

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES INC
Form DEF 14A
April 16, 2019
United States

Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the registrant [X]

Filed by a party other than the registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

[] Preliminary Proxy Statement

[] Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[X] Definitive Proxy Statement

[] Definitive Additional Materials

[] Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12

Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of filing fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required

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

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

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

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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

(1) Amount previously paid:

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

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES, INC.

**2144 E. Republic Rd. Suite F200
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65804
(417) 520-4333**

NOTICE OF MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on May 29, 2019

Notice is hereby given that an annual meeting of the stockholders (the “Meeting”) of Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) will be held at the Guaranty Bank Headquarters, 2144 E. Republic Rd., Suite F200, Springfield, Missouri, on May 29, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., local time. Stockholders of record at the close of business on April 4, 2019 are the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting.

The Meeting is being held for the purpose of considering and acting upon:

1. The election of three directors.
2. The advisory (non-binding) vote to approve executive compensation.
3. The ratification of BKD, LLP as Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm to the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019.

Such other matters as may come properly before the Meeting or any adjournments thereof. Except with respect to 4. procedural matters incident to the conduct of the Meeting, the Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Meeting.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the 2019 Annual Stockholders’ Meeting to be Held on May 29, 2019. This communication presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials that are available to you on the Internet. We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting. If you want to receive a paper or e-mail copy of these documents, you must

request one. There is no charge to you for requesting a copy. Please make your request for a copy as instructed below on or before May 19, 2019 to facilitate timely delivery. Pursuant to the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials by notifying you of the availability of our proxy materials on the internet. **This Notice and Proxy Statement and our 2018 Annual Report may be accessed at www.gbankmo.com or www.investorvote.com/GFED.**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/s/ James Batten

James Batten
Chairman of the Board

Springfield, Missouri
April 16, 2019

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS URGES YOU TO visit the website to vote your proxy AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF YOU CURRENTLY PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING. THIS WILL NOT PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING IN PERSON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IF YOU DESIRE, AND YOU MAY REVOKE YOUR PROXY BY WRITTEN INSTRUMENT AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. IF YOU ARE A STOCKHOLDER WHOSE SHARES ARE NOT REGISTERED IN YOUR OWN NAME, YOU WILL NEED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR RECORD HOLDER TO VOTE PERSONALLY AT THE MEETING.

2144 E. Republic Rd. Ste F200 Springfield, MO 65804
417-520-4333 www.gbankmo.com

April 16, 2019

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management of Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc., I cordially invite you to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at the Guaranty Bank Headquarters, 2144 E. Republic Rd., Suite F200, Springfield, Missouri, on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., local time. The Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement describe the formal business to be transacted at the meeting. Following the formal meeting, I will report on the operations of the Company. Directors and officers of the Company, as well as representatives of BKD, LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, will be present to respond to any questions that stockholders may have.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please vote online or request a paper copy of the proxy materials to receive a proxy card as soon as possible to vote, sign and return in the postage prepaid envelope in which the proxy card will be mailed to you. This will not prevent you from voting in person at the meeting but will assure that your vote is counted if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Respectfully,

/s/ Shaun A. Burke

Shaun A. Burke
President and CEO

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES, INC.
2144 E. REPUBLIC RD. SUITE F200
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65804

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement has been prepared in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) for use at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on May 29, 2019 (the “Annual Meeting”), and at any adjournment(s) thereof. The Annual Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., local time, at the Guaranty Bank Headquarters, 2144 E Republic Rd, Suite F200, Springfield, Missouri. This Proxy Statement will first be made available to stockholders on April 16, 2019.

RECORD DATE--VOTING--VOTE REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL

All persons who were holders of record of the common stock, par value \$0.10 per share (“Common Stock”) of the Company at the close of business on April 4, 2019 (“Record Date”) will be entitled to cast votes at the Annual Meeting. Article XIII of the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation provides that the number of shares of Common Stock that may be voted by a record holder who beneficially owns Common Stock in excess of 10% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of the Record Date (the “Limit”), will be determined pursuant to a formula set forth in Article XIII. However, if the Company’s Board of Directors (the “Board of Directors” or the “Board”) approves the acquisition of the shares of Common Stock that result in the record owner beneficially owning more than 10% of the outstanding Common Stock, Article XIII is not applicable. Further, this restriction does not apply to employee benefit plans of the Company.

Voting may be by proxy or in person. As of the Record Date, the Company had 4,483,364 shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding. Holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote (after giving effect, if required, to Article XIII), will constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business at the Annual Meeting.

Stockholders are urged to vote in one of the following manners: (i) via the Internet at www.investorvote.com/GFED; (ii) by telephone at 1-800-652-VOTE (8683); or (iii), for stockholders who request a paper copy, by indicating their vote in the appropriate spaces on the proxy card. Each proxy solicited hereby, if properly executed, duly received by the Board of Directors and not revoked prior to the Annual Meeting, will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the stockholder's instructions indicated thereon. Where no instructions are indicated, proxies will be voted by those named in the proxies FOR the approval of the specific proposals presented in this Proxy Statement and on the proxy card and in the discretion of those named in the proxies upon any other business that may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Each stockholder shall have one vote for each share of Common Stock owned. No appraisal or dissenters' rights exist for any action to be taken at the Annual Meeting.

A stockholder giving a proxy has the power to revoke the proxy at any time before it is exercised by filing with the Secretary of the Company written instructions revoking the proxy. A duly executed proxy bearing a later date will be sufficient to revoke an earlier proxy. The proxy executed by a stockholder who attends the Annual Meeting will be revoked only if that stockholder files the proper written instrument with the Secretary prior to the end of the voting at the Annual Meeting.

To the extent necessary to assure sufficient representation at the Annual Meeting, proxies may be solicited by officers, directors and regular employees of the Company personally, by telephone, by internet or by further correspondence. Officers, directors and regular employees of the Company will not be compensated for their solicitation efforts. The cost of soliciting proxies from stockholders will be borne by the Company. The Company will also reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending proxy materials to the beneficial owners of Common Stock.

Regardless of the number of shares of the Company's Common Stock owned, it is important that stockholders be represented by proxy or be present in person at the Annual Meeting. In order for any proposals considered at the Annual Meeting to be approved by the Company's stockholders, a quorum must be present. Stockholders are requested to vote by visiting the internet at www.investorvote.com/GFED, calling 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) or by requesting a paper proxy card and returning it signed and dated in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Only holders of record of the Common Stock are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. An abstention occurs when a holder of record of Common Stock who has the right to vote such shares on a particular matter does not vote such shares on that matter. Brokers who are record holders of Common Stock are entitled to vote the shares they hold for their customers in "street name" only on routine matters when their customers (i.e. the "beneficial owners") do not instruct the brokers how to vote their shares on that routine matter. Only Proposal Three, the ratification of BKD, LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, is deemed to be a routine matter. Therefore, brokers will be entitled to vote shares of Common Stock they hold in street name for their customers in the absence of instructions on how to vote by the beneficial owners only on Proposal Three. Proposals One and Two are not deemed to be routine matters and, as such, brokers are not entitled to vote shares of Common Stock they hold in street name on Proposals One and Two in the absence of instructions from the beneficial owners on how to vote their shares. These are referred to as "broker non-votes".

Proposal 1 is the election of nominees for positions as directors of the Company. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast (meaning that the three director nominees who receive the highest number of shares voted "for" their election are elected. Withheld votes and broker non-votes are not considered votes cast for the foregoing purposes and will have no effect on the election of the nominees for positions as directors.

Proposal 2 (advisory vote on executive compensation) and Proposal 3 (ratification of BKD as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm) both require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on those matters at the Annual Meeting. This means that of the shares represented at the meeting and entitled to vote, a majority of them must be voted for Proposal 2 and for Proposal 3, respectively for Proposal 1 to be approved and for Proposal 2 to be approved. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote "against" these proposals and broker non-votes will have no effect on the votes for these proposals.

Pursuant to Article XIII of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation, the voting restrictions imposed thereby will apply to a broker, a bank, trust company or other nominee that is the record holder of Common Stock it holds for beneficial owners that either individually or collectively own in excess of the Limit. However, if the Board approved the acquisition of the shares by the broker, bank, trust company or other nominee that resulted in that record holder beneficially owning more than 10% of the outstanding Common Stock, the voting restrictions imposed by Article XIII would not be applicable and such shares would be voted as instructed by the beneficial owner.

SECURITIES OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND management

Persons and groups owning in excess of 5% of the Common Stock are required to file certain reports regarding such ownership pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Article XIII of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company restricts the voting of all shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by record holders who beneficially own in excess of 10% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock unless the Board approved the acquisition of the shares that resulted in the record owner beneficially owning more than the Limit. This restriction does not apply to employee benefit plans of the Company. The following table sets forth, as of the Record Date, persons or groups who are known by the Company to beneficially own more than 5% of the Common Stock.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Total Outstanding Common Shares
Castle Creek Capital Partners V, LP 6051 El Tordo Racho Santa Fe, CA 92067	918,804 (1)	20.49%
FJ Capital Management, LLC 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd, Ste 306 McLean, VA 22101	401,959 (2)	8.97%

Information based on a joint schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on March 6, 2018 by Castle Creek Capital Partners V, LP (“Fund V”), Castle Creek Capital V LLC (“CCC V”), John M. Eggmeyer III, Mark G. Merlo, John T. Pietrzak and J. Mikesell Thomas as the “Reporting Persons.” Each of the Reporting Persons may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the 918,804 shares of Common Stock held directly by Fund V. CCC V is the sole general partner of Fund V. Mr. Eggmeyer, Mr. Merlo, Mr. Pietrzak, and Mr. Thomas share voting and dispositive power over the 918,804 shares beneficially owned by Fund V, due to the fact that each is a managing principal of CCC V. CCC V, Mr. Eggmeyer, Mr. Merlo, Mr. Pietrzak, and Mr. Thomas each disclaim beneficial ownership of the Common Stock, except to the extent of their respective pecuniary interest in Fund V. The record holder of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Fund V may vote all 918,804 shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by it, without restrictions on voting imposed by Article XIII of the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation, because the Board of Directors approved the acquisition of the shares of Common Stock that exceed the Limit.

(2) Information based on a joint schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 14, 2019 by FJ Capital Management LLC (“FJ”), Financial Opportunity Fund (“FOF”), Bridge Equities III LLC (“BE III”), Bridge Equities VIII LLC (“BE VIII”), Bridge Equities IX LLC (“BE IX”), Bridge Equities X LLC (“BE X”), Bridge Equities XI LLC (“BE XI”), Martin

S. Friedman, SunBridge Manager LLC (“SB Manger”), SunBridge Holdings LLC (“SB Holdings”) and Realty Investment Company Inc. (“RIC”) as the “Reporting Persons.” The Schedule 13G/A reports shared voting and investment power over the shares as follows: FJ (401,959 voting and 138,682 investment), FOF (121,871 voting and investment), BE III (246,186 voting and investment), BE VIII (2,794 voting and investment), BE IX (3,252 voting and investment), BE X (2,295 voting and investment), BE XI (8,750 voting and investment), Mr. Friedman (401,959 voting and 138,682 investment), SB Manager (263,277 voting and investment), SB Holdings (263,277 voting and investment) and RIC (263,277 voting and investment).

The following table sets forth certain information as of the Record Date, with respect to the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by each of the directors, nominees for director and Named Executive Officers (see section titled “Summary Compensation Table”) of the Company, and the total shares beneficially owned by directors and executive officers as a group. The Company’s policy is for each director to own a minimum of 2,500 shares, exclusive of stock grants and non-exercised stock options. Directors with less than five years of experience on the Board are required to own a minimum of 500 shares for each full year of service on the Board, up to 2,500 shares. Less than 1% stock ownership is shown below with an asterisk (*).

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (1)	Percent of Total Outstanding Common Shares
Shaun A. Burke	54,921	1.2%
Kurt Hellweg	95,633	2.1%
Tim Rosenbury	28,772	*
Jamie Sivils, III	25,614	*
James Batten	27,069	(2) *
John Gieseemer	110,885	2.5%
David Moore	5,823	*
Greg Horton	4,439	*
Tony Scavuzzo	918,804	(3) 20.5%
Carter Peters	26,093	*
Sheri Biser	15,224	*
H. Charles Puls	1,000	(4) *
Robin Robeson	11,168	*
Total owned by all directors and executive officers as a group (Thirteen persons)	1,325,445	(5) 29.5%

Amounts may include shares held directly, as well as shares held jointly with family members, in retirement accounts, in a fiduciary capacity, by certain family members, by certain related entities or by trusts of which the directors and executive officers are trustees or substantial beneficiaries, with respect to which shares the respective

(1) director or executive officer may be deemed to have sole or shared voting and/or investment powers. Due to the rules for determining beneficial ownership, the same securities may be attributed as being beneficially owned by more than one person. The holders may disclaim beneficial ownership of the included shares which are owned by or with family members, trusts or other entities.

(2) Includes 5,000 shares that may be acquired within 60 days of the Record Date through the exercise of options.

(3) Includes 918,804 shares held by Castle Creek Capital Partners V, LP. Mr. Scavuzzo is a Principal at Castle Creek and disclaims beneficial ownership.

(4) Executive officer is no longer with the company and information is as of October 2018, however an attempt was made to obtain more current information.

(5) Includes 5,000 shares that may be acquired within 60 days of the Record Date through the exercise of options.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of the Common Stock, to file reports detailing their ownership and changes of ownership in the Common Stock with the SEC and to furnish the Company with copies of all such ownership reports. Based solely on the Company's review of the copies of the ownership reports furnished to the Company, and written representations relative to the filing of certain forms, the Company believes that all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its officers and directors, and persons who own more than 10% of the Common Stock, were complied with during the 2018 fiscal year.

FIRST PROPOSAL: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The number of directors constituting the Board will be nine. The Board is divided into three classes. The term of office of one class of directors expires each year in rotation so that the class up for election at each annual meeting of stockholders has served for a three-year term. The terms of three of the present directors (Messrs. Horton, Rosenbury and Scavuzzo) are expiring at the Annual Meeting.

Messrs. Horton, Rosenbury and Scavuzzo have been nominated, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee of the Board, by the Board and, upon election at the Annual Meeting, will hold office for a three-year term expiring in 2022 or until their successors are elected and qualified. Each nominee has indicated that he is willing and able to serve as a director if elected and has consented to being named as a nominee in this Proxy Statement.

Unless otherwise specified on the proxies received by the Company, it is intended that executed proxy cards received in response to this solicitation will be voted in favor of the election of each person named in the following table to be a director of the Company for the term as indicated, or until his successor is elected and qualified. There are no arrangements or understandings between the nominees or directors and any other person pursuant to which any such person was or is selected as a director or nominee.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS
THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS EXPIRING 2022**

Name	Age (1)	Director Since	Current Term Expires
Greg A. Horton	59	2016	2019
Tim Rosenbury	62	2002	2019
Tony Scavuzzo	37	2018	2019

In addition to the three nominees proposed to serve on the Board as described above, the following individuals are also directors of the Company, each serving for the current term indicated.

**Directors Who Are Not Nominees
Who Will Continue in Office After the Annual Meeting**

Current Term

Name	Age (1)	Director Since	Expires
John F. Griesemer	51	2008	2020
James L. Sivils, III	54	2002	2020
David T. Moore	47	2014	2020
Shaun A. Burke	55	2004	2021
Kurt D. Hellweg	61	2000	2021
James R. Batten	56	2006	2021

(1) As of the Record Date

Biographical Information

Set forth below are brief summaries of the background and business experience, including principal occupation, of each nominee and director currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Company.

James R. Batten, CPA, is Chief Financial Officer of International Dehydrated Foods (IDF) a privately held manufacturer of ingredients for the food industry. Prior to joining IDF in September 2016, Mr. Batten served as a management consultant serving businesses and non-profit organizations from March 2014 through August 2016. Mr. Batten was the Executive Vice President of Convoy of Hope, an international nonprofit relief organization from April 2009 through February 2014. Mr. Batten served as Chief Operations Officer and Executive Vice President of AG Financial Solutions from September 2007 through March 2009. Mr. Batten served as the Executive Vice President of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. (NASDAQ: ORLY) from January 1993 through March 2007. Prior to joining O'Reilly, Mr. Batten was employed by the accounting firms of Whitlock, Selim & Keehn, from 1986 to 1993 and Deloitte, Haskins & Sells from 1984 until 1986. Mr. Batten is a member of the board of AG Financial Solutions, Foundation Capital Resources and Treasurer of Hope Church. Mr. Batten is a former member of the NASDAQ Issuer Affairs Committee. He has also served on a number of other professional and civic boards including the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks and New Covenant Academy.

John F. Griesemer is President, Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of the Erlen Group. The Erlen Group is a privately held family of industrial companies, including Springfield Underground, Westside Stone, and Joplin Stone. Mr. Griesemer holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Management and Engineering from Purdue University. He is the Chairman of the Board of Mercy Springfield Communities, member of the Springfield Catholic Schools Board and a member of the Board of the National Stone Sand and Gravel Association. He is a past Member of the Board of the Missouri Limestone Producers Association, Catholic Campus Ministries, Junior Achievement of the Ozarks and Ozark Technical Community College Foundation. Mr. Griesemer brings to the Board a strong organizational and leadership background, management experience and deep ties in the local community.

Kurt D. Hellweg is the Chairman of the Board of International Dehydrated Foods, Inc. ("IDF"), American Dehydrated Foods, Inc. ("ADF"), Food Ingredients Technology Company, L.L.C ("FITCO") – a joint venture with Mars Petcare, and Chairman of the Board of IsoNova Technologies, L.L.C. ("IsoNova") – a joint venture with Rembrandt Enterprises, Inc. IDF, ADF, FITCO and IsoNova are privately held companies that manufacture and market ingredients for both the food and feed industries. Mr. Hellweg joined ADF in 1987 and has previously served as Vice President of Sales, Senior Vice President of Operations, and President/COO. Prior to joining ADF, Mr. Hellweg was an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1980 to 1987. During that time, he served tours as a helicopter pilot in the Atlantic Fleet and as an instructor pilot. Mr. Hellweg holds a B.S. degree in Engineering from the University of Nebraska. He is a past Board Member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield Area Arts Council, and the Springfield Symphony. He is the founding member of the Greater Ozarks Chapter of World Presidents' Organization ("WPO") (where he is still active) and has previously chaired the Greater Ozarks Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization. He is a Black Belt in Taekwondo, a member of Mensa, and enjoys competing in ultra-distance bicycling races. He currently serves on the following Boards: ADF, CoxHealth, the Darr Family Foundation, Environmental Works, Inc., FITCO, Hammons Products Company, IDF, IsoNova, WPO, and is a Trustee of the ADF profit sharing plan, serving as a Director of the Investment Committee.

Tim Rosenbury, AIA, is a Partner of Butler, Rosenbury & Partners, Inc., an architecture and planning firm in Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Rosenbury joined the firm in 1984 after practicing in Memphis, Tennessee. He graduated with a B.Arch. from Mississippi State University in 1980, which in 1999 awarded him the designation of Alumni

Fellow. He is a member of a number of professional and civic organizations, many of which he has held leadership positions, including Chairman of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and President of the Board of Education for Springfield Public Schools. Mr. Rosenbury brings to the Board strong community leadership and significant experience in general business and real estate development and management.

James L. Sivils, III, JD, is the CEO of Environmental Works, Inc., an environmental consulting firm with offices in Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis, MO. Mr. Sivils began his career as a Missouri licensed attorney in 1990. In 1993, Mr. Sivils began developing real estate and became a licensed Missouri Real Estate Broker. Mr. Sivils has developed numerous commercial and residential projects in Southwest Missouri. Mr. Sivils holds a J.D. degree from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Law School and a B.A. degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia. Mr. Sivils is a member and past Chapter Chair of the Ozarks Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) and is now a member and Chapter Chair of the Ozarks Chapter of YPO-Gold. Mr. Sivils legal background, knowledge and experience with real estate matters and experience running a 200+ employee company make him a valuable resource to the Board.

David T. Moore is President, Chief Executive Officer, and member of the Board of Directors of Paul Mueller Company. Paul Mueller Company is a publicly held manufacturer of milk cooling equipment and processing equipment headquartered in Springfield, Missouri. Mr. Moore has worked at Paul Mueller Company since 2002, serving as the President since 2011. Additionally, he has been a member of the company's Board of Directors since 1997. Prior to joining Paul Mueller Company, Mr. Moore was Vice President of Product Development at Corporate Document Systems, a computer software company, for six years. Mr. Moore holds an MBA from The University of Chicago - Booth School of Business and a B.A. from Middlebury College. Mr. Moore is a valuable asset to the Board due to his significant experience in public company management, corporate governance, business acquisition and integration, and information and technology development. In addition, Mr. Moore has long-term personal and business ties to the local community.

Greg A. Horton, CPA, is Chief Executive Officer and co-owner of Integrity Home Care & Hospice, a multi-line home health care enterprise that employs 2,000 and serves over 5,000 clients in Missouri and Kansas, and co-founder of affiliate Integrity Pharmacy. Prior to launching Integrity Home Care in 2000, Mr. Horton was a partner in the accounting firm Whitlock, Selim & Keehn, LLP. He has twenty years of experience in public accounting with an emphasis in management consulting, information systems, and auditing services. Mr. Horton holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an Accounting Specialization from Central Missouri State University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and has been active in board and volunteer service with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boys & Girls Town of Missouri, Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast, and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Horton's expertise in large service-based organizations and his background in public accounting make him a valuable resource to the Board.

Shaun A. Burke joined Guaranty Bank (the "Bank") in March 2004 as President and Chief Executive Officer and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company on February 28, 2005. He has over 32 years of banking experience. Mr. Burke received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from Missouri State University and is a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking of Colorado. Mr. Burke currently serves on the board of the Missouri Bankers Association as Chairman and previously served as Chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee and Chairman of the Audit Committee. From 2014 to 2017, he served on the Community Bankers Council of the American Bankers Association. In March 2016 he was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis' Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. From 2012 to 2014, he was a Board Member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce serving as Vice Chairman of Economic Development in 2014. From 2009 through 2014, he was a Board Member of the Springfield Business Development Corporation, the economic development subsidiary of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce serving as President in 2012. He is also a past Member of the United Way Allocations and Agency Relations Executive Committee, Salvation Army Board, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Board.

Tony Scavuzzo, CFA, is a Principal at Castle Creek Capital, an alternative asset management firm, and joined the firm in 2009. Mr. Scavuzzo is responsible for the identification and evaluation of investment opportunities, transaction execution, and portfolio company monitoring. He has led or supported investments in numerous recapitalization, distressed, and growth situations and works with executive management teams on strategic planning, operational improvements, acquisitions, and capital financings. He is currently a director with multiple banking institutions and serves on various board committees regarding governance, compensation and risk. Mr. Scavuzzo was formerly

Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the CFA Society of San Diego and past Chairman of the Finance Committee for the CFA Society of Chicago. Mr. Scavuzzo holds an MBA in Finance, Accounting and Entrepreneurship from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a BBA in Finance from the University of Iowa. He is also a CFA Charterholder.

7

Director Independence

The Board has determined that all of the directors, except for Mr. Burke who is an executive officer of the Company, are “independent directors” as that term is defined in Rule 5605(a) (2) of the Marketplace Rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”). These directors constitute a majority of the Board.

Board Leadership Structure

Throughout its history, the Company has kept the positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer separate. Currently, Mr. Batten holds the position of Chairman of the Board (since 2016) and Mr. Burke holds the position of Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Batten is considered to be “independent” according to NASDAQ listing requirements.

The Board believes that having separate positions and having an independent outside director serve as Chairman is the appropriate leadership structure for the Company at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance. Separating these positions allows our Chief Executive Officer to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing the Chairman to lead the Board in its fundamental role of providing advice to and independent oversight of management. We believe that having an independent Chairman eliminates the conflicts of interest that may arise when the positions are held by one person. In addition, this leadership structure allows the Board to more effectively monitor and evaluate the performance of our Chief Executive Officer.

Board’s Role in Risk Oversight

It is necessary to effectively manage risk when managing and operating every financial institution. We face a number of risks, including but not limited to, general economic risks, credit risks, regulatory risks, audit risks, information security and technology risks, reputational risks, and business competition. Management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks the Company faces, while the Board, as a whole and through its committees, has responsibility for the general oversight of risk management. In its role of risk oversight, the Board has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes and procedures designed and implemented by management are appropriate and functioning as designed.

While the full Board is charged with ultimate oversight responsibility for risk management, various committees of the Board and members of management also have specific responsibilities with respect to our risk oversight. Each Board committee has been assigned oversight responsibility for specific areas of risk and risk management, and each committee considers risks within its areas of responsibility. Each of these committees receives regular reports from management regarding our risks and reports regularly to the Board concerning risk.

We believe that providing for full and open communication between management and the Board is essential for effective risk management and oversight. Certain senior management personnel, consistent with their specific areas of responsibility, attend Board meetings and/or Board committee meetings on a regular and consistent basis. We have regular and ongoing reporting and communication mechanisms in place to ensure that oversight is effective.

Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors

The business of the Company is conducted at regular and special meetings of the full Board of Directors and its standing committees. The standing committees consist of the Executive, Audit, Compensation, Nominating, Investment, Special and Building. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, the Board held twelve regular meetings. Director Scavuzzo attended less than 75% of those meetings and the meetings held by all committees of the Board of Directors on which he served.

