

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC
Form DEF 14A
March 25, 2005

[QuickLinks](#) -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

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

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, 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)(4) 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:

o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

o 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:

Persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

175 Crossways Park West
Woodbury, New York 11797-2055

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on April 29, 2005

The 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Weight Watchers International, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at The Garden City Hotel, 45 Seventh Street, Garden City, N.Y. 11530 on Friday, April 29, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time (the "Annual Meeting"), to consider and act upon each of the following matters:

1. To elect three members to the Board of Directors to serve for a three-year term as Class 1 Directors;
2. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

These items of business are more fully described in the attached Proxy Statement. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 15, 2005, the record date, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting and at any adjournments or postponements of the Annual Meeting.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND MAIL IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE IN ORDER TO ASSURE REPRESENTATION OF YOUR SHARES. NO POSTAGE NEED BE AFFIXED IF THE PROXY CARD IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Order of the Board of Directors

ROBERT W. HOLLWEG
Secretary

Woodbury, New York
March 25, 2005

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

175 Crossways Park West
Woodbury, New York 11797-2055

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held on April 29, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
General Information about the Proxy Materials and the Annual Meeting	1
Who is entitled to vote?	1
How to vote?	1
What is the difference between holding shares as a shareholder of record and as a beneficial owner?	1
How can I change my vote?	1
How many shares must be present or represented to constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting?	1
How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote?	2
What is the voting requirement to approve each of the proposals?	2
How are votes counted?	2
Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?	2
How can shareholders communicate with the Board of Directors?	3
Proposal No. 1 Election of Directors	3
Board of Directors	3
Background Information on Nominees	4
Proposal No. 2 Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	4
Principal Accountant Fees and Services	5
Audit Fees	5
Audit Related Fees	5
Tax Fees	5
All Other Fees	5
Securities Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management	6
Board Committees and Audit Committee Report	7
Board Committees	7
Code of Business Conduct and Ethics	9
Corporate Governance Guidelines	9
Executive Sessions of Non-Management Directors	9
Shareholder Communications	9
Director Nominations	9
Identifying and Evaluating Nominees for Directors	9
Audit Committee Report	10
Directors and Officers	12
Compensation and Other Information Concerning Directors and Officers	15
Executive Compensation Summary	15
Compensation and Benefits Committee Report on Executive Compensation Programs	19
Director Compensation	20
Executive Savings and Profit Sharing Plan	20
Continuity Agreements	20
Compensation and Benefits Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	22

	Page
Stock Performance Graph	23
Certain Relationships and Related Transactions	24
Other Matters	27
Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Compliance	27
Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations	28
Shareholders of Record with Multiple Accounts	28
Annual Report	28

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Weight Watchers International, Inc. (the "Company") is soliciting proxies for the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the Garden City Hotel, 45 Seventh Street, Garden City, New York 11530 on Friday, April 29, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time (the "Annual Meeting"). This booklet and proxy card contains information about the items you will vote on at the Annual Meeting.

Who is entitled to vote?

If you are the holder of record of the Common Stock of the Company at the close of business on March 15, 2005 (the "Record Date"), you are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and at any and all adjournments or postponements of the meeting. You are entitled to one vote for each share you own for each matter presented for vote at the Annual Meeting. As of the close of business on the Record Date there were 103,317,240 shares of the Common Stock of the Company outstanding.

How to vote?

Shareholders of record may vote in person by attending the Annual Meeting or by completing and returning the proxy by mail. To vote your proxy by mail, mark your vote on the enclosed proxy card, then return it by following the directions on the card. Your proxy, if not properly revoked, will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you do not mark a selection, your proxy will be voted as recommended by the Board of Directors. Your vote is very important, so whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting or not, we encourage you to vote by proxy as soon as possible.

What is the difference between holding shares as a shareholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with the Company's transfer agent, Equiserve Trust Company, you are considered the shareholder of record with respect to those shares, and these proxy materials are being sent directly to you by the Company. As the shareholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy to the Company or to vote in person at the meeting. The Company has enclosed a proxy card for you to use.

If your shares are held in a brokerage account or by another nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you together with a voting instruction card. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, trustee or nominee how to vote and are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Since a beneficial owner is not the shareholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you obtain a "legal proxy" from the broker, trustee or nominee that holds your shares, giving you the right to vote the shares at the Annual Meeting. Your broker, trustee or nominee will send you separate instructions describing the procedure for voting your shares.

How can I change my vote?

You may revoke your proxy or change your voting instructions before the time of voting at the Annual Meeting by (i) delivering a written revocation or a later-dated proxy to the President or Secretary of the Company at the address of the Company's principal executive offices; or (ii) attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person (attendance at the Annual Meeting will not by itself revoke a proxy).

How many shares must be present or represented to constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting?

The presence of a majority of the outstanding shares, in person or represented by proxy, of the Common Stock of the Company entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting constitutes a quorum. A quorum is necessary in order to conduct business at the Annual Meeting. You are part of the quorum if you have voted by proxy. Shares held of record by your broker, trustee, or nominee ("Broker

Shares") that are voted on any matter and abstentions are included in determining the number of votes present. Broker Shares that are not voted on any matter at the Annual Meeting are not included in determining whether a quorum is present. If a quorum is not present, the Annual Meeting will be rescheduled for a later date.

How does the Board of Directors recommend that I vote?

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote your shares "FOR" each of the nominees to the Board of Directors and "FOR" the ratification of the independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005.

What is the voting requirement to approve each of the proposals?

Election of Directors. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting. The nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes at the Annual Meeting will be elected as Class 1 Directors for a three-year term. Withheld votes and Broker Shares that are not voted in the election of directors will have no effect in the election of directors.

Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. The appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005, will be ratified if the votes cast, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting exceed the number of votes cast against ratification. Abstentions and Broker Shares that are not voted for the ratification of the appointment of independent registered public accounting firm will have no effect on the proposal to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PricewaterhouseCoopers" or "PWC").

Other Matters. The affirmative vote of the majority of shares present, in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting, is generally required for approval for all other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. If any other matter not discussed in this Proxy Statement properly comes before the Annual Meeting upon which a vote may be taken, shares represented by all proxies received by the Company will be voted on that matter in accordance with the discretion of the persons named as proxy holders.

How are votes counted?

Shareholders' proxies are received by the Company's independent proxy processing agent, and the vote is certified by independent inspectors of election. Proxies and ballots that identify the vote of individual shareholders will be kept confidential, except as necessary to meet legal requirements, in cases where shareholders write comments on their proxy cards or in a contested proxy solicitation. During the proxy solicitation period, the Company will receive vote tallies from time to time from the inspectors, but such tallies will provide aggregate figures rather than names of shareholders. The independent inspectors will notify the Company if a shareholder has failed to vote.

Who will bear the cost of soliciting votes for the Annual Meeting?

The Company will bear the entire cost of this proxy solicitation, including the preparation, printing and mailing of the Proxy Statement, the proxy and any additional soliciting materials sent by the Company to shareholders. The Company may reimburse brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares for reasonable expenses incurred by them in forwarding proxy-soliciting materials to such beneficial owners. In addition to solicitations by mail, certain of the Company's directors, officers and regular employees, without additional remuneration, may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile and personal interviews. Solicitation by officers and employees of the Company may also be made of some shareholders in person or by mail, telephone or facsimile following the original solicitation.

How can shareholders communicate with the Board of Directors?

Company shareholders who want to communicate with the Board of Directors or any individual Director can write to them c/o Weight Watchers International, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, New York 11797. Your letter should indicate that you are a Company shareholder. Depending on the subject matter, our Corporate Secretary will: (i) forward the communication to the Director or Directors to whom it is addressed; or (ii) attempt to handle the inquiry directly, for example when the request is for information about the Company or is a stock-related matter; or (iii) not forward the communication if it is primarily commercial in nature or if it relates to an improper or irrelevant topic. At each Board of Directors meeting, a member of management will present a summary of all communications received since the last meeting that were not forwarded to the Director or Directors to whom they were addressed, and shall make those communications available to the Board of Directors upon request.

It is anticipated that this Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy will be first mailed to shareholders on or about March 25, 2005.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, references to "the Company", "our company", "we", "us", or "our" are to Weight Watchers International, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Board of Directors

The Company's Board of Directors is currently comprised of nine members. The Company's Board of Directors is divided into three classes, equal in number, with each director serving a three-year term and one class being elected at each year's annual meeting of shareholders. The following individuals are directors and serve for the terms indicated:

Class 1 Directors (term expiring in 2005)

Raymond Debbane
Jonas M. Fajgenbaum
John F. Bard

Class 2 Directors (term expiring in 2006)

Sacha Lainovic
Christopher J. Sobecki
Marsha Johnson Evans

Class 3 Director (term expiring in 2007)

Linda Huett
Sam K. Reed
Philippe J. Amouyal

The Board of Directors of the Company held five meetings during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005. Each of the directors attended at least 85% of the aggregate of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of all committees of the Board of Directors on which the director then served held during fiscal 2004. It is the Board of Director's policy that directors are expected to attend our Annual Meeting. All nine of our directors attended the Company's 2004 Annual Meeting.

All directors will hold office until their successors have been duly elected. The Class 1 Directors' terms will expire at this Annual Meeting. Raymond Debbane, Jonas M. Fajgenbaum, and John F. Bard have been nominated for election as Class 1 directors to serve until the 2008 Annual Meeting of

Shareholders and until their successors have been elected. All proxies received by the Company, unless otherwise specified in the proxy, will be voted for their election. The Board of Directors knows of no reason why these nominees should be unable or unwilling to serve, but if that should be the case, proxies will be voted for the election of such substitutes as the Board of Directors may designate.

Background Information on Nominees

Background information about each of the board of director's nominees for director is set forth below:

Raymond Debbane. Mr. Debbane has been our Chairman of the Board of Directors since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Debbane is a co-founder and President of The Invus Group, LLC. Prior to forming The Invus Group, LLC in 1985, Mr. Debbane was a manager and consultant for The Boston Consulting Group in Paris, France. He holds an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business, an M.S. in Food Science and Technology from the University of California, Davis and a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Agricultural Engineering from American University of Beirut. Mr. Debbane is a director of Artal Group S.A., Ceres, Inc. and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of GoldenSource Corporation. Mr. Debbane is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and served as a director of Keebler Foods Company from 1996 to 1999.

Jonas M. Fajgenbaum. Mr. Fajgenbaum has been a director of our company since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Fajgenbaum is a Managing Director of The Invus Group, LLC, which he joined in 1996. Prior to joining The Invus Group, LLC, Mr. Fajgenbaum was a consultant for McKinsey & Company in New York from 1994 to 1996. He graduated with a B.S. from the Wharton School of Business and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994.

John F. Bard. Mr. Bard has been a director since November 2002. Since 1999, he has been a director of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, where he served as Executive Vice President from 1999 to 2000, Senior Vice President from 1990-1999, and at the same time serving as Chief Financial Officer from 1990 until his retirement from management in 2000. He began his business career in 1963 with The Procter & Gamble Company in financial management. He subsequently was Group Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and a director of The Clorox Company and later President and a director of Tambrands, Inc., prior to joining Wrigley. Mr. Bard holds a B.S. in business from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Cincinnati. In addition to Wrigley, he also serves as a director of Sea Pines Associates, Inc. and Rowpart Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of each of its nominees for director named above.

PROPOSAL NO. 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Ratification by the shareholders of the selection of independent registered public accounting firm is not required, but the Board of Directors believes that it is desirable to submit this matter to the shareholders. If the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers is not approved at the meeting, the Audit Committee will investigate the reason for the rejection and reconsider the appointment.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Aggregate fees for professional services rendered to the Company by PricewaterhouseCoopers as of or for the years ended January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004:

	2004	2003
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Audit	\$ 1,640,306	\$ 959,195
Audit Related	0	269,169
Tax	257,200	331,390
All Other	15,071	68,580
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	\$ 1,912,577	\$ 1,628,334

Audit Fees

Audit fees for the years ended January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004 were for professional services rendered for the audits of our consolidated financial statements, statutory audits, accounting consultations related to audits and assistance with review of documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Audit fees for the year ended January 1, 2005 also include fees for attestation services related to our internal controls over financial reporting for compliance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Audit Related Fees

The Audit Related fees for the year ended January 3, 2004 were for services related to audits in connection with acquisitions, employee benefit and franchise profit sharing plans.

Tax Fees

Tax fees for the years ended January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004, respectively, were for services related to tax compliance and international tax planning and strategies.

All Other Fees

All other fees for the years ended January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004 related to employee benefit plan advisory services.

All audit related services, tax services and other services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee, which concluded that the provision of such services by PricewaterhouseCoopers was compatible with the maintenance of that firm's independence in the conduct of its auditing functions. The Audit Committee's Audit and Non-Audit Services Pre-Approval Policy provides for pre-approval of audit, audit-related and tax services by category so long as such services are specifically described to the Committee on an annual basis (e.g., in the engagement letter) ("general pre-approval"). In addition, individual engagements that have not received general pre-approval and/or are anticipated to exceed pre-established thresholds must be separately approved in advance on a case-by-case basis ("specific pre-approval"). The Audit Committee is mindful of the relationship between fees for audit and non-audit services in deciding whether to pre-approve any such services and may choose to determine, for a particular year, an appropriate ratio between the total amount of fees for Audit, Audit-related and Tax services and the total amount of fees for certain permissible non-audit services classified as All Other services. The policy authorizes the Committee to delegate to one or more of its members pre-approval authority with respect to permitted services. In its Audit and Non-Audit Services Pre-Approval Policy, the Committee delegated specific pre-approved authority to its chairperson, provided that the estimated fee for any such proposed pre-approved service does not exceed \$50,000.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

SECURITIES OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock by (1) all persons known by us to own beneficially more than 5% of our common stock, (2) our chief executive officer and each of the named executive officers, (3) each director and (4) all directors and executive officers as a group.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In computing the number of shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of that person, shares of common stock subject to options held by that person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days after January 1, 2005 are deemed issued and outstanding. These shares, however, are not deemed outstanding for purposes of computing percentage ownership of each other shareholder.

Our capital stock consists of common stock and preferred stock. As of January 1, 2005, there were 102,412,262 shares of our common stock outstanding and zero (0) shares of our preferred stock outstanding.

Name of Beneficial Owner	As of January 1, 2005	
	Shares	Percent
Artal Luxembourg(1)	59,772,567	58.4%
FMR Corp.(2)	8,473,220	8.3%
Artal Participations & Management S.A.(1)	4,493,258	4.4%
Linda Huett(3)(4)	412,691	*
Ann M. Sardini(3)(4)	40,000	*
Thilo Semmelbauer(3)(4)		*
Robert W. Hollweg(3)(4)	272,706	*
Melanie Stubbing(3)(4)	9,400	*
Maurice Kelly(3)(4)(6)	10,000	*
Raymond Debbane(3)(5)		*
Marsha Johnson Evans(3)(4)	6,986	*
Jonas M. Fajgenbaum(3)		*
Sacha Lainovic(3)		*
Sam K. Reed(3)(4)	16,986	*
John F. Bard(3)(4)	6,704	*
Christopher J. Sobecki(3)		*
Philippe Amouyal(3)		*
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 people)(4)	765,473	*

*

Less than 1.0%

(1)

Artal Luxembourg and Artal Participations and Management may be contacted at 105, Grand-Rue, L-1661 Luxembourg, Luxembourg. The parent entity of Artal Luxembourg is Artal International. The parent entity of Artal International is Artal Group. The parent entity of Artal Group is Westend S.A. The parent entity of Artal Participations and Management is Artal Services N.V., a Belgian company. The parent entity of Artal Services is Artal International. The address of Westend S.A., Artal Group and Artal International is the same as the address of Artal Luxembourg. The address of Artal Services is Woluwedal, 28 B-1932 St. Stevens Woluwe Belgium.

(2)

FMR Corp. may be contacted at 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02109.

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (3) Our executive officers and directors may be contacted c/o Weight Watchers International, Inc., 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, New York, 11797.
- (4) Includes shares subject to purchase upon exercise of options exercisable within 60 days after January 1, 2005, as follows: Ms. Huett 318,483 shares; Ms. Sardini 40,000 shares; Mr. Semmelbauer 0 shares; Mr. Hollweg 181,322 shares; Ms. Stubbing 9,400 shares; Mr. Kelly 10,000 shares; Mr. Reed 6,000 shares; Ms. Evans 6,000 shares; and Mr. Bard 4,000 shares.
- (5) Mr. Debbane is also a director of Artal Group. Artal Group is the parent entity of Artal International, which is the parent entity of Artal Luxembourg. Artal International is the parent entity of Artal Services, which is the parent entity of Artal Participations and Management. Mr. Debbane disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares owned by Artal Luxembourg and Artal Participations and Management.
- (6) Mr. Kelly resigned as an executive officer effective January 31, 2005.

The following table summarizes our equity compensation plan information as of January 1, 2005.

Equity Compensation Plan Information			
Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	4,329,549	\$ 14.80	2,762,807
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			
Total	4,329,549	\$ 14.80	2,762,807

BOARD COMMITTEES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Board Committees

The standing committees of our Board of Directors consist of an Audit Committee and a Compensation and Benefits Committee.

Audit Committee

We have an Audit Committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The members of the Audit Committee are Sam K. Reed, Marsha Johnson Evans and John F. Bard.

The principal duties of our Audit Committee are as follows:

to oversee that our management has maintained the reliability and integrity of our accounting policies and financial reporting and our disclosure practices;

to oversee that our management has established and maintained processes to ensure that an adequate system of internal controls is functioning;

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

to oversee that our management has established and maintained processes to ensure our compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and corporate policy;

to prepare an annual performance evaluation of the Audit Committee;

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

to establish and maintain procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us, from any source, regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and from our employees for the confidential anonymous submission of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters;

to assist the Board of Directors in its oversight of the integrity of our financial statements;

to review our annual and quarterly financial statements prior to their filing or prior to the release of earnings;

to oversee the performance of the independent registered public accounting firm and to retain or terminate the independent registered public accounting firm and approve all audit and non-audit engagement fees and terms; and

to review at least annually, the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent registered public accounting firm.

The Audit Committee has the power to investigate any matter brought to its attention within the scope of its duties and to retain counsel for this purpose where appropriate.

Our Board of Directors has determined that each of the Audit Committee members, Sam K. Reed, Marsha Johnson Evans and John F. Bard, is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K of the Exchange Act, has satisfied the financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and has no direct or indirect material relationship with the Company and thus is independent under applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange, Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and our Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, which is available on the Company's website at www.weightwatchersinternational.com. In addition, shareholders may request a free copy of the Audit Committee charter from: Weight Watchers International, Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797, (516) 390-1400.

Compensation and Benefits Committee

The principal duties of the compensation and benefits committee are as follows:

to review key employee compensation policies, plans and programs;

to monitor performance and compensation of our employee-director, officers and other key employees;

to prepare recommendations and periodic reports to the Board of Directors concerning these matters; and

to function as the committee that administers the incentive programs referred to in "Executive Compensation" below.

Due to the beneficial ownership by Artal Luxembourg and its affiliates of more than 50% of the outstanding common stock of the Company, the Company is considered a "controlled company" as defined in the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. As such, the Company is exempt from the requirements to have nominating/corporate governance and compensation committees composed entirely of independent directors and a majority of independent directors on its Board of Directors.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for our officers, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller, and our employees and directors.

The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on our website at www.weightwatchersinternational.com. In addition, shareholders may request a free copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics from: Weight Watchers International, Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797, (516) 390-1400.

Any amendment of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics or waiver thereof applicable to any of our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller will be disclosed on our website within 5 days of the date of such amendment or waiver. In the case of a waiver, the nature of the waiver, the name of the person to whom the waiver was granted and the date of the waiver will also be disclosed.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

The Company has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines for our officers, directors and employees. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on our website at www.weightwatchersinternational.com. In addition, shareholders may request a free copy of our Corporate Governance Guidelines from: Weight Watchers International, Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797, (516) 390-1400.

Executive Sessions of Non-Management Directors

Non-management directors may meet in executive sessions of the Board of Directors in which management directors and other members of management do not participate. These sessions are regularly scheduled for non-management directors at each meeting of the Board of Directors. The Chairman of the Board, Raymond Debbane, presides over the meetings of the non-management directors.

Shareholder Communications

Shareholders and other interested parties may communicate directly with the non-management directors by sending correspondence to: Chairman of the Board (or Director's name, as appropriate), Board of Directors, Weight Watchers International, Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797, (516) 390-1400.

Director Nominations

The Company is not required to have a nominating committee because it is a "controlled company" as described above. Because of this fact, and because the Board of Directors believes that it is more appropriate for all of the directors of the Company to be involved in the process of nominating persons for election as directors, the Board of Directors does not have a nominating committee. As such, the Board as a whole performs the functions of a nominating committee and is responsible for reviewing the requisite skills and characteristics of the directors of the Company.

Identifying and Evaluating Nominees for Directors

The Board of Directors will consider candidates for nomination as a director recommended by shareholders, current directors, officers, third-party search firms and other sources. In evaluating candidates, the Board of Directors considers the attributes of the candidate, including but not limited to their skills, experience, legal and regulatory requirements and the needs of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will review all candidates in the same manner, regardless of the source of the recommendation. The Board of Directors will consider individuals recommended by Shareholders for nomination as a director in accordance with procedures described in the section entitled "Shareholder Proposals".

Audit Committee Report

The following is the report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors with respect to the Company's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005.

The Audit Committee is governed by the Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Company's Board of Directors. Our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee, Sam K. Reed, Marsha Johnson Evans and John F. Bard, is an "independent" director based on the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by SEC rules.

The Audit Committee reviews the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Audit Committee has met, reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management, which has primary responsibility for the financial statements and the reporting process, including the system of internal controls. In this context, the Audit Committee has held discussions with management and PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2004, regarding the fair and complete presentation of the Company's financial position and results of operations in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee also held discussions with management and PWC regarding the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Audit Committee has discussed significant accounting policies applied by the Company in its financial statements, as well as alternative treatments. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. PWC is responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Company's financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Audit Committee has also discussed with PWC the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, Communication with Audit Committees, which includes, among other items, matters related to the conduct of the annual audit of the Company's financial statements.

In addition, the Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from PWC required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, which relate to the auditor's independence from the Company and has discussed with PWC its independence from the Company and the Company's management. The Audit Committee has also considered whether the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of non-audit services to the Company is compatible with the auditor's independence. The Audit Committee has concluded that PWC is independent from the Company and its management. Further the Audit Committee has discussed with PWC the overall scope and plans for the audit.

Based upon the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee has recommended to the Company's Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors has approved, that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005.

The Audit Committee has selected and the Board of Directors has ratified, subject to shareholder approval, the selection of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

The report is being provided by the following independent directors who constitute the Audit Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
The Audit Committee
Sam K. Reed, Chair
John F. Bard
Marsha Johnson Evans

The Audit Committee Report does not constitute soliciting material, and shall not be deemed to be filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates the Audit Committee Report by specific reference therein.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Set forth below are the names, ages as of January 1, 2005 and current positions with us and our subsidiaries of our executive officers and directors. Directors are elected at the annual meeting of shareholders. Executive officers are appointed by, and hold office at, the discretion of the directors.

Name	Age	Position
Linda Huett	60	President and Chief Executive Officer, Director
Ann M. Sardini	54	Chief Financial Officer
Thilo Semmelbauer	39	Chief Operating Officer, NACO
Scott R. Penn(5)	33	Vice President, Australasia
Robert W. Hollweg	62	Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Melanie Stubbing	43	Vice President of Operations, United Kingdom
Raymond Debbane(1)	49	Chairman of the Board
Philippe J. Amouyal(4)	46	Director
Jonas M. Fajgenbaum	32	Director
Sacha Lainovic(1)	48	Director
Christopher J. Sobecki	46	Director
Sam K. Reed(2) (3)	57	Director
Marsha Johnson Evans(2) (3)	57	Director
John F. Bard(1) (2) (4)	63	Director

- (1) Member of our Compensation and Benefits Committee.
- (2) Member of our Audit Committee.
- (3) Named to the Board of Directors on February 12, 2002.
- (4) Named to the Board of Directors on November 13, 2002.
- (5) Mr. Penn resigned as an executive officer effective March 18, 2005.

Linda Huett. Ms. Huett has been the President and a director of our company since September 1999. She became our Chief Executive Officer in December 2000. Ms. Huett joined our company in 1984 as a classroom leader. Ms. Huett was promoted to U.K. Training Manager in 1986. In 1990, Ms. Huett was appointed Director of the United Kingdom operation and in 1993 was appointed Vice President of Weight Watchers U.K. Ms. Huett received a B.A. degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and received her Masters in Theater from Yale University. Ms. Huett is also a director of WeightWatchers.com, Inc.

Ann M. Sardini. Ms. Sardini has served as our Chief Financial Officer since April 2002 when she joined our company. Ms. Sardini has over 20 years of experience in senior financial management positions in branded media and consumer products companies. Prior to joining us, she served as Chief Financial Officer of VitaminShoppe.com, Inc. from 1999 to 2001, and from 1995 to 1999 she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the Children's Television Workshop. In addition, Ms. Sardini has held finance positions at QVC, Chris Craft Industries and the National Broadcasting Company. Ms. Sardini received a B.A. from Boston College and an M.B.A. from Simmons College Graduate School of Management.

Thilo Semmelbauer. Mr. Semmelbauer has served as our Chief Operating Officer for North America since March 29, 2004. He most recently served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of WeightWatchers.com, the exclusive Internet licensee of Weight Watchers International, and the online presence for the Weight Watchers brand. He held that position since February 2000 and during that time, WeightWatchers.com grew from a start up to almost \$80 million in annual revenues in 2003

and has become a leader in online weight loss. Prior to WeightWatchers.com, Mr. Semmelbauer was with The Boston Consulting Group in the Consumer Goods, Technology and e-Commerce practices. Previously, Mr. Semmelbauer was in Product Management at Motorola, Inc. He received his Master of Science degree in Management and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is a graduate of Dartmouth College.

Scott R. Penn. Mr. Penn has been a Vice President of our Australasia operations since September 1999. Mr. Penn joined our company in 1994 as a Marketing Services Manager in Australia. In 1996, he was promoted to Group Marketing Manager in Australia and in 1997 he was promoted to General Manager-Marketing and Finance.

Robert W. Hollweg. Mr. Hollweg has served as our Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since January 1998. He joined our company in 1969 as an Assistant Counsel in the law department. He transferred to the Heinz law department subsequent to Heinz' acquisition of our company in 1978 and served there in various capacities. He rejoined us after Artal Luxembourg acquired our company in September 1999. Mr. Hollweg graduated from Fordham University and received his Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law. He is a member of the American and New York State Bar Associations and a former President of the International Trademark Association.

Melanie Stubbing. Ms. Stubbing has served as our Vice President of Operations United Kingdom since November 2003. Ms. Stubbing has more than 16 years experience working with strong consumer brands, including a position running the UK-based toy, game and trading card operations for Hasbro, Inc., a position she held from January 2002 to November 2003. From November 2000 to January 2002, Ms. Stubbing was the Vice President for WeightWatchers.com, Inc. Prior to joining WeightWatchers.com, Ms. Stubbing was Managing Director, Hedstrom, U.K. from August 1998 to October 2000, and from July 1989 to July 1998 she held various marketing positions at Mattel UK Ltd., including Group Marketing Director. Ms. Stubbing is a business graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University.

Raymond Debbane. Mr. Debbane has been our Chairman of the Board of Directors since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Debbane is a co-founder and President of The Invus Group, LLC. Prior to forming The Invus Group, LLC in 1985, Mr. Debbane was a manager and consultant for The Boston Consulting Group in Paris, France. He holds an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business, an M.S. in Food Science and Technology from the University of California, Davis and a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Agricultural Engineering from American University of Beirut. Mr. Debbane is a director of Artal Group S.A., Ceres, Inc. and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of GoldenSource Corporation. Mr. Debbane is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and served as a director of Keebler Foods Company from 1996 to 1999.

Philippe J. Amouyal. Mr. Amouyal was elected a director of our company in November 2002. Mr. Amouyal is a Managing Director of The Invus Group, LLC, which he joined in 1999. Previously, Mr. Amouyal was a Vice President and director of The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. in Boston, MA. He holds an M.S. in engineering and a DEA in Management from Ecole Centrale de Paris and was a Research Fellow at the Center for Policy Alternatives of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Amouyal is a director of WeightWatchers.com, Inc., GoldenSource Corporation, Metamarix, Inc., Entopia, Inc. and Unwired Group Limited.

Jonas M. Fajgenbaum. Mr. Fajgenbaum has been a director of our company since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Fajgenbaum is a Managing Director of The Invus Group, LLC, which he joined in 1996. Prior to joining The Invus Group, LLC, Mr. Fajgenbaum was a consultant for McKinsey & Company in New York from 1994 to 1996. He graduated with a B.S. from the Wharton School of Business and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994.

Sacha Lainovic. Mr. Lainovic has been a director of our company since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Lainovic is a co-founder and Executive Vice President of The Invus Group, LLC. Prior to forming The Invus Group, LLC in 1985, Mr. Lainovic was a manager and consultant for The Boston Consulting Group in Paris, France. He holds an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business and an M.S. in engineering from Insa de Lyon in Lyon, France. Mr. Lainovic is a director of WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and GoldenSource Corporation and also served as a director of Keebler Foods Company from 1996 to 1999.

Christopher J. Sobecki. Mr. Sobecki has been a director of our company since our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg on September 29, 1999. Mr. Sobecki, a Managing Director of The Invus Group, LLC, joined the firm in 1989. He received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He also obtained a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University. Mr. Sobecki is a director of WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and GoldenSource Corporation. He also served as a director of Keebler Foods Company from 1996 to 1998.

Sam K. Reed. Mr. Reed has been a director of our company since February 2002. Mr. Reed has 30 years of experience in the food industry. He is currently the CEO of Dean Specialty Foods Holdings, Inc. Formerly, Mr. Reed was Vice Chairman and a director of Kellogg Company, the world's leading producer of cereal and a leading producer of convenience foods. From 1996 to 2001, Mr. Reed was Chief Executive Officer, President and a director of Keebler Foods Company. Previously, he was Chief Executive Officer of Specialty Foods Corporation's Western Bakery Group division. He is a director of the Tractor Supply Company. Mr. Reed received a B.A. from Rice University and an M.B.A. from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Marsha Johnson Evans. Ms. Evans has been a director of our company since February 2002. Ms. Evans is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross, the preeminent humanitarian organization in the United States, and previously served as the National Executive Director of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. A retired Rear Admiral in the United States Navy, Ms. Evans has served as superintendent of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and headed the Navy's worldwide recruiting organization from 1993 to 1995. She is currently a director of the May Department Stores Company, Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. and several nonprofit boards. Ms. Evans received a B.A. from Occidental College and a Master's Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

John F. Bard. Mr. Bard has been a director since November 2002. Since 1999, he has been a director of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, where he served as Executive Vice President from 1999 to 2000, Senior Vice President from 1990-1999, and at the same time serving as Chief Financial Officer from 1990 until his retirement from management in 2000. He began his business career in 1963 with The Procter & Gamble Company in financial management. He subsequently was Group Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and a director of The Clorox Company and later President and a director of Tambrands, Inc., prior to joining Wrigley. Mr. Bard holds a B.S. in business from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Cincinnati. In addition to Wrigley, he also serves as a director of Sea Pines Associates, Inc. and Rowpart Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION
CONCERNING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

Executive Compensation Summary

The following table sets forth for the fiscal years ended January 1, 2005, January 3, 2004 and December 28, 2002 the compensation paid to our President and Chief Executive Officer and to each of the next four most highly compensated executive officers whose total annual salary and bonus was in excess of \$100,000.

Summary Compensation Table

Name and principal position	Twelve Months Ended	Twelve Month Period Compensation		Long-Term Compensation Awards(6)		All Other Compensation(5)
		Salary	Bonus	Restricted Stock Awards(\$)	Securities Underlying Options(#)	
Linda Huett President and Chief Executive Officer	January 1, 2005	\$ 510,227			160,000	\$ 57,476
	January 3, 2004	\$ 301,868	\$ 197,000		40,000	\$ 65,509
	December 28, 2002	\$ 281,076	\$ 399,421			\$ 55,907
Ann M. Sardini(1) Chief Financial Officer	January 1, 2005	\$ 304,219	\$ 49,148		20,000	\$ 47,936
	January 3, 2004	\$ 245,662	\$ 161,000		20,000	\$ 44,844
	December 28, 2002	\$ 155,488	\$ 152,932		100,000	\$ 59,215
Thilo Semmelbauer(2) Chief Operating Officer, NACO	January 1, 2005	\$ 202,902	\$ 128,255		100,000	\$ 18,315
	January 3, 2004					
	December 28, 2002					
Melanie Stubbing(3) Vice President of Operations, United Kingdom	January 1, 2005	\$ 238,486	\$ 119,243		10,000	\$ 40,286
	January 3, 2004	\$ 19,024		\$ 108,030	47,000	\$ 3,213
	December 28, 2002					
Maurice Kelly(4) Vice President of Strategy and Operations, Continental Europe	January 1, 2005	\$ 238,486	\$ 119,423		10,000	\$ 18,822
	January 3, 2004	\$ 41,637			50,000	\$ 3,286
	December 28, 2002					

- (1) Ms. Sardini joined us on April 25, 2002 and therefore her compensation for 2002 only includes approximately eight months.
- (2) Mr. Semmelbauer joined us on March 29, 2004, and therefore his compensation for 2004 only includes approximately nine months.
- (3) Ms. Stubbing joined us on December 1, 2003, and therefore her compensation for 2003 only includes approximately one month.
- (4) Mr. Kelly joined us on October 27, 2003, and therefore his compensation for 2003 includes only approximately two months. Mr. Kelly resigned as an executive officer effective January 31, 2005.
- (5) For the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005, these figures include amounts contributed under our 401(k) savings plan and our non-qualified executive profit sharing plan of \$48,824 for Ms. Huett, \$31,746 for Ms. Sardini, and \$9,515 for Mr. Semmelbauer. Also included are contributions to the U.K. Pension Plan of \$21,464 for Ms. Stubbing and \$0 for Mr. Kelly, as well as auto lease expense for named executives.
- (6) The securities underlying all restricted stock and option awards are shares of Weight Watchers International common stock.

In May 2004 and December 1999, respectively, our stockholders approved our 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2004 Plan") and our 1999 Stock Purchase and Option Plan (the "1999 Plan") under which selected employees are afforded the opportunity to purchase shares of our

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

common stock and/or were granted options to purchase shares of our common stock. The number of shares available for grant under the 2004 Plan and the 1999 Plan is 2,500,000 shares and 7,058,040 shares, respectively, of our authorized common stock.

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

The following table sets forth information regarding options granted during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 to the named executive officers under our stock purchase and option plan.

Weight Watchers International Option Grants For the Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005

Individual Grants

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Options Granted(1)	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees in Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005(2)	Exercise or Base Price (per share)	Expiration Date	Grant Date Present Value(3)
Linda Huett	40,000	4.7%	\$ 38.64	January 4, 2009	\$ 543,024
Linda Huett	120,000	14.0%	\$ 38.52	March 10, 2009	\$ 1,568,136
Ann M. Sardini	20,000	2.3%	\$ 38.64	January 4, 2009	\$ 271,512
Thilo Semmelbauer	100,000	11.7%	\$ 36.71	May 12, 2014	\$ 1,626,980
Melanie Stubbing	10,000	1.2%	\$ 38.64	January 4, 2009	\$ 135,756
Maurice Kelly	10,000	1.2%	\$ 38.64	January 4, 2009	\$ 135,756

- (1) Options were granted during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 under the terms of our option plan. None of these options were exercised under the plan during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005. Options are exercisable based on vesting provisions outlined in the option agreement.
- (2) Percentages of total options granted are based on total grants made to all employees during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005.
- (3) The estimated grant dates present value is determined using the Black-Scholes model. The adjustments and assumptions incorporated in the Black-Scholes model in estimating the value of the grants include the following: (a) the exercise price of the options equals the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of grant; (b) an expected term of 5 to 7 years; (c) dividend yield of 0%; (d) volatility of 33.3% to 33.4% and (e) a risk free interest rate of 2.72% to 4.41%. The ultimate value, if any, an optionee will realize upon exercise of an option will depend on the excess of the market value of our common stock over the exercise price of the option.

Under our 2004 Plan and 1999 Plan, we have the ability to grant stock options, restricted stock, stock appreciation rights and other stock-based awards. Generally, stock options granted under the 1999 Plan vest and become exercisable in annual increments over five years with respect to one-third of options granted, and the remaining two-thirds of the options vest on the ninth anniversary of the date the options were granted, subject to accelerated vesting upon our achievement of certain performance targets. For each year prior to and including 2003, these performance targets have been met. All new options granted in 2003 and 2004 under this plan vest and become exercisable in annual increments over one to five years and are not subject to performance targets. In any event, the options become fully vested upon the occurrence of a change in control of our company. No grants have been made under the 2004 Plan.

In April 2000, our Board of Directors adopted the WeightWatchers.com Stock Incentive Plan pursuant to which selected employees were granted options to purchase shares of WeightWatchers.com common stock. The number of shares available for grant under this plan is 400,000 shares of authorized common stock of WeightWatchers.com. The following table sets forth certain information regarding

options granted during the year ended January 1, 2005 to the named executive officers under the WeightWatchers.com Stock Incentive Plan:

**WeightWatchers.com Option Grants
For the Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005**

Individual Grants					
Name	Number of Securities Underlying Options Granted(1)	Percent of Total Options Granted to Employees in Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005(2)	Exercise or Base Price (Per Share)	Expiration Date	Grant Date Present Value(3)
Ann M. Sardini	11,385	50.0%	\$ 7.14	July 22, 2014	\$ 53,521

- (1) Options were granted during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 under the terms of the option plan. None of these options was exercised under the plan during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005. Options are exercisable based on vesting provisions outlined in the option agreement.
- (2) Percentages of total options granted are based on total grants made to all employees during the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005.
- (3) The estimated grant date present value is determined using the Black-Scholes model. The adjustments and assumptions incorporated in the Black-Scholes model in estimating the value of the grants include the following: (a) the exercise price of the option equals the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of grant; (b) an expected term of 7 years; (c) dividend yield of 0%; (d) volatility of 64% and (e) a risk free interest rate of 4.1%. The ultimate value, if any, an optionee will realize upon exercise of an option will depend on the excess of the market value of the common stock over the exercise price of the option.

Under our WeightWatchers.com Stock Incentive Plan, we have the ability to grant stock options, restricted stock, stock appreciation rights and other stock-based awards on shares of WeightWatchers.com common stock. Generally, stock options under the plan vest in annual increments over five years upon our achievement of certain performance targets. These options are not exercisable until the earlier to occur of (1) six months after the tenth anniversary of the date the option was granted and (2) a public offering of WeightWatchers.com common stock or a private sale of the stock in which an employee holding stock is entitled to participate under the terms of the sale participation agreement entered into with Artal Luxembourg.

Edgar Filing: WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form DEF 14A

The following tables set forth the number and value of securities underlying unexercised options held by each of our executive officers listed on the Summary Compensation Table above as of January 1, 2005. None of our executive officers exercised any WeightWatchers.com options and they do not have any stock appreciation rights.

Aggregated Options
Values as of January 1, 2005

Name	Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005		Number of Weight Watchers Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at January 1, 2005		Value of Weight Watchers Unexercised In-The-Money Options at January 1, 2005	
	Shares Acquired in Exercise (#)	Value Realized	Exercisable (#)	Unexercisable (#)	Exercisable	Unexercisable
Linda Huett			318,483	200,000	\$ 12,403,320	\$ 403,200
Ann M. Sardini			40,000	100,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 333,600
Thilo Semmelbauer				100,000		\$ 436,000
Melanie Stubbing			9,400	47,600	\$ 48,880	\$ 219,820
Maurice Kelly			10,000	50,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 232,300

Name	Number of WeightWatchers.com Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at January 1, 2005		Value of WeightWatchers.com In-The-Money Options at January 1, 2005(*)		Number of Heinz Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at January 1, 2005		Value of Heinz In-The-Money Options at January 1, 2005	
	Exercisable (#)	Unexercisable (#)	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable (#)	Unexercisable (#)	Exercisable	Unexercisable
Linda Huett	11,385		N/A	N/A	40,000			
Ann M. Sardini	5,692	5,693	N/A	N/A				
Thilo Semmelbauer								
Melanie Stubbing								
Maurice Kelly								

(*) The value of WeightWatchers.com options are not currently calculable as the underlying securities are not publicly traded.

Compensation and Benefits Committee Report on Executive Compensation Programs

The Company's Compensation and Benefits Committee oversees the compensation programs of the Company, with particular attention to the compensation for its president and chief executive officer and the other executive officers. It is the responsibility of the Company's Compensation and Benefits Committee to review and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval changes to the Company's compensation policies and benefits programs, to administer the Company's stock plans, including recommendations to the Board of Directors approving stock option grants to executive officers and other stock option grants, and to otherwise ensure that the Company's compensation philosophy is consistent with the best interests of the Company and is properly implemented.

The Company's compensation philosophy is to (1) provide a competitive total compensation package that enables the Company to attract and retain key executive and employee talent needed to accomplish the Company's goals, and (2) directly link compensation to improvements in the Company's financial and operational performance.

Total compensation is comprised of a base salary plus both cash and non-cash incentive compensation, and is based on the Company's financial performance and other factors, and is delivered through a combination of cash and equity-based awards. This approach results in overall compensation levels which follow the Company's financial performance.

The Company's Compensation and Benefits Committee reviews each executive officer's base salary annually. In determining appropriate base salary levels, consideration is given to the officer's impact level, scope of responsibility, prior experience, past accomplishments and data on prevailing compensation levels in relevant executive labor markets.

The president and chief executive officer participates in the same programs and receives compensation based on the same factors as the other executive officers. In addition, the Compensation and Benefits Committee considered the status of the president and chief executive officer as the Company's most senior officer and the important role she has in achieving overall corporate goals. The president and chief executive officer's overall compensation therefore reflects this greater degree of policy and decision-making authority, and the higher level of responsibility with respect to the strategic direction and financial and operational results of the Company.

The Company's Compensation and Benefits Committee believes that granting stock options provides officers with a strong economic interest in maximizing shareholder returns over the longer term. The Company believes that the practice of granting stock options is important in retaining and recruiting the key talent necessary at all employee levels to ensure the Company's continued success.

Respectfully submitted,

Compensation and Benefits Committee
Raymond Debbane
Sacha Lainovic
John F. Bard

Director Compensation

Our executive director and our directors who are associated with The Invus Group do not receive compensation. Mr. Reed, Ms. Evans and Mr. Bard will receive (1) annual compensation in the amount of \$30,000, paid quarterly, half in cash and half in our common stock; (2) \$1,000 per Audit Committee meeting; (3) options for 2,000 shares of our common stock per year, with the third grant on February 6, 2004 for Mr. Reed and Ms. Evans and November 11, 2004 for Mr. Bard, at an exercise price equal to the closing price of our common stock on the day that the options are granted, the options have a five year life and vest one year after the grant date; and (4) reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with a director's role on the Board of Directors.

Executive Savings and Profit Sharing Plan

The Company sponsors a savings plan for salaried and eligible hourly employees. This defined contribution plan provides for employer matching contributions up to 100% of the first 3% of an employee's eligible compensation. The savings plan also permits employees to contribute between 1% and 13% of eligible compensation on a pre-tax basis.

The savings plan also contains a profit sharing component for full-time salaried employees that are not key management personnel, which provides for a guaranteed monthly employer contribution for each participant based on the participant's age and a percentage of the participant's eligible compensation. In addition, the profit sharing plan has a supplemental discretionary employer contribution.

The Company also established an executive profit sharing plan, which provides a non-qualified profit sharing plan for key management personnel who are not eligible to participate in our profit sharing plan. This non-qualified profit sharing plan has similar features to our profit sharing plan.

Continuity Agreements

Purpose; Covered Executives

The Board of Directors has determined that it is in the best interests of our stockholders to reinforce and encourage the continued attention and dedication of our key executives to their duties with us, without personal distraction or conflict of interest in circumstances that could arise in connection with any change of ownership or control of the Company. Therefore, in October 2003, we entered into continuity agreements with the following executives: Linda Huett, Ann Sardini, Robert Hollweg, and certain other executive officers. These agreements contain terms that are substantially similar to each other, except where described below.

Term of Agreements

These agreements have an initial term of three years from the date of execution, and continue to renew annually thereafter unless either party provides 180-day advance written notice to the other party that the term of the agreement will not renew. However, upon the occurrence of a "change in control" (as defined in the agreements), the term of the agreement may not terminate until the second anniversary of the date of the change of ownership or control of the Company.

Severance Payments and Benefits.

If, within two years following a change of ownership or control of the Company, an executive's employment is terminated without cause by us or for good reason by the executive (as such terms are defined in the agreements), the following executives will receive the following payments and benefits:

Ms. Huett, Ms. Sardini and Mr. Hollweg are entitled to receive the following:

- (i) A lump sum cash payment equal to three times the sum of (x) the executive's annual base salary on the date of the change in control (or, if higher, the annual base salary in effect immediately prior to the giving of the notice of termination) and (y) the executive's target annual bonus (the "target bonus") in respect of the fiscal year of the Company (a "fiscal year") in which the termination occurs (or, if higher, the average annual bonus actually earned by the executive in respect of the three full fiscal years prior to the year in which the notice of termination is given) under our bonus plan;
- (ii) A lump sum cash payment equal to the sum of (w) the executive's unpaid base salary and vacation days accrued through the date of termination, (x) the unpaid portion, if any, of bonuses previously earned by the executive pursuant to our bonus plan, (y) in respect of the fiscal year in which the date of termination occurs, the higher of (i) the pro rata portion of the executive's target bonus and (ii) if we are exceeding the performance targets established under our bonus plan for such fiscal year as of the date of termination, the executive's actual annual bonus payable under our bonus plan based upon such achievement (this pro rata portion in either case calculated from January 1 of such year through the date of termination) (the "pro rata bonus"), and (z) any other compensation previously deferred (excluding qualified plan deferrals by the executive under or into our benefit plans);
- (iii) Continued medical, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage (excluding accidental death and disability insurance) ("welfare benefit coverage") for the executive and the executive's eligible dependents or, to the extent welfare benefit coverage is not commercially available, such other welfare benefit coverage reasonably acceptable to the executive, on the same basis as in effect prior to the executive's termination, for a period ending on the earlier of (x) the third anniversary of the date of termination (this period, the "continuation period") and (y) the commencement of comparable welfare benefit coverage by the executive with a subsequent employer;
- (iv) Continued provision of the perquisites the executive enjoyed prior to the date of termination for a period ending on the earlier of (x) the end of the continuation period and (y) the receipt by the executive of comparable perquisites from a subsequent employer;
- (v) Immediate 100% vesting of all outstanding stock options, stock appreciation rights, phantom stock units and restricted stock granted or issued by us prior to, on or upon the change in control (to the extent not previously vested on or following the change in control);
- (vi) Additional Company contributions to our qualified defined contribution plan and any other retirement plans in which the executive participated prior to the date of termination during the continuation period; provided, however, that where such contributions may not be provided without adversely affecting the qualified status of such plan or where such contributions are otherwise prohibited by any such plans, the executive shall instead receive an additional lump sum payment equal to the contributions that would have been made during the continuation period if the executive had remained employed with us during such period;
- (vii) All other accrued or vested benefits in accordance with the terms of any applicable Company plan, which vested benefits shall include the executive's otherwise unvested account balances

in our qualified defined contribution plan, which shall become vested as of the date of termination; and

(viii)

If requested by the executive, outplacement services will be provided by a professional outplacement provider selected by the executive at a cost to us of not more than \$30,000.

Certain other executive officers are entitled to receive all of the same payments and benefits described above, with the following differences: the severance multiple in clause (i) above is reduced to two; the period of time during which welfare benefit coverage is provided as described in clause (iii) above, and which perquisites are provided as described in clause (iv) above, is reduced to the earlier of (x) the second anniversary of the date of termination of employment and (y) the commencement of comparable welfare benefit coverage and perquisites, respectively, by the executive with a subsequent employer; the contributions made by us into our qualified defined contribution plan and any other retirement plans in which the executives participated (or lump sum payments in respect thereof), as described in clause (vi) above, will only be in respect of the same period in respect of which comparable welfare benefit coverage is provided, as described in clause (y) above; and the cost of outplacement services provided to the executives as described in clause (viii) above shall not be more than \$15,000.

Excess Parachute Payment Excise Taxes

If (i) it is determined that the payments and benefits provided under the agreements or otherwise in the aggregate (a "parachute payment") would be subject to the excise tax imposed under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and the aggregate value of the parachute payment exceeds a certain threshold amount, calculated under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the "base amount") by 5% or less, then (ii) the parachute payment will be reduced to the extent necessary so that the aggregate value of the parachute payment is equal to an amount that is less than such threshold amount; provided, however, that if the aggregate value of the parachute payment exceeds the threshold amount by more than 5%, then the executive will be entitled to receive an additional payment or payments in an amount such that, after payment by the executive of all taxes (including any interest or penalties imposed with respect to such taxes), including any excise tax, imposed upon this payment, the executive retains an amount equal to the excise tax imposed upon the parachute payment.

Compensation and Benefits Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of our executive officers has served as a director or member of the compensation and benefits committee, or other committee serving an equivalent function, of any entity of which an executive officer is expected to serve as a member of our Compensation and Benefits Committee.

STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph sets forth the cumulative return on the Company's stock from November 14, 2001, the date on which the Company's stock commenced trading on the New York Stock Exchange, through January 1, 2005, as compared to the cumulative return of the Standard and Poor's 500 Index (the "S&P 500 Index") and the cumulative return of the Standard and Poor's MidCap 400 Index (the "S&P MidCap 400 Index").

The Company selected the S&P 500 Index because it is a broad index of the equity markets. The Company selected the S&P's MidCap 400 Index, which is comprised of issuers having a similar market capitalization with the Company, because it believes that there are no other lines of business or published industry indices or peer groups that provide a more meaningful comparison of the cumulative return of its stock.

The graph assumes that \$100 was invested on November 14, 2001 in each of (1) the Company's Common Stock, (2) The S&P 500 Index and (3) the S&P MidCap 400 Index and that all dividends were reinvested.

	Cumulative Total Return				
	11/14/01	12/29/01	12/28/02	01/03/04	01/01/05
Weight Watchers International, Inc.	\$ 100.00	\$ 139.17	\$ 188.96	\$ 162.42	\$ 171.13
S&P 500 Index	\$ 100.00	\$ 101.74	\$ 76.71	\$ 97.13	\$ 106.20
S&P MidCap 400	\$ 100.00	\$ 107.07	\$ 88.99	\$ 119.92	\$ 138.12

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Shareholders' Agreements

Shortly after our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg, we entered into a shareholders' agreement with Artal Luxembourg and Merchant Capital, Inc., Richard and Heather Penn, Longisland International Limited, Envoy Partners and Scotiabanc, Inc. relating to their rights with respect to our common stock held by parties, other than Artal Luxembourg. Without the consent of Artal Luxembourg, transfers of our common stock by these shareholders are restricted with certain exceptions. Subsequent transferees of our common stock must, subject to limited exceptions, agree to be bound by the terms and provisions of the agreement. Additionally, this agreement provides the shareholders with the right to participate pro rata in certain transfers of our common stock by Artal Luxembourg and grants Artal Luxembourg the right to require the other shareholders to participate on a pro rata basis in certain transfers of our common stock by Artal Luxembourg.

Registration Rights Agreement

Simultaneously with the closing of our acquisition by Artal Luxembourg, we entered into a registration rights agreement with Artal Luxembourg and Heinz. The registration rights agreement grants Artal Luxembourg the right to require us to register shares of our common stock for public sale under the Securities Act (1) upon demand and (2) in the event that we conduct certain types of registered offerings. Heinz has sold all shares of our common stock and accordingly no longer has any rights under this agreement. Merchant Capital, Inc., Richard and Heather Penn, Long Island International Limited, Envoy Partners and Scotiabanc, Inc. became parties to this registration rights agreement under joinder agreements, and each acquired the right to require us to register and sell their stock in the event that we conduct certain types of registered offerings.

Corporate Agreement

We have entered into a corporate agreement with Artal Luxembourg. We have agreed that so long as Artal Luxembourg beneficially owns 10% or more, but less than a majority of our then outstanding voting stock, Artal Luxembourg will have the right to nominate a number of directors approximately equal to that percentage multiplied by the number of directors on our board. This right to nominate directors will not restrict Artal Luxembourg from nominating a greater number of directors.

We have agreed with Artal Luxembourg that both we and Artal Luxembourg have the right to:

engage in the same or similar business activities as the other party;

do business with any customer or client of the other party; and

employ or engage any officer or employee of the other party.

Neither Artal Luxembourg nor we, nor our respective related parties, will be liable to each other as a result of engaging in any of these activities.

Under the corporate agreement, if one of our officers or directors who also serves as an officer, director or advisor of Artal Luxembourg becomes aware of a potential transaction related primarily to the group education-based weight-loss business that may represent a corporate opportunity for both Artal Luxembourg and us, the officer, director or advisor has no duty to present that opportunity to Artal Luxembourg, and we will have the sole right to pursue the transaction if our board so determines. If one of our officers or directors who also serves as an officer, director or advisor of Artal Luxembourg becomes aware of any other potential transaction that may represent a corporate opportunity for both Artal Luxembourg and us, the officer or director will have a duty to present that opportunity to Artal Luxembourg, and Artal Luxembourg will have the sole right to pursue the transaction if Artal Luxembourg's board so determines. If one of our officers or directors who does not

serve as an officer, director or advisor of Artal Luxembourg becomes aware of a potential transaction that may represent a corporate opportunity for both Artal Luxembourg and us, neither the officer nor the director nor we have a duty to present that opportunity to Artal Luxembourg, and we may pursue the transaction if our board so determines.

If Artal Luxembourg transfers, sells or otherwise disposes of our then outstanding voting stock, the transferee will generally succeed to the same rights that Artal Luxembourg has under this agreement by virtue of its ownership of our voting stock, subject to Artal Luxembourg's option not to transfer those rights.

WeightWatchers.com Note

On September 10, 2001, we amended and restated our loan agreement with WeightWatchers.com, increasing the aggregate commitment thereunder to \$34.5 million. The note bears interest at 13% per year, beginning on January 1, 2002, which interest, except as set forth below, is paid semi-annually starting on March 31, 2002. All principal outstanding under this note is payable in six semi-annual installments, starting on March 31, 2004. The note may be prepaid at any time in whole or in part, without penalty. In 2003, we received a \$5.0 million early loan payment from WeightWatchers.com, which reduced the principal balance outstanding to \$29.5 million at January 3, 2004. In fiscal 2004, we received two regularly scheduled principal payments aggregating \$9.8 million, which reduced the principal balance outstanding to \$19.7 million at January 1, 2005.

WeightWatchers.com Warrant Agreements

Under the warrant agreements that we entered into with WeightWatchers.com, we have received warrants to purchase an additional 6,394,997 shares of WeightWatchers.com's common stock in connection with the loans that we made to WeightWatchers.com under the note described above. These warrants will expire from November 24, 2009 to September 10, 2011 and may be exercised at a price of \$7.14 per share of WeightWatchers.com's common stock until their expiration. We own 20.1% of the outstanding common stock of WeightWatchers.com, or approximately 38% on a fully diluted basis (including the exercise of all options and all the warrants we own in WeightWatchers.com).

Collateral Assignment and Security Agreement

In connection with the WeightWatchers.com note, we entered into a collateral assignment and security agreement whereby we obtained a security interest in the assets of WeightWatchers.com. Our security interest in those assets will terminate when the note has been paid in full.

WeightWatchers.com Intellectual Property License

We have entered into an amended and restated intellectual property license agreement with WeightWatchers.com that governs WeightWatchers.com's right to use our trademarks and materials related to the Weight Watchers program.

The amended and restated license agreement grants WeightWatchers.com the exclusive right to (1) use any of our trademarks, service marks, logos, brand names and other business identifiers as part of a domain name for a website on the Internet; (2) use any of the domain names we own; (3) use any of our trademarks on the Internet and any other similar or related forms of interactive digital transmission that now exists or may be developed later (provided that we and our affiliates, franchisees, and licensees other than WeightWatchers.com can continue using the trademarks in connection with online advertising and promotion of activities conducted offline); and (4) use any materials related to the Weight Watchers program, including any text, artwork and photographs, and advertising, marketing and promotional materials on the Internet. The license agreement also grants WeightWatchers.com a non-exclusive right to (1) use any of our trademarks to advertise any approved activities that relate to

its online weight-loss business; and (2) create derivative works. All rights granted to WeightWatchers.com must be used solely in connection with the conduct of its online weight-loss business.

Beginning in January 2002, WeightWatchers.com began paying Weight Watchers International a royalty of 10% of the net revenues it earns through its online activities. For fiscal 2004 and 2003, Weight Watchers International earned royalties of \$8.2 million and \$7.1 million, respectively.

We retain exclusive ownership of all of the trademarks and materials that we license to WeightWatchers.com and of the derivative works created by WeightWatchers.com.

All of the rights granted to WeightWatchers.com in the license agreement are subject to our pre-existing agreements with third parties, including franchisees.

The license agreement provides us with control over the use of our intellectual property. In particular, we have the right to approve WeightWatchers.com's e-commerce activities, any materials, sublicenses, communication to consumers, products, privacy policy, marketing programs, and materials publicly displayed on the Internet. These controls are designed to protect the value of our intellectual property.

WeightWatchers.com and we will jointly own user data collected through the website and both parties are required to adhere to the site's privacy policy.

WeightWatchers.com Service Agreement

Simultaneously with the signing of the amended and restated intellectual property license, we entered into a service agreement with WeightWatchers.com, under which WeightWatchers.com provides the following types of services:

information distribution services, which include the hosting, displaying and distributing on the Internet of information relating to us and our affiliates and franchisees;

marketing services, which include the hosting, displaying and distributing on the Internet of information relating to our products and services such as classroom meetings, the *Weight Watchers Magazine* and *At Home* and similar products and services from our affiliates and franchisees; and

customer communication services, which include establishing a means by which customers can communicate with us on the Internet to ask questions related to our products and services and the products and services of our affiliates and franchisees.

We are required to pay for all expenses incurred by WeightWatchers.com directly attributable to the services it performs under this agreement, plus a fee of 10% of those expenses. In fiscal 2004 and 2003, service fees incurred by Weight Watchers International to WeightWatchers.com were \$2.3 million and \$2.0 million, respectively.

WeightWatchers.com Shareholders' Agreement

We entered into a shareholders' agreement with WeightWatchers.com, Inc., Artal Luxembourg and Heinz that governs our and Artal Luxembourg's relationship with WeightWatchers.com as holders of its common stock. Heinz has sold all of its shares in WeightWatchers.com back to WeightWatchers.com and thus no longer has any rights under this agreement. Subsequent transferees of ours and of Artal Luxembourg must, except for some limited exceptions, agree to be bound by the terms and provisions of the agreement.

The shareholders' agreement imposes on us restrictions on the transfer of common stock of WeightWatchers.com until the earlier to occur of (1) September 29, 2004 and (2) WeightWatchers.com's

initial public offering of common stock under the Securities Act, except for certain exceptions. We have the right to participate pro rata in certain transfers of common stock of WeightWatchers.com by Artal Luxembourg, and Artal Luxembourg has the right to require us to participate on a pro rata basis in certain transfers of WeightWatchers.com's common stock by it.

WeightWatchers.com Registration Rights Agreement

We have entered into a registration rights agreement with WeightWatchers.com, Artal Luxembourg and Heinz with respect to our shares in WeightWatchers.com. Heinz has resold all of its shares in WeightWatchers.com back to WeightWatchers.com and thus no longer has any rights under this agreement. The registration rights agreement grants Artal Luxembourg the right to require WeightWatchers.com to register its shares of WeightWatchers.com common stock upon demand and also grants us and Artal Luxembourg rights to register and sell shares of WeightWatchers.com's common stock in the event WeightWatchers.com conducts certain types of registered offerings.

Nellson Co-Pack Agreement

We entered into an agreement with Nellson Nutraceutical, a former subsidiary of Artal Luxembourg, to purchase snack bar and powder products manufactured by Nellson Nutraceutical for sale in our meetings. On October 4, 2002, Nellson Nutraceutical was sold by Artal Luxembourg and at such time, Nellson Nutraceutical was no longer considered a related party. Under our co-pack agreement, Nellson Nutraceutical agreed to produce sufficient snack bar products to fill our purchase orders within 30 days of Nellson Nutraceutical's receipt of these purchase orders, and we are not bound to purchase a minimum quantity of snack bar products. We purchased \$24.4 million of products from Nellson Nutraceutical during the fiscal year ended December 28, 2002. The term of the agreement expired on December 31, 2004 and the parties are currently negotiating a renewal.

Charitable Contributions

The Company has not made any contributions in excess of \$1.0 million or 2% of the Company's consolidated gross revenues to any tax-exempt organization in which an independent director serves as an executive officer in any of the preceding three years.

OTHER MATTERS

Other Matters

The Board of Directors knows of no other business that will be presented to the Annual Meeting for a vote. If other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies will vote on them in accordance with their discretion.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires our directors, executive officers and holders of more than 10% of our Common Stock (collectively, "Reporting Persons") to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of our Common Stock. Such persons are required by regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission to furnish the Company with copies of all such filings. Based on our review of the copies of such filings received by us with respect to the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 and written representations from certain Reporting Persons, we believe that all Reporting Persons complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements in the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005.

Shareholder Proposals and Director Nominations

The Company currently intends to hold our next annual meeting in April 2006. Pursuant to the Company's Bylaws, shareholders who intend to present proposals for consideration at the Company's 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must give written notice to the Secretary of the Company at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on November 25, 2005 (the one hundred twentieth (120th) day prior to the first anniversary of the date of this proxy statement) and no earlier than the close of business on October 26, 2005 (the one hundred fiftieth (150th) day prior to the first anniversary of the date of this proxy statement). In addition, pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission regulations, shareholders who intend to present proposals for consideration at the 2006 Annual Meeting and who request to have their proposals included in the Company's proxy statement and proxy for that meeting, must be certain that their proposals are received by the Secretary of the Company at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on October 26, 2005 (the one hundred twentieth (120th) day prior to the first anniversary of the date of this proxy statement). All notices must contain such information as required under the Company's Bylaws. In addition, all shareholder proposals requested to be included in the Company's proxy statement and proxy must also comply with the federal securities laws in order to be included in the Company's proxy statement and proxy for the 2006 Annual Meeting. Copies of the Company's Bylaws may be obtained free of charge from the Secretary.

Shareholders of Record with Multiple Accounts

Securities and Exchange Commission rules permit a single set of annual reports and proxy statements to be sent to any household at which two or more shareholders reside if they appear to be members of the same family. Each shareholder continues to receive a separate proxy card. This procedure is referred to as "householding". While the Company does not household in mailings to its shareholders of record, a number of brokerage firms with account holders who are Company shareholders have instituted householding. In these cases, a single proxy statement and annual report will be delivered to multiple shareholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected shareholders. Once a shareholder has received notice from his or her broker that the broker will be householding communications to the shareholder's address, householding will continue until the shareholder is notified otherwise or until the shareholder revokes his or her consent. If at any time a shareholder no longer wishes to participate in householding and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and annual report he or she should notify his or her broker. Any shareholder can receive a copy of the Company's proxy statement and annual report by contacting the Company at Weight Watchers International, Attn: Corporate Secretary, 175 Crossways Park West, Woodbury, NY 11797, (516) 390-1400. Similarly, if a shareholder shares an address with another shareholder and has received multiple copies of the Company's proxy statement or annual report, he or she may write or call the Company at the above address or phone number to request a single copy of these materials.

Annual Report

The Annual Report to Shareholders covering the Company's fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 has been mailed together with the proxy solicitation material. The Annual Report does not form any part of the material for the solicitation of proxies.

Robert W. Hollweg
Secretary

Dated: March 25, 2005

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

ZWWA52

PROXY
WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 29, 2005
THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned, revoking all prior proxies, hereby appoints Linda A. Huett, Ann M. Sardini and Robert W. Hollweg, and each of them, with full power of substitution, as proxies to represent and vote all shares of stock of Weight Watchers International, Inc. (the "Company") which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Company to be held on Friday, April 29, 2005, and at all adjournments and postponements thereof, upon matters set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and Proxy Statement dated March 25, 2005, a copy of which has been received by the undersigned. The proxies are further authorized to vote, in their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON
REVERSE SIDE

SEE REVERSE
SIDE

SEE REVERSE
SIDE

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
C/O EQUISERVE TRUST COMPANY, N.A.
P.O. BOX 8694
EDISON, NJ 08818-8694

[WWACM WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.] [FILE NAME: ZWWA51.ELX] [VERSION (3)] [03/22/05] [orig. 02/25/05]
DETACH HERE IF YOU ARE RETURNING YOUR PROXY CARD BY MAIL ZWWA51

ý Please mark
votes as in
this example.

#WWA

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED SHAREHOLDER(S). IF NO DIRECTION IS GIVEN, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR IN PROPOSAL 1 AND FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM IN PROPOSAL 2.

- | | | | | |
|---|--|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. To elect three members to the Board of Directors to serve for a three-year term as a Class 1 Director. | 2. To ratify the appointment of Pricewaterhouse-Coopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005. | FOR
o | AGAINST
o | ABSTAIN
o |
|---|--|----------|--------------|--------------|

Nominees: (01) Raymond Debbane,
(02) Jonas M. Fajgenbaum,
(03) John F. Bard

FOR ALL NOMINEES	o	o	WITHHELD FROM ALL NOMINEES
------------------------	---	---	----------------------------------

To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournment thereof.

o

I/We will attend the meeting	o
------------------------------	---

For each nominee except as noted above

Please mark this box if you are interested in receiving future Company materials electronically	o
---	---

Please sign exactly as name appears hereon. Joint owners must both sign. Attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian must give full title as such. A corporation or partnership must sign its full name by an authorized person.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO US. PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY CARD PROMPTLY USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE MARK THE APPROPRIATE BOX ABOVE.

Signature: _____	Date: _____	Signature: _____	Date: _____
------------------	-------------	------------------	-------------

QuickLinks

[WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 175 Crossways Park West Woodbury, New York 11797-2055](#)

[PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS To Be Held on April 29, 2005](#)

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROXY MATERIALS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING](#)

[PROPOSAL NO. 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS](#)

[PROPOSAL NO. 2 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM](#)

[SECURITIES OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT](#)

[Equity Compensation Plan Information](#)

[COMPENSATION AND OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS](#)

[Summary Compensation Table](#)

[Weight Watchers International Option Grants For the Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005](#)

[WeightWatchers.com Option Grants For the Fiscal Year Ended January 1, 2005](#)

[Aggregated Options Values as of January 1, 2005](#)

[Compensation and Benefits Committee Report on Executive Compensation Programs](#)

[STOCK PERFORMANCE GRAPH](#)

[CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS](#)

[OTHER MATTERS](#)