## Aspen Group, Inc. 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525 Denver, CO 80222 (303) 333-4224

To The Shareholders of Aspen Group, Inc.:

We are pleased to invite you to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of Aspen Group, Inc., which will be held at 3:00 p.m. on November \_\_\_\_, 2016 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Avenue (at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street), Penntop North Room, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10001, for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect members to our Board of Directors;
- 2. To approve an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to effect a proposed reverse stock split;
- 3. To ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2016-2017;
- 4. To ratify prior amendments increasing the amount of shares issuable under the 2012 Equity Incentive Plan to 25,300,000 shares;
- 5. To approve, on a non-binding basis, our repurchase of up to 3,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock at a price per share of less than \$0.20; and
- 6. For the transaction of such other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Aspen's Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on September 30, 2016 as the record date for a determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to Be Held on November \_\_\_, 2016: This Proxy Statement and Form 10-K are available at: <u>https://www.proxyvote.com</u>

## Aspen Group, Inc. 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525 Denver, CO 80222 (303) 333-4224

# 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS PROXY STATEMENT

### Why am I receiving these materials?

These proxy materials are being sent to the holders of shares of the voting stock of Aspen Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation, which we refer to as "Aspen," Aspen Group," or the "Company," in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our Board of Directors, which we refer to as the "Board," for use at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held at 3:00 p.m. on November \_\_\_, 2016 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Avenue (at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street), Penntop North Room, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10001. The proxy materials relating to the Annual Meeting are first being mailed to shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting on or about October \_\_\_, 2016. A copy of our Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2016 is being mailed concurrently with this Proxy Statement.

## Who is Entitled to Vote?

Our Board has fixed the close of business on September 30, 2016 as the record date for a determination of shareholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. On the record date, there were 137,958,145 shares of common stock outstanding, not including 200,000 treasury shares which are not entitled to vote. Each share of Aspen common stock represents one vote that may be voted on each matter that may come before the Annual Meeting. As of the record date, Aspen has no outstanding preferred stock.

### What is the difference between holding shares as a record holder and as a beneficial owner?

If your shares are registered in your name with our transfer agent, Action Stock Transfer, you are the "record holder" of those shares. If you are a record holder, these proxy materials have been provided directly to you by Aspen.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account, a bank or other holder of record, you are considered the "beneficial owner" of those shares held in "street name." If your shares are held in street name, these proxy materials have been forwarded to you by that organization. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to instruct this organization on how to vote your shares.

### Who May Attend the Meeting?

Record holders and beneficial owners may attend the Annual Meeting. If your shares are held in street name, you will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement or other documentation reflecting your stock ownership as of the record date. Please see below for instructions on how to vote at the Annual Meeting if your shares are held in street name.

# How Do I Vote?

## Record Holder

- 1. <u>Vote by Internet</u>. The website address for Internet voting is on your proxy card.
- 2. <u>Vote by phone</u>. Call 1 (800) 690-6903 and follow the instructions on your proxy card.
- 3. <u>Vote by mail</u>. Mark, date, sign and mail promptly the enclosed proxy card (a postage-paid envelope is provided for mailing in the United States).
- 4. <u>Vote in person</u>. Attend and vote at the Annual Meeting.

If you vote by Internet or phone, please DO NOT mail your proxy card.

## Beneficial Owner (Holding Shares in Street Name)

- 1. <u>Vote by Internet</u>. The website address for Internet voting is on your vote instruction form.
- 2. <u>Vote by mail</u>. Mark, date, sign and mail promptly the enclosed vote instruction form (a postage-paid envelope is provided for mailing in the United States).
- 3. <u>Vote in person</u>. Obtain a valid legal proxy from the organization that holds your shares and attend and vote at the Annual Meeting.

## What Constitutes a Quorum?

To carry on the business of the Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum. A quorum is present when a majority of the outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote, as of the record date, are represented in person or by proxy. Shares owned by Aspen are not considered outstanding or considered to be present at the Annual Meeting. Broker non-votes (because there are routine matters presented at the Annual Meeting) and abstentions are counted as present for the purpose of determining the existence of a quorum.

### What happens if Aspen is unable to obtain a Quorum?

If a quorum is not present to transact business at the Annual Meeting or if we do not receive sufficient votes in favor of the proposals by the date of the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting to permit solicitation of proxies.

### Which Proposals are Considered "Routine" or "Non-Routine"?

Proposals 1, 2, 4 and 5 are non-routine and Proposal 3 is routine.

### What is a broker non-vote?

If your shares are held in street name, you must instruct the organization who holds your shares how to vote your shares. If you do not provide voting instructions, your shares will not be voted on any non-routine proposal. This vote is called a "broker non-vote." Broker from the street of the proposals. However, because Proposal 2 requires a majority of our outstanding shares to vote "FOR" approval, a broker non-vote will adversely affect this proposal.

If you are the shareholder of record, and you sign and return a proxy card without giving specific voting instructions, then the **proxy holder** stwill vote your shares in the manner recommended by our Board on all matters presented in this Proxy Statement and as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote ISAME of the termine in the statement and as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote ISAME of the termine in the statement and as the proxy holders may determine in their discretion with respect to any other matters properly presented for a vote ISAME of the termine in the statement and the sta

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How Many Votes are Needed for Each Proposal to Pass, is Broker Discretionary Voting Allowed and what is the effect of an abstention?

rf i Proposals	Vote Required	Broker Discretionary Vote Allowed	Effect of Abstentions on the Proposal
(1) To elect the board of directors	Plurality	No	Not applicable
(2) To approve a reverse split	Majority of the outstanding voting shares	No	Vote against
(3) To ratify the appointment of our indriif			
(4)			
(5)			

\*

## What Happens if Additional Matters are Presented at the Annual Meeting?

Other than the items of business described in this Proxy Statement, we are not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting. If you submit a signed proxy card, the persons named as proxy holders, Mr. Michael Mathews and Ms. Janet Gill, will have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matters properly presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting. If for any reason any of our nominees is not available as a candidate for director, the persons named as proxy holders will vote your proxy for such other candidate or candidates as may be nominated by the Board.

### What if a quorum is not present at the Annual Meeting?

If a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the Annual Meeting, then Mr. Mathews, our Chairman of the Board, is authorized to adjourn the annual meeting until a quorum is present or represented.

### What is "householding" and how does it affect me?

Record holders who have the same address and last name will receive only one copy of their proxy materials, unless we are notified that one or more of these record holders wishes to continue receiving individual copies. This procedure will reduce our printing costs and postage fees. Shareholders who participate in householding will continue to receive separate proxy cards.

If you are eligible for householding, but you and other record holders with whom you share an address, receive multiple copies of these proxy materials, or if you hold Aspen stock in more than one account, and in either case you wish to receive only a single copy of each of these documents for your household, please contact our Corporate Secretary at: Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222.

If you participate in householding and wish to receive a separate copy of these proxy materials, or if you do not wish to continue to participate in householding and prefer to receive separate copies of these documents in the future, please contact our Corporate Secretary as indicated above. Beneficial owners can request information about householding from their brokers, banks or other holders of record.

### Do I Have Dissenters' (Appraisal) Rights?

Appraisal rights are not available to Aspen shareholders with any of the proposals brought before the Annual Meeting.

### Can a Shareholder Present a Proposal To Be Considered At the 2017 Annual Meeting?

If you wish to submit a proposal to be considered at the 2017 Annual Meeting, the following is required:

For a shareholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in Aspen's Proxy Statement and proxy card for the 2017 Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as the "Exchange Act," our Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal no later than \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017, which is 120 calendar days prior to the anniversary date Aspen's Proxy Statement was mailed to shareholders in connection with this Annual Meeting. Such proposals also must comply with SEC regulations under Rule 14a-8 regarding the inclusion of shareholder proposals in company sponsored materials.

- Our Bylaws include advance notice provisions that require shareholders desiring to recommend or nominate individuals to the Board or who wish to present a proposal at the 2017 Annual Meeting must do so in accordance with the terms of the advance notice provisions. For a shareholder proposal or a nomination that is not intended to be included in Aspen's Proxy Statement and proxy card under Rule 14a-8, our Corporate Secretary must receive the written proposal not later than the close of business on the 120th day (or \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017) nor earlier than the close of business on the 150th day prior to the anniversary of the date on which Aspen released its proxy materials to its shareholders for this year's Annual Meeting (or \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017); provided, however, that in the event that the date of the 2017 Annual Meeting is advanced more than 30 days prior to or delayed by more than 30 days after the anniversary of this year's Annual Meeting, for notice by the shareholder to be timely, such shareholder's written notice must be delivered to the secretary not later than the close of business on the 90th day prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made, whichever is later. Your notice must contain the specific information set forth in our Bylaws.
- Additionally, you must be a record holder at the time you deliver your notice to the Corporate Secretary and are entitled to vote at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

A nomination or other proposal will be disregarded if it does not comply with the above procedures. All proposals and nominations should be sent to Aspen Group, Inc., 1660 South Albion Road, Suite 525, Denver, CO 80222, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

We reserve the right to amend our Bylaws and any change will apply to the 2017 Annual Meeting unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

## Interest of Officers and Directors in Matters to Be Acted Upon

Except in the election to our board of nominees, none of the officers or directors have any interest in any of the matters to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting.

# The Board Recommends that Shareholders Vote "For" Proposal Nos. 1, 2 (all ratios), 3, 4 and 5.

## **PROPOSAL 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

We currently have nine-seat Board of Directors, of which two seats are vacant. The terms of all of our current directors will expire at this Annual Meeting. The Board proposes the election of the following nominees as directors:

Michael Mathews	Malcolm F. MacLean IV
Michael D'Anton	Sanford Rich
Norman D. Dicks	John Scheibelhoffer
C. James Jensen	Rick Solomon
Andrew Kaplan	

Except for former Congressman Norman Dicks and Mr. Malcolm MacLean, all of the nominees listed above are currently directors of Aspen. Additionally, all of the nominess have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected. The nine persons who receive the most votes cast will be elected and will serve as directors until the next Annual Meeting. If a nominee becomes unavailable for election before this Annual Meeting, the Board can name a substitute nominee and proxies will be voted for such substitute nominee unless an instruction to the contrary is written on the proxy card. Furthermore, we may appoint an additional person to our Board before the Annual Meeting. The principal occupation and certain other in o ns whciimiii

Sanford Rich has served as a director o

In June 2013, Mr. Mathews loaned Aspen Group \$1 million and was issued a \$1 million Promissory Note due December 31, 2013 (which has been extended to May 5, 2018). The Promissory Note bears 10% interest per annum, payable monthly in arrears.

Mr. Mathews' son is employed by Aspen Group as its Product Manager and is paid a salary of \$75,000 per year. In addition, Mr. Mathews' brother is employed by Aspen Group as Director of Academic Support and is paid a salary of \$70,000 per year.

Effective May 29, 2014, Aspen Group entered into a consulting agreement with A" ;

- (10) Solomon. Mr. Solomon is a director. Includes 1,315,790 shares underlying warrants and 137,500 vested stock options.
- (11) **Directors and Executive Officers as a group.** This amount includes ownership by executive officers who are not Named Executive Officers under the SEC's disclosure rules.
- (12) **Dicks.** Mr. Dicks is a director nominee. Address is 1050 Thomas Jefferson NW, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Washington, DC 20007
- (13) MacLean. Mr. MacLean is a director nominee. Includes (i) 319,000 shares held jointly with spouse, (ii) 1,150,000 shares held by Starfish Partners LLC which Mr. MacLean indirectly controls, (iii) 3,000,000 shares held by Taurus Capital Partners in which Mr. MacLean is a managing partner, and (iv) 539,777 shares held as custodian for the benefit of Mr. MacLean's children. Does not include 88,000 shares held by Mr. MacLean's spouse, of which he disclaims beneficial ownership. Address is 400 Chautauqua Blvd. Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.
- (14) Cooperman. Address is 810 7th Ave., 33rd floor, New York, NY 10019. Includes 750,000 shares underlying warrants.
- (15) Melas-Kyriazi. Represents 5,976,211 shares held by Alvin Fund LLC in which Mr. Melas-Kyriazi is the manager. Address is 215 W 98th New York, NY 10025.

### Fiscal 2016 Summary Compensation Table

The following information is related to the compensation paid, distributed or accrued by us for fiscal 2016 and 2015 to all Chief Executive Officers (principal executive officers) serving during the last fiscal year and the two other most highly compensated executive officers serving at the end of the last fiscal year whose compensation exceeded \$100,000 (the "Named Executive Officers").

### **Summary Compensation Table for Fiscal 2016**

Name and Principal Position (a)	Year (b)	Salary (\$)(c)	Option Awards (\$)(f)(1)	Total (\$)(j)
Michael Mathews Chief Executive Officer (2)	2016 2015	200,000 100,000	90,000 97,500	290,000 197,500
Cheri St. Arnauld Chief Accherofio Officer (3)	2016 2015	240,000 199,991	60,000	ve OBURLEDHINDFQ5/6

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

## **Director Compensation**

We do not pay cash compensation to our directors for service on our Board and our employees do not receive compensation for serving as members of our Board. Directors are reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings and carrying out duties as board and committee members. Under the Plan, our non-employee directors receive grants of stock options as compensation for their services on our Board, as described above. Because we do not pay compensation to employee directors, Mr. Michael Mathews was not compensated for his service as a director and is omitted from the following table.

### **Fiscal 2016 Director Compensation**

Name (a)	Option Awards (\$)(d)(1)	Total (\$)(j)
Michael D'Anton	— ·	0
C. James Jensen	12,500	12,500
Andrew Kaplan	12,500	12,500
David Pasi (2)	-	0
Sanford Rich	-	0
John Scheibelhoffer	—	0
Paul Schneier (3)	—	0
Rick Solomon	12,500	12,500

(1) Amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of awards granted without regards to forfeitures granted to the independent members of our Board during fiscal 2016, computed in accordance with ASC 718. This amount does not reflect the actual economic value realized by the director. In November 2015, the Company granted to Messrs. Solomon, Kaplan and Jensen 250,000 stock options exercisable at \$0.165 per share. The securities vest in three equal annual increments with the first vesting date being one year from the grant date, subject to continued service as a director on each applicable vesting date.

(2) Mr. Pasi resigned as a director effective August 29, 2016.

(3) Mr. Schneier resigned as a director effective September 14, 2016.

## **Option Grants and Extensions in Fiscal 2017**

On May 19, 2016, the Company granted to each of its non-employee directors 150,000 five-year stock options. The Company granted an additional 50,000 five-year stock options to C. James Jensen, the Chairman of the Compensation Committee and to Sanford Rich, the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The options are exercisable at \$0.16 and vest in three approximately equal annual increments, with the first vesting date being one year from the grant date, subject to continued service as a director or committee chairman on each applicable vesting date and accelerated vesting under certain conditions.

On June 23, 2016, the Company granted 2,000,000 stock options to Gerard Wendolowski, Chief Operating Officer and 700,000 stock options to Dr. Cheri St. Arnauld, Chief Academic Officer and 300,000 stock options to Janet Gill, Chief Financial Officer. The options are exercisable for a period of five years at a price per share of \$0.166. The options vest in three equal annual increments with the first vesting date being one year from the grant date, subject to continued service on each applicable vesting date and accelerated vesting under certain conditions.

**Ministry of September 1302016**, the Company extended the expiration dates of options held by each of the persons in the table below, all of which were previously set to expire in 2017, until 2020. The options will vest annually in approximately equal increments over the new three-year terms. All options are exercisable at \$0.19 per share.

Number of Options
100,000
75,000
100,000
4,132,377
100,000
100,000
150,000

# EquitICompressition Related States

The following chart reflects the number of securities granted and the weighted average exercise price for our compensation plans as an  $(\Delta prill 30, 0.2006. tp uP uO)$ 

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			Number of sectors
	Number of		rational
	securities to be		available O b
	issued upon	Weighted-average	
	exercise of	exercise price of	
	outsitagading	outstanding	
	options, warrants	options, warrants	
	and rights	and rights	
Name of Plan	(ka)	(b)(\$)	

As applicable, new shar

## **Accounting Matters**

The par value per share of our common stock will remain unchanged at \$0.001 per share after the Reverse Stock Split. As a result, on the effective date of the Reverse Stock Split, the stated capital on our consolidated balance sheet attributable to common stock will be reduced and the additional paid-in-capital account will be increased by the amount by which the stated capital is reduced. Per share net income or loss will be increased because there will be fewer shares of our common stock outstanding. We do not anticipate that any other accounting consequences, including changes to the amount of stock-based compensation expense to be recognized in any period, will arise as a result of the Reverse Stock Split.

### **Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences**

# Each shareholder is advised to consult their own tax advisor as the following discussion may be limited, modified or not apply based on your own particular situation.

The following is a summary of important tax considerations of the Reverse Stock Split. It addresses only shareholders who hold the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares and post- Reverse Stock Split shares as capital assets. It does not purport to be complete and does not address shareholders subject to special rules, such as financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, dealers in securities, mutual funds, foreign shareholders, shareholders who hold the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares as part of a straddle, hedge, or conversion transaction, shareholders who hold the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares as qualified small business stock within the meaning of Section 1202 of the Code, shareholders who are subject to the alternative minimum tax provisions of the Code, and shareholders who acquired their pre-Reverse Stock Split shares pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation. Current tax law may change, possibly even retroactively. This summary does not address tax considerations under state, local, foreign, and other laws. Furthermore, we have not obtained a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service or an opinion of legal or tax counsel with respect to the consequences of the Reverse Stock Split.

The Reverse Stock Split is intended to constitute a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368 of the Code. Assuming the Reverse Stock Split qualifies as reorganization, a shareholder generally will not recognize gain or loss on the Reverse Stock Split, except to the extent of cash, if any, received in lieu of a fractional share interest in the post-Reverse Stock Split shares. The aggregate tax basis of the post-Reverse Stock Split shares received will be equal to the aggregate tax basis of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares exchanged (excluding any portion of the holder's basis allocated to fractional shares), and the holding period of the post-Reverse Stock Split shares received will include the holding period of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares received will include the holding period of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares received will include the holding period of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares received will include the holding period of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares is shares as the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares is shared.

A holder of the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares who receives cash will generally recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the portion of the tax basis of the pre- Reverse Stock Split shares allocated to the fractional share interest and the cash received. Such gain of loss will be a capital gain or loss and will be short term if the pre-Reverse Stock Split shares were held for one year or less and long term if held more than one year. No gain or loss will be recognized by us as a result of the Reverse Stock Split.

## PLEASE CONSULT YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE U.UT YE U.UG

The effective increase in our authorized and unissued shares as a result of the Reverse Stock Split could potentially be used by our Board to thwart a takeover attempt. The over-all effects of this might be to discourage, or make it more difficult to engage in, a merger, tender offer or proxy contest, or the acquisition or assumption of control by a holder of a large block of our securities and the removal of incumbent management. The Reverse Stock Split could make the accomplishment of a merger or similar transaction more difficult, even if it is beneficial to shareholders. Our Board might use the additional shares to resist or frustrate a third-party transaction, favored by a majority of the independent shareholders that would provide an above-market premium, by issuing additional shares to frustrate the takeover effort.

As discussed above, the reasons for the Reverse Stock Split is to increase the ability of institutions to purchase our common stock and stimulate the interest in our common stock by analysts and brokers as well as accelerate the possibility of obtaining a Nasdaq listing. This Reverse Stock Split is not the result of management's knowledge of an effort to accumulate the Company's securities or to obtain control of the Company by means of a merger, tender offer, solicitation or otherwise. Additionally, the Reverse Stock Split is not being conducted in an effort to take the Company private.

Neither our Certificate nor our Bylaws presently contain any provisions having anti-takeover effects and the Reverse Stock Split Proposal is not a plan by our Board to adopt a series of amendments to our Certificate or Bylaws to institute an anti-takeover provision. We do not have any plans or proposals to adopt other provisions or enter into other arrangements that may have material anti-takeover consequences.

### Plans for Newly Available Shares

The Company presently has no specific plans, nor has it entered into any arrangements or understandings regarding the shares of common stock that will be newly available for issuance upon effectiveness of the Reverse Stock Split. However, our management anticipates that we may raise capital to fund future operations through private or public equity offerings. Any future equity financing may be dilutive to existing shareholders.

## The Board recommends a vote "For" each of the reverse stock split ratios under this proposal.

The above Audit Committee Report is not deemed to be "soliciting mP

# PROPOSAL 4. RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE SHARES ISSUABLE UNDER THE 2012 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

Our Board has adopted a resolution declaring it advisable and in the best interests of Aspen and its shareholders that prior increases in the number of shares authorized under the Plan, and the awards granted under those share increases, be ratified and approved by shareholders.

The Plan is a broad-based plan in which all employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors of Aspen and its subsidiaries are eligible to participate. The purpose of the Plan is to further the growth and development of Aspen by providing, through ownership of stock of Aspen and other equity-based awards, an incentive to its officers and other key employees and consultants who are in a position to contribute materially to the prosperity of Aspen, to increase such persons' interests in Aspen's welfare, by encouraging them to continue their services to Aspen, and by enabling Aspen to attract individuals of outstanding ability to become employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors of Aspen.

Our shareholders have previously approved and ratified adoption of the Plan, as described further below. However, as discussed above, we would like to eventually apply for listing on Nasdaq, although we currently do not meet their listing requirements. Nasdaq requires that all companies with a security listed on the exchange obtain shareholder approval of all equity compensation plans and arrangements, including any increases in the authorized shares under previously approved equity incentive plans and previously granted equity awards made possible by those increases. Consequently, we have decided to obtain shareholder approval of these increases and prior awards at this time in order to reduce the steps required in the future when, and if, we become eligible for listing.

In the following paragraphs we provide a summary of the terms of the Plan. The following summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of the Plan which is attached at <u>Annex B</u> to this Proxy Statement.

### **Background**

In March 2012, we established the Plan. Initially, we were authorized to issue up to 2,500,000 stock rights, which has been increased by our Board from time to time. As of the record date, there were 25,300,000 stock rights authorized under the Plan. As of the record date, there were approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stock rights available for issuance under the Plan. In September 2014, our shareholders ratified and approved the adoption of the Plan and amendments to the Plan to increasing the authorized shares to 16,300,000. In November 2015 and June 2016, our Board increase the authorized shares under the Plan to 20,300,000 and 25,300,000, respectively.

### **Administration**

The Plan may be administered by the entire Board or by the Compensation Committee (if delegated by our Board), which we refer to as the "Administrator". The Board may delegate the powers to grant stock rights to the extent permitted by the laws of the Company's state of incorporation.

## **Eligibility**

Awards granted under the Plan may be restricted stock, restricted stock units, options and SARs which are awarded to employees, consultants, officers, directors and director advisors, who, in the opinion of the Administrator, have contributed, or are expected to contribute, materially to our success. In addition, incentive stock options ("ISOs") as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), may be granted to individuals who are officers or other employees and contribute to our success. The identification of individuals entitled to receive awards, the terms of the awards, and the number of shares subject to individual awards, are determined by the Administrator, in its sole discretion.

### **Limitation on Awards**

The exercise price of options or SARs granted under the Plan shall not be less than the fair market value of the underlying common stock at the time of grant. In the case of ISOs, the exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value in the case of 10% shareholders. ISOs shall expire no later than five years after the date of grant. The option price may be paid in United States dollars by check or wire transfer or, at the discretion of the Administrator, by delivery of shares of our common stock having fair market value equal as of the date of exercise to the cash exercise price, or a combination thereof.

## **Stock Options**

Although this proxy Statement discusses both ISOs and Non-Qualified Stock Options, all options granted to date under the Plan have been Non-Qualified, and the Company does not expect it will grant ISOs in the foreseeable future. The Administrator may grant either non-qualified stock options or ISOs. A stock option entitles the recipient to purchase a specified number of shares of common stock at a fixed price subject to terms and conditions set by the Committee, including conditions for exercise that must be satisfied, which typically will be based solely on continued provision of services. The purchase price of shares of common stock covered by a stock option cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date the option is granted. Fair market value of the common stock on the on the trading date before the option is granted.

### **Stock Appreciation Rights**

A SAR entitles the holder to receive, as designated by the Administrator, cash or shares of common stock, value equal to the excess of the fair market value of a specified number of shares of common stock at the time of exercise over the exercise price established by the Administrator.

The exercise price of each SAR granted under the Plan shall be established by the Administrator or shall be determined by method established by the Administrator at the time the SAR is granted, provided the exercise price shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the date of the grant of the SAR, or such higher price as is established by the Administrator. Shares of common stock delivered pursuant to the exercise of a SAR shall be subject to such conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Administrator may establish in the applicable SAR agreement or document, if any.

### **Restricted Stock Awards**

A restricted stock tawate gives the redipistatick stock at a lafter of shares of restriction on sale. The Administrator determines the terms and conditions of restricted stock awards, including the number of shares of restricted stock granted, and conditions for vesting that must be satisfield histophysical provided in the award agreement, the holder of a restricted stock award generally will have the rights of a shareholder from the date of grant of the or final of figure of the award of the or figure of the or for the or figure of the or figu

# **Forfeiture**

All vested or unvested stock righ ck r

## Non-Qualified Stock Options

The recipient does not recognize any taxable income as a result of a grant of a non-qualified stock option. Upon exercise of a nonqualified stock option, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise and the exercise price. When the shares are sold, any difference between the sale price and the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise will generally be treated as long term or short term capital gain or loss, depending on whether the stock was held for more than one year.

Upon the exercise of a non-qualified stock option, Aspen will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the option was exercised.

### Stock Appreciation Rights

A recipient does not recognize any taxable income upon the receipt of an SAR. Upon the exercise of an SAR, the recipient will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the underlying shares of common stock on the exercise date over the exercise price.

Upon the exercise of an SAR, Aspen will be entitled to a corresponding income tax deduction in the tax year in which the SAR was exercised.

### **Transfer**

Except for ISOs, all stock rights are transferable subject to compliance with the securities laws and the Plan. ISOs are only transferable by will or by the laws of descent and distribution.

# **New Plan Benefits**

Because future grants of awards under the Plan are subject to the discretion of the Board and the Committee, the future awards that may be granted to participants cannot be determined at this time. There are no grants that have been previously made which are contingent upon receiving shareholder approval of the grant.

# The Board recommends a vote "For" this proposal.

## PROPOSAL 5. ADVISORY APPROVAL OF STOCK REPURCHASE

Our Board has authorized the Company to repurchase up to 3,000,000 shares of common stock at prices equal to or less than \$0.20 per share in open market transactions, subject to adjustment for any reverse stock split. While neither the Delaware General Corporation Law or our charter documents require us to obtain shareholder approval to execute such a stock repurchase plan, we have decided to seek shareholder approval on an advisory basis in order to operate as transparently as possible and in order to take our shareholders' preferences into account when deciding whether to implement such a plan. After taking the results of the shareholder advisory vote into account, our management may determine to implement the repurchase plan on the terms described in this Proxy Statement, implement a modified repurchase plan, or implement no repurchase plan. Although our Board has not made any decision, if we do not receive approval of a majority of the votes cast, we may nonetheless repurchase shares.

Our Board believes repurchasing shares of our common stock is a good investment for the Company because we believe our shares are currently undervalued. Repurchasing shares of our common stock will also offset the dilutive impact of potential future exercises of employee and director stock options. In addition, by reducing outstanding share count, we can potentially increase earnings per share. For the foregoing reasons, the Board encourages you to vote in favor of this advisory proposal. All purchases will be made in accordance with Rule 10b-18 under the Exchange Act.

Due to the present number of record holders of our common stock, we are eligible under Exchange Act Rule 12g-4 to terminate the registration of our common stock, although we do not intend to do so. As a result, even though stock repurchases by our Company may have the incidental effect of reducing the number of our record holders, any repurchases we undertake are not intended to be, nor will they **DOMARKSNEW**, "Moing private" transactions under the Exchange Act.

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### ASPEN GROUP, INC. 2012 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN, As Amended

### 1. <u>Scope of Plan; Definitions</u>.

(a) This 2012 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") is intended to advance the interests of Aspen Group, Inc. (the "Company") and its Related Corporations by enhancing the ability of the Company to attract and retain qualified employees, consultants, **OffComp** and directors, by creating incentives and rewards for their contributions to the success of the Company and its Related Corporations opportunities to purchase common stock ("Common Stock") of the Company pursuant to Options granted hereunder which qualify as incentive stock options ("ISOs") under Section 422(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), (b) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to purchase Common Stock in the Company pursuant to options granted hereunder which do not qualify as ISOs ("Non-Qualified Options"); (c) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company which normally are subject to **restrictions** on sale ("Restricted Stock"); (d) directors, Officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations officers, employees and consultants of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportunities to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company and Related Corporations opportuni

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This Plan is intended to comply in all respects with Rule 16b-3 ("Rule 16b-3") and its successor rules as promulgated under Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") for participants who are subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act. To the extent any provision of the Plan or action by the Plan administrators fails to so comply, it shall be deemed null and void to the extent permitted by law and deemed advisable by the Plan administrators. <u>Provided</u>, <u>however</u>, such exercise of discretion by the Plan administrators shall not interfere with the contract righ Set

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A SAR entitles the holder to receive, as designated by the Board or Compensation Committee, cash or shares of (c) Common Stock, value equal to (or otherwise based on) the excess of: (a) the Fair Market Value of a specified number of shares of Common Stock at the time of exercise over (b) an exercise price established by the Board or Compensation Committee. The exercise price of each SAR granted under this Plan shall be established by the Compensation Committee or shall be determined by a method established by the Board or Compensation Committee at the time the SAR is granted, provided the exercise price shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on the date of the grant of the SAR, or such higher price as is established by the Board or Compensation Committee. A SAR shall be exercisable in accordance with such terms and conditions and during such periods as may be established by the Board or Compensation Committee. Shares of Common Stock delivered pursuant to the exercise of a SAR shall be subject to such conditions, restrictions and contingencies as the Board or Compensation Committee may establish in the applicable SAR agreement or document, if any. The Board or Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may impose such conditions, restrictions and contingencies with respect to shares of Common Stock acquired pursuant to the exercise of each SAR as the Board or Compensation Committee determines to be desirable. A SAR under the Plan shall be subject to such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board or Compensation Committee shall, in its discretion, prescribe. The terms and conditions of any SAR to any grantee shall be reflected in such form of agreement as is determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. A copy of such document, if any, shall be provided to the grantee, and the Board or Compensation Committee may condition the granting of the SAR on the grantee executing such agreement.

(d) An RSU gives the grantee the right to receive a number of shares of the Company's Common Stock on applicable vesting or other dates. Delivery of the RSUs may be deferred beyond vesting as determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. RSUs shall be evidenced by an RSU agreement in the form determined by the Board or Compensation Committee. With respect to an RSU, which becomes non-forfeitable due to the lapse of time, the Compensation Committee shall prescribe in the RSU agreement the vesting period. With respect to the granting of the RSU, which becomes non-forfeitable due to the satisfaction of certain pre-established performance-based objectives imposed by the Board or Compensation Committee, the measurement date of whether such performance-based objectives have been satisfied shall be a date no earlier than the first anniversary of the date of the RSU. A recipient who is granted an RSU shall possess no incidents of ownership with respect to such underlying Common Stock, although the RSU agreement may provide for payments in lieu of dividends to such grantee.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan, the Board or Compensation Committee may impose conditions and restrictions on any grant of Stock Rights including forfeiture of vested Options, cancellation of Common Stock acquired in connection with any Stock Right and forfeiture of profits.

(f) The Options and SARs shall not be exercisable for a period of more than 10 years from the date of grant.

6. <u>Sale of Shares</u>. The shares underlying Stock Rights granted to any Officers, director or a beneficial owner of 10% or more of the Company's securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act shall not be sold, assigned or transferred by the grantee until

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8. <u>Duration of Stock Rights</u>. Subject to earlier termination as provided in Sections 3, 5, 9, 10 and 11, each Option and SAR shall expire on the date specified in the original instrument granting such Stock Right (except with respect to any part of an ISO that is converted into a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 17), <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that such instrument must comply with Section 422 of the Code with regard to ISOs and Rule 16b-3 with regard to all Stock Rights granted pursuant to the Plan to Officers, directors and 10% shareholders of the Company.

9. <u>Exercise of Options and SARs; Vesting of Stock Rights</u> Subject to the provisions of Sections 3 and 9 through 13, each Option and SAR granted under the Plan shall be exercisable as follows:

(a) The Options and SARs shall either be fully vested and exercisable from the date of grant or shall vest and become exercisable in such installments as the Board or Compensation Committee may specify.

(b) Once an installment becomes exercisable it shall remain exercisable until expiration or termination of the Option and SAR, unless otherwise specified by the Board or Compensation Committee.

(c) Each Option and SAR or installment, once it becomes exercisable, may be exercised at any time or from time to time, in whole or in part, for up to the total number of shares with respect to which it is then exercisable.

(d) The Board or Compensation Committee shall have the right to accelerate the vesting date of any installment of any Stock Right; <u>provided</u> that the Board or Compensation Committee shall not accelerate the exercise date of any installment of any Option granted to any employee as an ISO (and not previously converted into a Non-Qualified Option pursuant to Section 17) if such acceleration would violate the annual exercisability limitation contained in Section 422(d) of the Code as described in Section 7(b).

10. <u>Termination of Employment</u>. Subject to any greater restrictions or limitations as may be imposed by the Board or Compensation Committee or by a written agreement, if an optionee ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations other than by reason of death or Disability, no further installments of his Options shall vest or become exercisable, and his Options shall terminate as provided for in the grant or on the day 12 months after the day of the termination of his employment (except three months for ISOs), whichever is earlier, but in no event later than on their specified expiration dates. Employment shall be considered as continuing uninterrupted during any bona fide leave of absence (such as those attributable to illness, military obligations or governmental service) provided that the period of such leave does not exceed 90 days or, if longer, any period during which such optionee's right to reemployment under the Plan, provided that such written approval contractually obligates the Company or any Related Corporation to continue the employment of the optionee after the approved period of absence. ISOs granted under the Plan shall not be affected by any change of employment within or among the Company and Related Corporations so long as the optionee continues to be an employee of the Company or any Related Corporation.

11. <u>Death; Disability</u>. Unless otherwise determined by the Board or Compensation Committee or by a written agreement:

(a) If the holder of an Option or SAR ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations by reason of his death, any Options or SARs held by the optionee may be exercised to the extent he could have exercised it on the date of his death, by his estate, personal representative or beneficiary who has acquired the Options or SARs by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, at any time prior to the earlier of: (i) the Options' or SARs' specified expiration date or (ii) one year (except three months for an ISO) from the date of death.

(b) If the holder of an Option or SAR ceases to be employed by the Company and all Related Corporations, or a director or Director Advisor can no longer perform his duties, by reason of his Disability, any Options or SARs held by the optionee may be exercised to the extent he could have exercised it on the date of termination due to Disability until the earlier of (i) the Options' or SARs' specified expiration date or (ii) one year from the date of the termination.

## 12. <u>Assignment, Transfer or Sale</u>.

(a) No ISO granted under this Plan shall be assignable or transferable by the grantee except by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and during the lifetime of the grantee, each ISO shall be exercisable only by him, his guardian or legal representative.

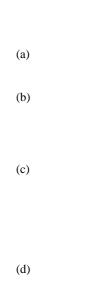
(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, any adjustments made pursuant to Section 14(a), (b) or (c) with respect to ISOs shall be made only after the Board or Compensation Committee, after consulting with counsel for the Company, determines whether such adjustments would constitute a "modification" of such ISOs (as that term is defined in Section 425(h) of the Code) or would cause any adverse tax consequences for the holders of such ISOs. If the Board or Compensation Committee determines that such adjustments made with respect to ISOs would constitute a modification of such ISOs it may refrain from making such adjustments.

(e) No fractional shares shall be issued under the Plan and the optionee shall receive from the Company cash in lieu of such fractional shares.

## 15. Means of Exercising Stock Rights.

(a) An Option or SAR (or any part or installment thereof) shall be exercised by giving written notice to the Company at its principal office address. Such notice shall identify the Stock Right being exercised and specify the number of shares as to which such Stock Right is being exercised, accompanied by full payment of the exercise price therefor (to the extent it is exercisable in cash) either (i) in United States dollars by check or wire transfer; or (ii) at the discretion of the Board or Compensation Committee, through delivery of shares of Common Stock having a Fair Market Value equal as of the date of the exercise to the cash exercise price of the Stock Right; or (iii) at the discretion of the Board or Compensation Committee, by any combination of (i) and (ii) above. If the Board or Compensation Committee exercises its discretion to permit payment of the exercise price of an ISO by means of the methods set forth in clauses (ii) or (iii) of the preceding sentence, such discretion need not be exercised in writing at the time of the grant of the Stock Right in question. The holder of a Stock Right shall not have the rights of a shareholder with respect to the shares covered by his Stock Right until the date of issuance of a stock certificate to him for such shares. Except as expressly provided above in Section 14 with respect to changes in **chpitalistationinsuelsts/diediseideâde.** 

(b) Each notice of exercise shall, unless the shares of Common Stock are covered by a then current registration statement under the Securities Act, contain the holder's acknowledgment in form and substance satisfactory to the Company that (i) such shares are being purchased for investment and not for distribution or resale (other than a distribution or resale which, in the opinion of counsel satisfactory to the Company, may be made without violating the registration provisions of the Securities Act), (ii) the holder has been advised and understands that (1) the shares have not been registered under the Securities Act and are "restricted securities" within the meaning of Rule 144 under the Securities Act and are subject to restrictions on transfer and (2) the Company is under no obligation to register the shares under the Securities Act or to take any action which would make available to the holder any exemption from such registration shares analyzing that registrations without themploinc the input like themploine and states are under the shares and and states are under the shares and states are under the shares and and states without themploine to registration and states and and states are under the shares and and states are under the shares and are under the shares and are analyzing that themploine the shares are under the shares and are and the shares and are analyzing that the analyzing the temploine to registration and the shares are under the shares and the shares and the shares are under the shares and the shares are analyzing that the analyzing the shares are under the shares and the shares are under the shares and the shares and the shares are under the shares and the shares are analyzing that the shares are analyzing the shares are under the shares and the shares are analyzing the shares areas and the shares are analyzing the shar



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### ASPEN GROUP, INC. THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS – NOVEMBER \_\_, 2016 AT 3:00 PM

# **VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

If you vote by phone or internet, please DO NOT mail your proxy card.

MAIL: Please mark, sign, date, and return this Proxy Card promptly using the enclosed envelope.

**PHONE:** Call 1 (800) 690-6903

INTERNET: https://www.proxyvote.com

Control ID: Proxy ID: Password:

# MARK "X" HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING:

MARK HERE FOR ADDRESS CHANGE New Address (if applicable):

**IMPORTANT:** Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

(Print Name of Shareholder and/or Joint Tenant)

(Signature of Shareholder)

(Second Signature if held jointly)