/10/2016	(1)	40,497	13,499	9.26	8/10/2026	—	—
	3/31/2017	(5)	—	—	—	—	6,000	93,600
	5/17/2017	(2)(6)	—	3,500	15.41	5/17/2027	—	—

(1) Options to purchase shares of our stock granted pursuant to the 2006 Plan.

(2) Options to purchase shares of our stock granted pursuant to the 2015 Plan.

(3) Restricted stock granted under our 2015 Plan in connection with our IPO that will vest in three annual installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the grant date.

(4) Options to purchase shares of our stock granted under the 2015 Plan pursuant to his 2016 Employment Agreement. 50% vested at grant and 25% vesting on the first two anniversaries of the date of grant, August 10, 2016.

(5) Performance-based restricted stock units granted under our 2015 Plan. Restricted Stock units vest 5 years from the grant date upon the Company's achievement of certain levels of return on invested capital.

(6) Options to purchase shares of our stock vest 34% on January 1, 2018, 33% on January 1, 2019 and 33% on January 1, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table contains information about our equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2017:

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	763,672	\$ 5.73	1,097,882
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	763,672	\$ 5.73	1,097,882

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee has met and reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 with the Company's management, which has the primary responsibility for the Company's financial statements, as well as with the Company's independent auditor, RSM US LLP, who is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with auditing standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or providing any professional certification with respect to the independent auditor's work product.

The Audit Committee has discussed with RSM US LLP the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 16, *Communications With Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee has received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from RSM US LLP required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding RSM US LLP communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also considered whether RSM US LLP non-audit services to the Company were compatible with the independence requirements and concluded their independence was not compromised by the provision of these services.

Taking all of these reviews and discussions into account, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 for filing with the SEC.

All members of the Audit Committee of the Company listed below submit the foregoing report.

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

H. C. Charles Diao (Chair)

George W. Hebard III

Arnold Zimmerman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS

Policies Regarding Related Party Transactions

Our Board has adopted a written statement of policy regarding transactions with related persons, which we refer to as our related person policy. Our related person policy requires that a related person (as defined as in paragraph (a) of Item 404 of Regulation S-K) must promptly disclose to our senior legal officer any related person transaction (defined as any transaction that is anticipated would be reportable by us under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K in which we were or are to be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and in which any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest) and all material facts with respect thereto. The senior legal officer will then promptly communicate that information to the Audit Committee of our Board. Following our IPO, no related person transaction may be executed without the approval or ratification of the Audit Committee. In general, the Audit Committee will approve or ratify only related person transactions that we believe are at least as favorable to us as those we would obtain from an unrelated party.

Thomas F. Helms, III

Thomas F. Helms, III, son of our Non-Executive Chairman Thomas F. Helms, Jr., is employed by us as Director of Trade Marketing. During the year ended December 31, 2017, he received aggregate compensation of \$171,819.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS****Proposal 1 – Election of Directors**

The Company's by-laws provide that the number of directors on our Board will be determined from time to time by a vote of the Board. Our Board currently consists of seven (7) directors. At the Annual Meeting, we are electing seven (7) directors for a term of one year each.

Nominees for Election as a Director

Set forth below are the Board members who will stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting, together with their age, all Company positions and offices they currently hold, and the year in which they joined the Board. Although it is not anticipated that any of the nominees listed below will decline or be unable to serve, if that should occur, the proxy holders may, in their discretion, vote for a substitute nominee.

Name	Age	Position or Office	Director Since
Thomas F. Helms, Jr.	77	Non-Executive Chairman	1997
Lawrence S. Wexler	65	President & CEO; Director	2013
Gregory H. A. Baxter	64	Director	2006
H.C. Charles Diao	60	Director	2012
David Glazek	40	Director	2012
George W. Hebard	44	Director	2014
Arnold Zimmerman	80	Director	2013

Recommendation

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR THE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY SET FORTH ABOVE FOR ONE YEAR EACH.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**Proposal 2 – Ratification of Independent Auditors**

As more particularly described in this proxy statement, the Audit Committee is directly responsible for managing the Company's independent auditors, which includes, without limitation, (i) pre-approving all audit and permitted non-audit services provided by our independent auditors, and (ii) the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the Company's independent auditors. In connection with the same and pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee has appointed the firm of RSM US LLP to serve as the independent auditors to audit the consolidated financial of the Company for the fiscal year which ends on December 31, 2018. The Board and the Audit Committee jointly agree that the continued retention of RSM US LLP is in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders. Accordingly, a resolution will be presented at the Annual Meeting to ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP. If the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP, the Audit Committee will take this result into account when appointing an independent auditor for fiscal year 2019. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm as the Company's independent auditors at any time during the year if the Audit Committee believes that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. One or more representatives of RSM US LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Fees Paid to the Independent Auditors

We paid the following fees to RSM US LLP for fiscal years 2017 and 2016:

	2017	2016
Audit Fees	\$ 510,813	\$ 489,391
Audit-related Fees	\$ 106,639	\$ 265,779
Tax Fees	0	0
All Other Fees	0	0
	\$ 617,452	\$ 755,170

Audit Fees

RSM US LLP charged \$510,813 in fiscal year 2017 and \$489,391 in fiscal year 2016 for audit fees. These include professional services in connection with the audit of the Company's annual financial statements included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K and reviews of the Company's financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and for services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for the fiscal years shown.

Audit-related Fees

RSM US LLP charged \$106,639 in fiscal year 2017 and \$265,779 in fiscal year 2016 for audit-related fees. 2017 fees include \$55,996 for the filing of our Registration Statement on Form S-3. 2017 fees include \$50,643 we incurred in connection with the inclusion of our financial information in SEC filings made by SDOI. SDOI reimbursed us for these fees. Fees in 2016 relate to our IPO. Fees in 2016 also relate to consummated acquisitions.

Tax Fees

RSM US LLP did not charge the Company for any tax services in fiscal years 2017 or 2016.

All Other Fees

RSM US LLP did not charge the Company for any non-audit services in fiscal year 2017 or 2016.

Pre-approval Policies and Procedures

The Audit Committee pre-approved all audit and audit-related services provided to the Company by RSM US LLP before management engaged the auditors for those purposes. The policy of the committee is to review all engagement letters for accounting firms for non-audit services.

Recommendation

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF RSM US LLP AS THE COMPANY'S INDEPENDENT AUDITORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

In order for stockholder proposals submitted pursuant to Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act to be presented at the Company's 2019 annual meeting of stockholders and included in the Company's proxy statement and form of proxy relating to such meeting, such proposals must be submitted to the Corporate Secretary of the Company at the Company's principal executive offices no later than November 29, 2018. Stockholder proposals should be submitted to the Corporate Secretary of the Company at 5201 Interchange Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40229. Such proposals must also comply with the additional requirements of Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act (or any successor rule) to be eligible for inclusion in the proxy statement for the 2019 annual meeting. The rules of the SEC set forth standards for what stockholder proposals the Company is required to include in a proxy statement for an annual meeting of stockholders.

In addition, the Company's by-laws, a copy of which is available upon request, provide that only such business which is properly brought before a stockholder meeting will be conducted. For business to be properly brought before a meeting or nominations of persons for election to the Board to be properly made at a meeting by a stockholder, notice must be received by the Corporate Secretary of the Company at the Company's offices not less 45 or more than 75 days before the one-year anniversary of the date on which the Company first mailed proxy materials for the preceding year's annual meeting of stockholders; provided, however, if the meeting is convened more than 30 days before or delayed by more than 30 days after the anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting, or if no annual meeting was held in the preceding year, to be timely, notice must be received not later than the close of business on the later of (i) the 90th day before such annual meeting, or (ii) the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is made. To be in proper written form, a stockholder's notice to the Company's Corporate Secretary must, among other things, set forth as to each matter such stockholder proposes to bring before the annual meeting (i) a brief description of the business proposed to be brought before the annual meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the annual meeting, (ii) the name and record address of such stockholder, (iii) the class or series and number of shares of the Company's capital stock which are owned beneficially or of record by such stockholder, and (iv) any other information relating to such stockholder and beneficial owner, if any, that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for, as applicable, the proposal and/or for the election of directors in a contested election pursuant to Section 14 of the Exchange Act.

Accordingly, a stockholder who intends to raise a proposal to be acted upon at the 2019 annual meeting, but who does not desire to include the proposal in the Company's 2019 proxy statement, must inform the Company by sending written notice to the Company's Corporate Secretary at 5201 Interchange Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40229, no earlier than January 11, 2019 nor later than February 12, 2019. The persons named as proxies in the Company's proxy for the 2019 annual meeting may exercise their discretionary authority to act upon any proposal which is properly brought before a stockholder meeting.

STOCKHOLDERS' COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD

Stockholders and other interest parties may communicate with the Company's Board, including the Lead Independent Director or the independent directors as a group by sending written communications to the Company's Corporate Secretary at 5201 Interchange Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40229. Written communications should include the interest party's name and address and should indicate whether such person is a stockholder of the Company. The communication will be reviewed by Mr. Dobbins and by the Audit Committee. If the communication is appropriate, it will be forwarded to the Board or the appropriate director.

FORM 10-K

The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, accompanies this proxy statement. The Company's Annual Report does not form any part of the material for solicitation of proxies.

Any stockholder who wishes to obtain, without charge, a copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, which includes financial statements, and is required to be filed with the SEC, may access it at *www.turningpointbrands.com* in the Investor Relations section or may send a written request to James Dobbins, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Turning Point Brands, Inc., 5201 Interchange Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40229.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board is not aware of any other matters to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than those set forth herein and routine matters incident to the conduct of the meeting. If any other matters should properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the persons named in the proxy, or their substitutes, intend to vote on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ James Dobbins

James Dobbins

Corporate Secretary

Louisville, Kentucky

March 29, 2018

Please vote your shares through any of the methods described on the proxy card as promptly as possible, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting in person. If you do attend the Annual Meeting, you may still vote in person, since the proxy may be revoked at any time before its exercise by delivering a written revocation of the proxy to the Company's Corporate Secretary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS