### BNCCORP, INC. 322 East Main Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS June 20, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the 2024 annual meeting of stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") of BNCCORP, INC., a Delaware corporation ("BNC" or the "Company"), will be held at 8:30 a.m. (Central Daylight Time) on Thursday, June 20, 2024. This year's Annual Meeting will be a completely "virtual meeting" of stockholders. You will be able to attend, vote submit your questions during the Annual Meeting via a live webcast and www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024 and entering the 16-digit control number on the proxy card that accompanied the proxy materials that you received in the mail or in the voter instructions that you received from your broker if you hold your shares in a brokerage account in your broker's name. Prior to the Annual Meeting, you will be able to vote at www.proxyvote.com. During the Annual Meeting, stockholders will be asked to:

- 1. Elect two directors;
- 2. Ratify the appointment of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as BNC's independent auditor for the year ending December 31, 2024; and
- 3. Consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

The Board of Directors has set the close of business on Monday, April 22, 2024 as the Record Date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments.

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting. However, whether or not you plan to attend the virtual Annual Meeting, please vote as soon as possible. Please vote by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and returning it in the accompanying pre-postage paid return envelope or you may follow the instructions for voting over the Internet or telephone described in the accompanying Proxy Statement if that option is available to you. You may vote during the Annual Meeting by following the instructions in the accompanying Proxy Statement. You can revoke a proxy at any time prior to its exercise at the meeting by following the instructions in the accompanying Proxy Statement. You will have the ability to submit questions during the Annual Meeting via the virtual meeting website.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Tracey Herschman *Corporate Secretary* 

Bismarck, North Dakota May 7, 2024

Important notice regarding the availability of proxy materials for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders: This Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the Proxy Statement for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Company's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 are available at <a href="https://www.proxyvote.com">www.proxyvote.com</a> and on the website of the OTCQX at <a href="https://www.otcmarkets.com">https://www.otcmarkets.com</a>.

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## BNCCORP, INC. 322 EAST MAIN AVENUE BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501

## PROXY STATEMENT ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

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#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### MEETING INFORMATION; RECORD DATE; ACCESSING VIRTUAL MEETING

This Proxy Statement is furnished to holders of the common stock of BNCCORP, INC., a Delaware corporation ("BNC" or the "Company"), in connection with the solicitation by the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors (the "Board" or the "Board of Directors") of proxies for use at the annual meeting of stockholders of BNC to be held at 8:30 a.m. (Central Daylight Time) on June 20, 2024 (the "Annual Meeting"). This year's Annual Meeting will be a completely "virtual meeting" of stockholders. Stockholders as of the close of business on April 22, 2024 (the "Record Date") are entitled to attend, vote and submit questions at the virtual Annual Meeting via a live webcast by visiting <a href="https://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024">www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024</a> and entering the 16-digit control number on the proxy card that accompanied their proxy materials in the mail or, if they hold their shares through a brokerage account in the name of their broker, in the voting instructions provided by their broker. On the Record Date, there were 3,511,475 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote.

#### MAILING DATE

This Proxy Statement and BNC's 2023 Annual Report are being mailed to each stockholder of record and to each beneficial owner holding shares through the BNC 401(k) Plan or through a custodial account at BNC on the Record Date commencing on or about May 7, 2024 (the "Mailing Date").

# HOUSEHOLDING AND OBTAINING ADDITIONAL COPIES OF MEETING MATERIALS AND ANNUAL REPORT

We are mailing a single copy of the Proxy Statement and the 2023 Annual Report to any household at which two or more stockholders reside unless we receive contrary instructions from the impacted stockholder prior to the Mailing Date. If you received multiple sets of proxy materials, please vote each proxy card that you receive so that all of your shares are voted. We agree to deliver promptly, upon written or oral request, a separate copy of the proxy materials, as requested, to any stockholder at the shared address to which a single copy of these documents was delivered. If you prefer to receive separate copies of the Proxy Statement or 2023 Annual Report, contact Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. by calling 1-866-540-7095 or in writing at 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, New York 11717, Attention: Householding Department. In addition, if you currently are a stockholder who shares an address with another stockholder and would like to receive only one copy of future notices and proxy materials for your household, you may notify your broker if your shares are held in a brokerage account or you may notify us if you hold registered shares. Registered stockholders may notify us by contacting Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. at the above telephone number or address.

#### HOW TO VOTE, CONTROL NUMBERS

If you are a registered stockholder or you are a beneficial owner holding shares through the BNC 401(k) Plan or through a custodial account at BNC, you may:

#### • VOTE BY INTERNET

O Before the Meeting at www.proxyvote.com. Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 10:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) on June 19, 2024. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

Ouring the Annual Meeting at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024. You may attend the Annual Meeting via the Internet and vote during the Annual Meeting. Have the information that is printed in the box marked by the arrow on the proxy card available and follow the instructions.

## • VOTE BY PHONE

O Use any touch-tone telephone to call 1-800-690-6903 to transmit your voting instructions up until 10:59 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) on June 19, 2024. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

#### • VOTE BY MAIL

 Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

If you hold your shares in a brokerage account in your broker's name you should follow the voting instructions of your broker:

- You may complete and mail the voting instruction form to your broker;
- If the broker allows, you may submit voting instructions by telephone (1-800-454-8683) or the Internet; or
- You may also cast your vote in real time during the Annual Meeting, after you log-in by entering the 16-digit control number on the voter instruction form that you received from your broker at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024.

#### ASSISTANCE DURING ANNUAL MEETING

The virtual Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. (Central Daylight Time). You may log in beginning at 8:15 a.m. We encourage you to log into the virtual Annual Meeting prior to the start time. If you encounter any technical difficulties accessing the virtual Annual Meeting or during the Annual Meeting, please go to <a href="https://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com">www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com</a> for frequently asked questions and click on the support button for assistance or please call the technical support number on the virtual meeting site. The virtual meeting site is supported on browsers (e.g., Firefox, Chrome and Safari) and devices (desktops, laptops, tablets and cell phones) running the most updated version of applicable software and plugins. Each participant should ensure that they have a strong Wi-Fi or other internet connection.

Support will be available starting at 8:15 a.m. on the date of the Annual Meeting and will remain available until the Annual Meeting has finished. You will have the ability to submit questions during the Annual Meeting via the virtual meeting website at <a href="https://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024">www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024</a>.

#### **QUORUM REQUIRED**

The presence, in person (which includes stockholders who attend the Annual Meeting via the virtual meeting website) or by proxy, of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the virtual Annual Meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum. Stockholders are urged to vote as soon as possible.

#### **VOTING BY PROXIES**

All shares of common stock will be voted in accordance with each stockholder's directions. If no directions are given, shares will be voted FOR the director nominees and FOR the ratification of the independent auditor. Granting the enclosed proxy does not affect the right to vote remotely at the virtual Annual Meeting.

#### REVOKING OR CHANGING VOTES

Any proxy given by a stockholder may be revoked at any time before it is voted at the Annual Meeting. If you are a registered holder or you are a beneficial owner holding shares through the BNC 401(k) Plan or through a custodial account at BNC, you may revoke or change your vote by:

- Filing a written revocation or a duly executed proxy card bearing a later date with the Corporate Secretary of the Company;
- By voting again by the telephone or Internet voting options described on the proxy card that you received by mail; or
- By casting your vote in real time during the Annual Meeting, after you log-in by entering the 16-digit control number on the proxy card that you received in the mail at <a href="https://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024">www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024</a>.

If you hold your shares in a brokerage account in your broker's name, you may revoke or change your vote:

- Via telephone or the Internet, using the voting directions provide by your broker; or
- You may also cast your vote in real time during the Annual Meeting, after you log-in by entering the 16-digit control number on the voter instruction form that you received from your broker at www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024.

The last valid vote that you submit will be the vote that is counted. Attendance at the virtual Annual Meeting, without voting, will not serve to revoke a previously submitted proxy.

#### VOTE REQUIRED, ABSTENTIONS, BROKER NON-VOTES

At the Annual Meeting, each holder of shares of BNC common stock outstanding will be entitled to one vote for each share held of record. For Proposal 1, election of directors, votes may be cast "for" or "withheld" with respect to each nominee. Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. A plurality means that the nominees with the largest number of votes cast "for" their election, up to the two directors to be chosen at the Annual Meeting, will be elected. Votes that are "withheld" will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect, other than for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. However, if any nominee for director receives a greater number of votes "withheld" from his election than votes "for" such election, the nominee will, within 10 business days following certification of the stockholder vote, tender his resignation to the Board. See "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE — POLICY ON MAJORITY (PLURALITY-PLUS) VOTING IN THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS". For Proposal 2, the ratification of the appointment of our independent auditors, approval requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the subject matter.

Abstentions on a proposal will be treated as present for purposes of determining a quorum but will not be deemed to have voted for such proposal. If you own shares beneficially in "street name" and do not provide your broker with voting instructions, your shares may constitute "broker non-votes." Broker non-votes occur on a proposal when a broker is not permitted to vote on that proposal without instructions from the beneficial owner and instructions have not been given. If you hold shares through a broker, the broker may be prevented from voting shares held in a brokerage account unless you have given the broker voting instructions. Thus, if you hold your stock through a broker, it is critical that you cast your vote if you want it to count. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the election of directors, provided a quorum is established. An abstention for Proposal 2 will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal. Brokers without instructions from beneficial owners may vote on Proposal 2, the approval of independent auditors.

#### RECORD DATE SHAREHOLDER LIST

A list of BNCCORP stockholders of record as of the Record Date will be available for examination for 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Central Daylight Time) at our principal executive offices at 322 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501. The Record Date stockholder list will also be available to stockholders during the Annual Meeting through the virtual meeting website (www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024).

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Board is committed to good corporate governance that promotes the long-term interests of BNC's stockholders and provides a strong, effective and efficient foundation for business operations and informed oversight and decision making.

#### COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY BANK BOARD STRUCTURE

Currently, all Company directors serve as directors of both the Company and the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, BNC National Bank (the "Bank"), and Daniel Collins, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Bank, serves on the board of directors of the Bank (the "Bank Board").

#### **BOARD EVALUATION PROCESS**

The Board conducts a regular Board and committee self-evaluation facilitated by a third-party. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee oversees the evaluation process and reviews the evaluation format to ensure actionable feedback is solicited related to the operation of the Board and its committees. The third-party facilitator aggregates and summarizes responses, which are not attributed to specific directors in order to promote candor, and then reports the evaluation results to the Board Chair and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Board Chair and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee review all ratings and comments to identify issues and to formulate actions items. The Board Chair and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair, with the assistance of a third-party facilitator, provide a verbal report to the Board regarding the assessment results and the Board discusses potential issues or action items. The Board Chair and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chair then discuss any issues or action items agreed to by the Board with senior management if appropriate. As an outcome of the self-evaluation and discussions, the Board Chair, each committee chair, and senior management implement any agreed upon improvements.

#### **BOARD ROLE IN RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Board has an active and ongoing role in risk management. Those risks include, without limitation, strategic, financial, credit, liquidity, compensation, information security, regulatory and operational risks, including risks to the safety and soundness of the Bank. The Board is responsible for the general oversight of risk management and does so through the full Board and its audit and other committees. Company management is responsible for assessing and managing risk through robust internal processes and effective internal controls and for providing the status of each category of Company risk, including risk to the Bank, through effective reporting to the Board and its committees. Given the critical link between strategy and risk, including strategic matters, the Board, with the input of management, reviews whether those strategies being considered are consistent with an assessment of the Company's overall risk tolerance, the related opportunities and the capacity to manage the resulting risk.

## POLICY ON MAJORITY (PLURALITY-PLUS) VOTING IN THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company's bylaws provide that directors shall be elected by a "plurality" of the votes cast. A plurality means that the nominees with the largest number of votes cast "for" their election, up to the number of directors to be elected, will be elected as directors. In an uncontested election, the only nominees for election are those persons nominated by the Board.

The Board has adopted a Policy on Majority (Plurality-Plus) Voting that provides that in an uncontested election of directors, any nominee who receives a greater number of votes "withheld" from his or her election than votes "for" his or her election will, within 10 business days following the certification of the stockholder vote, tender his or her written resignation to the Board. Such tendered resignation will be considered by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee taking into account any factors or other information it considers appropriate and relevant and, within 60 days following the date of the stockholders' meeting at which the election occurred, will make a recommendation to the Board concerning the acceptance or rejection of such resignation. The Board will take formal action on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation no later than 90 days following the date of the stockholders' meeting at which the election occurred. The Board will consider the information, factors and alternatives considered by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and such additional factors, information and alternatives as the Board deems relevant.

Following the Board's decision on the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation, the Company, within four business days after such decision is made, will publicly disclose the Board's decision, and, if applicable, the Board's reasons for rejecting the tendered resignation.

No director who is required to tender his or her resignation shall participate in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's deliberations or recommendation, or in the Board's deliberations or determination, with respect to accepting or rejecting his or her resignation as a director. If a majority of the members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are required to tender their resignations, then the independent directors who are not required to tender their resignations will appoint an ad hoc Board committee from amongst themselves, consisting of such number of directors as they may determine to be appropriate, solely for the purpose of considering and making a recommendation to the Board with respect to the tendered resignations. If such ad hoc committee would have been created but fewer than three directors would be eligible to serve on it, then the entire Board (other than the director whose resignation is being considered) will make the determination to accept or reject the tendered resignation without any recommendation from the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and without the creation of an ad hoc committee.

#### PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board consists of three classes as equal in number as possible, each having a three-year term of office, with one class being elected each year. At the Annual Meeting, two directors will be elected to serve a three-year term, each to hold office until his successor is elected and qualified or until such director's earlier resignation or removal.

The Board of Directors nominates **Gaylen Ghylin** and **John W. Palmer** for election as directors at the Annual Meeting. Unless you specify otherwise in your proxy card, your shares will be voted by the proxy holder FOR the election of Messrs. Ghylin and Palmer as members of the class to serve until the 2027 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. If the nominee to be elected becomes unavailable for any reason, the Board may reduce the size of the Board or votes may be cast pursuant to the accompanying form of proxy for a substitute nominee designated by the Board. The nominees have advised us that they will serve on the Board if elected. Information about the nominees is provided below.

#### **DIRECTOR NOMINEES**

			<b>Board Committee</b>
Name	Age	Director Biography	Memberships
Ghylin, Gaylen	76	Mr. Ghylin has served as a director on the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors since June 2003 and the BNC National Bank Board of Directors since January 2020. He previously served as Executive Vice President, Secretary and Chief Financial Officer of Tiller Corporation d/b/a Barton Sand & Gravel Co., Commercial Asphalt Co. and Barton Enterprises, Inc., since 1979, and as a director of the Tiller Corporation from 1980 until his retirement in 2017. Mr. Ghylin also previously served on the Board of Directors of True Friends, a nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of nearly 4,000 children and adults with developmental, physical or learning disabilities. Mr. Ghylin's term on the Board will expire in 2027.	Member of Audit Committee* and Compensation Committee
Palmer, John W.	63	Mr. Palmer was appointed to the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors in April 2019 and to the BNC National Bank Board of Directors in January 2020. Mr. Palmer is a co-founder and principal of PL Capital Advisors, LLC. PL Capital Advisors is a registered investment advisory firm specializing in the banking industry. Prior to co-founding PL Capital in 1996, Mr. Palmer was employed by KPMG LLP, an international public accounting firm, from 1983 to 1996. While at KPMG, Mr. Palmer specialized as an auditor and a strategic advisor to companies in the commercial banking, consumer finance, thrift, mortgage banking and discount brokerage industries, serving publicly and privately held clients ranging in size from \$25 million to \$25 billion in assets. Mr. Palmer has significant prior experience serving as a board member of banking companies including most recently BankFinancial Corporation, HF Financial Corp., and CFS Bancorp, Inc. He received a Bachelor of Accounting degree from Walsh College and is a Certified Public Accountant (status inactive). Mr. Palmer was initially appointed as a director pursuant to a Cooperation	Member of Compensation Committee* and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Director Biography Agreement between the Company, the PL Capital Group and Mr. Palmer, dated as of April 8, 2019, and was re-elected to the Board at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Mr. Palmer's term on the Board will expire in 2027.

\*Chair of the committee

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE NOMINEES LISTED ABOVE.

#### **CONTINUING DIRECTORS**

Name	Age	Director Biography	Board Committee Memberships
Brenna, Nathan P.	53	Mr. Brenna has served on the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors since September 2014 and on the BNC National Bank Board of Directors since January 2020. He is the owner of Brenna Farm and Ranch in northwestern North Dakota. Mr. Brenna, a former attorney, has a distinguished legal background having represented clients across the country for a decade at Anthony Ostlund & Baer, P.A. from 1997 to 2007. Mr. Brenna is active in community service. He is a Supervisor of Keene Township and a member of its Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Brenna's term on the Board will expire in 2025.	Member of Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee* and Compensation Committee
Redmann, Thomas	66	Mr. Redmann has been a director on the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors since September 2018 and a Director on the BNC National Bank Board of Directors since January 2020. He retired from Bank of North Dakota ("BND") in 2015 after 26 years, serving the last 15 years as BND's Loan Manager with a focus on commercial activities. Throughout his BND career, he maintained responsibility for BND's correspondent bank stock program. Prior to BND, Mr. Redmann worked for the North Dakota Office of Intergovernmental Assistance as the economic development administrator of the Community Development Block Grant Program, and began his career as a financial planner with John Kinnard and Company. Mr. Redmann received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from North Dakota State University in 1979 and a Master of Business Administration from University of North Dakota in 1981. Mr. Redmann's term on the Board will expire in 2026.	Member of Audit Committee
Vekich, Michael M.	76	Mr. Vekich was appointed to the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors in March 2017. He was named Chair of the BNCCORP, INC. Board of Directors in December 2019 and Chair and a director of the BNC National Bank Board of Directors in January 2020. Since 1998 through present, Mr. Vekich has been the Chief Executive Officer of Vekich Chartered, management advisors specializing in investment banking, strategic planning, repositioning organizations and governance. He was the Executive Chairman of Skyline Exhibits, designers of trade show exhibits from 2000-2010. Mr. Vekich has also served as the Chair and a member of the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the Chair of the Managing Committee and the Chair for	Chair of the Board, Ex-Officio Member of each of Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Age

CAP-HC and President of the National Association of Corporate Directors - Minnesota Chapter. In July 2017, Mr. Vekich was appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to serve as Chair of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority. He has significant prior experience serving as a board member for a number of banking companies, including serving as Chair of the board of directors of HF Financial Corp. and Chair of the board of its wholly owned subsidiary, Home Federal Bank, and is a founder and served on the board of directors of Tradition Capital Bank and the Bank Holding Company Association. In 2021, Mr. Vekich was named as one of the Top 100 Public Company Directors by the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD). Mr. Vekich received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Minnesota and is a Certified Public Accountant; Certified Global Management Accountant; Certified Board Advisor; and holds a Certificate in Cybersecurity Oversight. Mr. Vekich's term on the Board will expire in 2026.

\*Chair of the committee

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT DIRECTORS

Andresen, Julie – Senior Vice President Wealth Management: Ms. Andresen has served as Senior Vice President of BNC National Bank Wealth Management since June 2009. She joined BNC in January 1997 and served in many capacities in the wealth management/trust department prior to becoming Senior Vice President of Wealth Management. Prior to BNC, Ms. Andresen worked at Gregory K. Cleveland & Company, a CPA firm, for seven years. Ms. Andresen earned her Retirement Plans Associate (RPA) designation in 2007 and her Certified Employee Benefit Specialists (CEBS) designation in 2010. Ms. Andresen serves as the Chair on the BNCCORP, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan Committee and the Trust Administrative Committee and serves on the Trust Investment Committee.

Cleveland, Shawn – Chief Operating Officer: Ms. Cleveland has served as BNC National Bank's COO since September 1999 and as its Chief Compliance Officer since July 1995. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager. She is active on several of BNC's operating committees and is the chair of the IT Steering Committee. Ms. Cleveland joined BNC in 1992 as an internal auditor. She served on the BNC National Bank Board of Directors from September 1999 until January 2020.

Collins, Daniel – President and Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Collins has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of BNCCORP, INC. and BNC National Bank since December 2021, previously its Interim President and Chief Executive Officer since July 2020. Prior to the role of Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Collins served as Chief Financial Officer since December 2013. Previously, Mr. Collins was employed by MoneyGram International where he served in the roles of Senior Vice President/Treasurer and Vice President-Internal Audit Director. Mr. Collins served as Corporate Controller of RBC Dain Rauscher, Inc. and Divisional CFO for the consumer products group at U.S. Bancorp. Mr. Collins also served ten years in Big Four public accounting exclusively serving financial services companies. Mr. Collins served on the BNC National Bank Board of Directors from May 2015 to January 2020 and rejoined that Board in July 2020 upon being appointed as the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of BNC National Bank. He is also active in several of BNC's operating committees since joining the Company. Mr. Collins is a director/board member at the Jack Jablonski Believe in Miracles Foundation.

*Currie, Justin – Chief Financial Officer*: Mr. Currie has served as Chief Financial Officer since January 2022. He served as BNC's Vice President – Corporate Controller from January 2013 through January 2022 and served in various capacities in the Company's Internal Audit and Loan Review functions from November 2002 to January 2013. He is also active on several of BNC's operating committees.

Gorder, Graig – Treasurer/Vice President Investments: Mr. Gorder has served as Treasurer – Vice President of Investments since January 2022. He joined BNC in March 2003 as an Investment Analyst within the finance/ALCO department and then served as a Credit Analyst within the commercial lending department prior to becoming Vice

President – Investment Officer. He is active on several of BNC's operating committees, and chairs BNC's Asset/Liability Management Committee and Trust Investment Committee.

Oyloe, John – Chief Credit Officer: Mr. Oyloe has served as Chief Credit Officer of BNC National Bank since June 2023. He joined BNC in 2014 as a Credit Analyst in the Bank's commercial lending department and then served as the Bank's Associate Credit Officer prior to becoming Chief Credit Officer.

Scott, Chad – President North Dakota Market: Mr. Scott has served as President of BNC National Bank's North Dakota market since November 2020. He joined BNC in January 1996 and served in many capacities in the commercial lending department prior to becoming President of the North Dakota market, most recently as Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending.

Spillman, Scott – President Arizona Market: Mr. Spillman joined BNC in May 2008 as President of BNC National Bank's Arizona market. Prior to BNC, he served as Senior Vice President-Business Development Officer at First National Bank of Arizona. Prior to his position at First National Bank of Arizona, he was Senior Vice President-Business Development Officer for Imperial Bank/Comerica Bank in Arizona. Mr. Spillman served on the BNC National Bank Board of Directors from January 2009 to January 2020. He also serves on the Glendale Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

#### DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Recommendations for nominations of persons to serve as directors of the Company are made by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board and are approved by the entire Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will also consider candidates for director suggested by other directors, as well as our management and stockholders. A stockholder who desires to recommend a prospective nominee for the Board must follow our procedures for stockholder nominations, which are described under "Stockholder Proposals, Nominations and Communications with the Board of Directors."

The Board believes that nominees to the Board must meet the following minimum qualifications: the nominee must have achieved significant success in business or have extensive financial expertise, must be committed to representing the long-term interests of the Company's stockholders, must have high ethical and moral standards and integrity and must satisfy applicable independence criteria. Additionally, the Board evaluates potential nominees by considering the following factors:

- whether the potential nominee has experience and expertise that is relevant to the Company's business, including
  any specialized business experience, technical expertise, or other specialized skills, and whether he or she has
  knowledge regarding issues affecting the Company;
- whether the potential nominee is free of any conflict of interest or the appearance of any conflict of interest with the Company's best interests and the best interests of the Company's stockholders, and whether he or she is willing and able to represent the interests of all of the Company's stockholders; and
- any factor affecting the ability or willingness of the potential nominee to devote sufficient time to Board activities and to enhance his or her understanding of the Company's business.

In addition, with respect to an incumbent director whom the Board is considering as a potential nominee for reelection, the Board reviews and considers the incumbent director's service to BNC during his or her term, including the number of meetings attended, level of participation and overall contribution to BNC. The manner in which the Board evaluates a potential nominee will not differ based on whether the potential nominee is recommended by a stockholder of BNC. Each of the nominees for director at the Annual Meeting is a current director standing for re-election.

#### DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The Board has determined that each member of the Board is an "independent director" within the meaning of the NASDAQ corporate governance listing standards and the Company's corporate governance policies.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

There were five Board meetings in 2023. The Board has three standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which are described below. During 2023, the Audit Committee met five times, the Compensation Committee met four times, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met once. Each incumbent director named in this Proxy Statement who was a member

of the Board in 2023 attended at least 75 percent of the meetings of the Board and Board committees on which each served in 2023.

**Executive Sessions**. The independent directors meet in "executive sessions" at which only independent directors are present. The independent directors hold at least one executive session at each regularly scheduled Board and committee meeting.

Audit Committee. The current members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Ghylin, Redmann, and Vekich, all of whom are independent under the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market and under the OTCQX Market Rules. The Audit Committee is responsible for assisting the Board in its oversight of (i) the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes; (ii) the integrity of the Company's financial statements; (iii) the performance of the Company's internal audit department and the internal audit process; (iv) the independence and performance of the Company's independent auditors; (v) compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements; and (vi) the enterprise risk management processes of the Company. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter and reviews and reassesses the adequacy of its charter on an annual basis. A copy of the Audit Committee's charter is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance">https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance</a>.

Compensation Committee. The members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Palmer, Ghylin, Brenna and Vekich, all of whom are independent under the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market and under the OTCQX Market Rules. The Compensation Committee oversees the Company's compensation and benefits programs and certain Company policies related to employment practices. The Compensation Committee has the authority to retain compensation consultants to assist in the evaluation of executive officer compensation and may delegate any of its responsibilities to subcommittees, so long as members of subcommittees are not members of management. The Compensation Committee has adopted a written charter and reviews and reassesses the adequacy of its charter on an annual basis. A copy of the Compensation Committee's charter is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance">https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance</a>.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are Messrs. Brenna, Palmer, and Vekich, all of whom are independent under the listing standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market and under the OTCQX Market Rules. The purposes of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are to (i) identify and recommend to the Board individuals who are qualified to serve as directors of the Company and on committees of the Board; (ii) advise the Board with respect to Board composition, procedures and committees; and (iii) oversee the evaluation of the Board and any related matters required by applicable laws. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has adopted a written charter and reviews and reassesses the adequacy of its charter on an annual basis. A copy of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's charter is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance">https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance</a>.

#### DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Company does not have a written policy regarding director attendance at annual stockholder meetings, although all directors are encouraged to attend such meetings. All of the directors attended our 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

#### **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Company has adopted a code of ethics and business conduct that applies to each of its employees, officers and directors, including its principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. A copy of the Company's code of ethics and business conduct is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance">https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance</a>.

#### RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In the ordinary course of business, BNC makes loans, including lines of credit, to the executive officers and directors of BNC, as well as affiliates of such persons. These loans are made on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with persons not related to BNC and do not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features. Additionally, BNC makes certain loans, including first mortgage loans, home equity loans and lines of credit, and home construction loans available to all employees, including executive officers. BNC and Chad Scott, President of BNC's North Dakota market, are parties to a \$245,000 revolving home equity line of credit bearing interest at a variable rate equal to the Wall Street Journal "Prime Rate" minus 0.25%. The interest rate on the outstanding balance of Mr. Scott's line of credit was 8.25% on December 31, 2023. The highest principal amount outstanding on the line of credit, including interest not yet payable, during 2023 was

\$246,555.58, \$16,546.55 in interest was paid on the line of credit in 2023, and, as of April 2, 2024, the outstanding principal balance of Mr. Scott's line of credit was \$136,525.12.

For additional information regarding related-party transactions, see Note 22 of the consolidated financial statements contained in the 2023 Annual Report.

## AGREEMENTS WITH CERTAIN STOCKHOLDERS

#### Non-Disclosure and Standstill Agreement

<u>Johnson Agreement</u>. On February 7, 2020, BNC entered into a Non-Disclosure and Standstill Agreement, which was amended as of March 23, 2022 (as amended, the "Johnson Agreement"), with Kenneth Hilton Johnson ("Mr. Johnson"). The Johnson Agreement states that, as of February 7, 2020, Mr. Johnson beneficially owned 491,287 shares of BNC's common stock, which would represent 13.99% of the outstanding shares of BNC's common stock as of the Record Date.

Pursuant to the Johnson Agreement, among other things, Mr. Johnson agreed, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Johnson Agreement, to not disclose and keep confidential certain confidential information that he had or might receive from BNC. These confidentiality and non-disclosure provisions are effective as of the date of the Johnson Agreement through February 23, 2026.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Management has the primary responsibility for the Company's internal controls and financial reporting process. The independent registered public accountants are responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA") and issuing an opinion thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes. As part of its ongoing activities, the Audit Committee has:

- reviewed and discussed with management the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023;
- discussed with the independent registered public accountants the matters required to be discussed by the applicable requirements of AU-C Section 260 of the AICPA (Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance) and by 12 CFR 363.3(d) (Communications with audit committee); and
- received the disclosures from the independent registered public accountants required by the applicable
  requirements of the AICPA and other professional and regulatory standards affirming the independent registered
  public accountants' independence and has discussed the independent registered public accountants' independence
  with the independent registered public accountants.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and distributed to stockholders of the Company.

#### THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Gaylen Ghylin, Committee Chair Thomas Redmann Michael M. Vekich

#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

#### Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth a summary of certain information concerning the compensation paid by the Company for services rendered to our President and Chief Executive Officer; each of our two other most highly compensated executive officers acting as of December 31, 2023; and our former President Mortgage Banking, Douglas Brendel. We refer to these four executives as our Named Executive Officers in this Proxy Statement.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE							
Name and principal position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Equity Awards (\$)	All other compensation (\$)	Total (\$)	
Daniel Collins	2023	345,000	121,800	-	23,605(1)	490,405	
President and Chief Executive Officer	2022	345,000	122,000	-	23,107	490,107	
Douglas Brendel	2023	156,601	-	-	285,267(2)	441,868	
Former President Mortgage Banking	2022	285,000	-	-	21,355	306,355	
Chad Scott	2023	227,000	148,200	-	25,345(3)	400,545	
President North Dakota Market	2022	227,000	276,400	-	23,847	527,247	
Shawn Cleveland	2023	220,000	64,700	-	24,755(4)	309,455	
Chief Operating Officer	2022	220,000	73,000	-	23,357	316,357	

- (1) All other Compensation for 2023 includes SERP employer contribution (\$9,997), 401(k) matching contributions (\$13,500), and other one-time taxable payments (\$108).
- (2) All other Compensation for 2023 includes separation payments (\$285,000) and other one-time taxable payments (\$267).
- (3) All other Compensation for 2023 includes SERP employer contribution (\$9,997), 401(k) matching contributions (\$15,000), and other one-time taxable payments (\$348).
- (4) All other Compensation for 2023 includes SERP employer contribution (\$9,997), 401(k) matching contributions (\$14,650), and other one-time taxable payments (\$108).

#### **OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR END**

The following table sets forth, for each of the Named Executive Officers, information regarding equity awards outstanding at December 31, 2023.

		Stock Awards				
Name	Option Awards  Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options  Option Name Exercisable Unexercisable Exercise Price Expiration Date				Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested
Daniel Collins	-	-	-	-	-	-
Douglas Brendel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chad Scott	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shawn Cleveland	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

The following table sets forth, for the year ended December 31, 2023, certain information as to the total remuneration paid to the Company's directors. We do not pay separate compensation to directors for their service on the Bank Board.

Name	Fees earned or paid in cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	All other compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Nathan P. Brenna	40,000	12,388(1)	-	52,388
Gaylen Ghylin	40,000	12,388(1)	-	52,388
John W. Palmer	52,000	12,388(1)	-	64,388
Thomas Redmann	40,000	12,388(1)	-	52,388
Michael M. Vekich	280,000	12,388(1)	-	292,388

(1) Stock award of 400 shares granted at \$30.97.

#### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

The following table sets forth, as of March 31, 2024, certain information as to the common stock of the Company beneficially owned by (i) certain entities that are beneficial owners of more than 5% of the issued and outstanding common stock of the Company and are affiliated with directors of the Company, (ii) the directors and director nominees of the Company, (iii) the currently existing Named Executive Officers of the Company, and (iv) all current directors, director nominees and executive officers as a group. As of March 31, 2024, there were 3,521,710 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. Additional information regarding the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the issued and outstanding common stock of the Company at December 31, 2023 may be found in the Company's FR Y-6 (Annual Report of Holding Companies) located on the website of the OTCQX at https://www.otcmarkets.com.

	Common Stock Beneficially Owned				
Name	Shares Owned	Shares Which May Be Acquired Within 60 Days	Total Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Common Stock Owned <sup>(1)</sup>	
5% Shareholders					
PL Capital Advisors, LLC	337,080	7,613	344,693 <sup>(2)</sup>	9.79%	
Directors					
Nathan P. Brenna	2,080	8,183 (3)	10,263	*	
Gaylen Ghylin	18,778	15,585 <sup>(4)</sup>	34,363	*	
John W. Palmer	337,080	7,613	344,693 (5)	9.79%	
Thomas Redmann	2,080	293 (6)	2,373	*	
Michael M. Vekich	7,080	0	7,080	*	
NEOs					
Daniel Collins	3,966	0	3,966	*	
Chad Scott	1,544	0	1,544	*	
Shawn Cleveland	13,937	0	13,937	*	
All Current Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers as a Group					
(13 persons)	424,913	31,674 (7)	456,587	12.96%	

<sup>\*</sup> Represents beneficial ownership of less than 1% of our outstanding shares of common stock.

- (1) The percent was calculated based on 3,521,710 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of March 31, 2024.
- (2) Includes shares owned by PL Capital Advisors, LLC or its associates or affiliates. John W. Palmer is a managing member of PL Capital Advisors, LLC and therefore may be deemed to beneficially own these shares. Also includes 2,180 shares directly owned by John W. Palmer and 7,613 common stock equivalents credited to Mr. Palmer's deferred stock account under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.
- (3) Includes 8,183 common stock equivalents credited to Mr. Brenna's deferred stock account under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.
- (4) Includes 15,585 common stock equivalents credited to Mr. Ghylin's deferred stock account under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.
- (5) Includes shares owned by PL Capital Advisors, LLC, or its associates or affiliates. John W. Palmer is a managing member of PL Capital Advisors, LLC and therefore may be deemed to beneficially own these shares. Also includes 2,180 shares directly owned by John W. Palmer and 7,613 common stock equivalents credited to Mr. Palmer's deferred stock account under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.
- (6) Includes 293 common stock equivalents credited to Mr. Redmann's deferred stock account under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.
- (7) Includes 31,674 common stock equivalents under the BNCCORP, INC. Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors.

#### PROPOSAL 2: RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board has again appointed CliftonLarsonAllen LLP ("CLA") to act as the independent auditor for BNC for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

Although it is not required to do so, our Board of Directors wishes to submit the selection of CLA for ratification by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting on a non-binding basis. Even if this selection is ratified by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting, our Audit Committee and Board may, in their discretion, change the appointment at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of BNC and our stockholders. If our stockholders do not ratify the selection of CLA, our Audit Committee and Board will reconsider whether to retain CLA or appoint another independent auditor.

#### FEES PAID TO OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS

CLA acted as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023 and performed the Company's audit services for the fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The following table describes services rendered by CLA to the Company, and fees paid by the Company to CLA for such services, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

Services Rendered	2023	2022
Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 113,000	\$ 144,000
Audit-Related Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,700
Tax Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0
All Other Fees <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 28,609	\$ 22,033
Total	\$ 155,609	\$ 178,733

- (1) Audit fees consisted of the annual audit of our consolidated financial statements and audits of compliance with HUD assisted programs.
- (2) Audit-Related fees consisted of employee benefit plan audits.
- (3) Includes fees for all other audit related services and out of pocket expenses.

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP.

#### AVAILABILITY OF YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

The Company's common stock is currently traded on the OTCQX, the marketplace operated by OTC Markets Group, under the trading symbol "BNCC".

The Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, this Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Company's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 are available at <a href="https://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024">www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/BNCC2024</a> and on the website of the OTCQX at <a href="https://www.otcmarkets.com">https://www.otcmarkets.com</a>. A hard copy of the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, this Proxy Statement and Annual Report will be provided without charge upon written request to Tracey Herschman, Corporate Secretary, BNCCORP, INC., 322 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501, or by calling (612) 305-2214.

# STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS, NOMINATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Director nominations and stockholder proposals not included in proxy mailings may be submitted for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders if they meet the timing and information requirements set forth in BNC's bylaws.

Stockholders must deliver notice of a proposal or director nomination to the Company's Corporate Secretary between February 20, 2025 and March 22, 2025, but if the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is not held on a date that is within 30 days before or after the anniversary of the Annual Meeting, then the deadline is ten days after the earlier of the date that: (i) public disclosure of the date of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders was made; or (ii) notice of the date of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders was mailed. Stockholders can nominate directors at the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders if the nomination: (i) is submitted to BNC's Corporate Secretary by the deadline set forth above; and (ii) satisfies the informational and other requirements in the bylaws of BNC as determined by the Board. BNC reserves the right to vote all proxies as it determines in its discretion on any stockholder proposals or nominations, pursuant to authority provided on the proxy card.

#### PROCEDURES REGARDING DIRECTOR CANDIDATES RECOMMENDED BY STOCKHOLDERS

The Board will consider director nominees recommended by stockholders in accordance with the Policy on Security Holder Recommendations of Candidates for Election as Directors established by the Board (the "Policy for Director Recommendations"). A copy of the Policy on Stockholder Nominees is available on the Company's website at <a href="https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance">https://www.bnc.bank/resources/corporate-governance</a>.

Generally, a stockholder who wishes to recommend a person or persons for consideration by the Board as a nominee for election to the Board must send a written notice by mail, c/o Tracey Herschman, Corporate Secretary, BNCCORP, INC., 322 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501, that sets forth (i) the name, age, business address and residential address of each person proposed for nomination; (ii) the principal occupation or employment of such person; (iii) the class and number of shares of capital stock of BNC of which such person is the beneficial owner; and (iv) any other information relating to such person that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement prepared in accordance with Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations thereunder had such nominee been nominated by the Board, including any information necessary to determine whether such person satisfies applicable independence standards. Stockholder recommendations will be considered only if received not more than 150 days and not less than 120 days in advance of the first anniversary of the date on which the Company's proxy statement for the preceding year's meeting was mailed to stockholders (on or after December 8, 2024 but no later than January 7, 2025 with respect to recommendations for nominees to be considered at the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders).

#### STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS WITH DIRECTORS

Stockholders may communicate with the Board of Directors or any individual director by sending a letter to Tracey Herschman, Corporate Secretary, BNCCORP, INC., 322 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501. Ms. Herschman will forward the stockholder's communication directly to the appropriate director or directors.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. The solicitation will be primarily by mail. In addition to the use of mail, some of the officers, directors and regular employees of the Company and its subsidiaries may solicit proxies by telephone, e-mail or personal interview without additional compensation therefor. The Company will reimburse banks, brokerage houses and other institutions, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy material to their principals.

Regardless of the number of shares you hold, it is important that your common stock be represented at the Annual Meeting to establish a quorum. You are strongly encouraged to date and sign your proxy or voting instruction card and return it without delay in the enclosed pre-postage paid return envelope, even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Tracey Herschman Corporate Secretary

Bismarck, North Dakota May 7, 2024