

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 28, 2010

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

Filed by the Registrant ☒

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ☐

Check the appropriate box:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Preliminary Proxy Statement | ☐ Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12 |
| ☐ Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) | |
| ☒ Definitive Proxy Statement | |
| ☐ Definitive Additional Materials | |

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- ☒ No fee required.
- ☐ Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

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4) Date Filed:

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP.
885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720
New York, New York 10022
(212) 644-2400

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2010

Dear Shareholders:

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Siebert Financial Corp., a New York corporation, at The Harmonie Club, 4 East 60th Street, New York, NY, on Friday, June 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., local time. The meeting's purpose is to:

1. Elect six directors; and
 2. Consider any other matters that are properly presented at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof.
- You may vote at the Annual Meeting if you were one of our shareholders of record at the close of business on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Along with the attached Proxy Statement, we are also enclosing a copy of our Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes our financial statements.

To assure your representation at the meeting, please vote by Internet or telephone or sign and mail the enclosed proxy as soon as possible. We have enclosed a return envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. Your proxy is being solicited by the Board of Directors. Shareholders who attend the meeting may revoke their proxy and vote their shares in person.

PLEASE VOTE YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Daniel Iesu

Secretary

New York, New York
April 30, 2010

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING:

This Notice and Proxy Statement, our Proxy Card and our Annual Report also are available at www.proxyvote.com by entering the control number found on the enclosed Proxy Card

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP.
885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720
New York, New York 10022
(212) 644-2400

**PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF
SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2010**

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING

Annual Meeting: June 4, 2010
10:00 a.m., local time
The Harmonie Club
4 East 60th Street
New York, New York

Record Date: Close of business on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. If you were a shareholder at that time, you may vote at the meeting. Each share is entitled to one vote. On the record date, we had 22,185,325 shares of our common stock outstanding and entitled to vote. Of those shares, 19,878,700 shares were beneficially owned or controlled by Muriel F. Siebert, our Chairwoman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and one of our directors. This proxy statement and form of proxy were first mailed to shareholders on or about April 30, 2010.

Quorum: The holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock, present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote, will constitute a quorum at the meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining the presence or absence of a quorum.

Agenda:

1. Elect six directors.
2. Any other proper business. However, we currently are not aware of any other matters that will come before the meeting.

Vote Required: The six nominees for director who receive the most votes will be elected. If you withhold authority to vote for any nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not count either for or against the nominee.

Broker Non-votes: If you hold your common stock through a nominee, generally the nominee may vote the common stock that it holds for you only in accordance with your instructions. Brokers who are members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority may not vote shares held by them in nominee name unless they are permitted to do so under the rules of any national securities exchange to which they belong. Under New York Stock Exchange rules, a member broker that has transmitted proxy soliciting materials to a beneficial owner may vote on matters that the New York Stock Exchange has determined to be routine if the beneficial owner has not provided the broker with voting instructions within ten days of the meeting. If a nominee cannot vote on a particular matter because it is not routine, there is a broker non-vote on that matter. Broker non-votes count for quorum purposes, but we do not count broker non-votes as votes for or against any proposal. Under the New York Stock Exchange rules, the proposal relating to the election of directors is deemed to be a nonroutine matter with respect to which brokers and nominees may not exercise their voting discretion without receiving instructions from the beneficial owner of the shares.

Proxies:

Please vote; your vote is important. Prompt return of your proxy will help avoid the costs of re-solicitation. Unless you tell us on the proxy card to vote differently, we will vote signed returned proxies FOR each of the Board of Directors nominees for director.

If any nominee cannot or will not serve as a director, your proxy will vote in accordance with his or her best judgment. At the time we began printing this proxy statement, we did not know of any matters that needed to be acted upon at the meeting other than those discussed in this proxy statement. However, if any additional matters are presented to the shareholders for action at the meeting, your proxy will vote in accordance with his or her best judgment.

Proxies Solicited By:

The Board of Directors.

Revoking Your Proxy:

You may revoke your proxy before it is voted at the meeting. Proxies may be revoked if you:

1. deliver a signed, written revocation letter, dated later than the proxy, to Daniel Iesu, Secretary, Siebert Financial Corp., 885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720, New York, New York 10022;
2. deliver a signed proxy, dated later than the first proxy, to Mr. Iesu at the address above; or
3. attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person or by proxy. Attending the meeting without doing more will not revoke your proxy.

Cost of Solicitation:

We will pay all costs of soliciting these proxies, estimated at \$3,500 in the aggregate. Although we are mailing these proxy materials, our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile, mail or personal contact. These persons will receive no compensation for their services, but we may reimburse them for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. We will also furnish copies of solicitation materials to fiduciaries, custodians, nominees and brokerage houses for forwarding to beneficial owners of our shares of common stock held in their names, and we will reimburse them for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. is assisting us in the solicitation of proxies for the meeting for no additional fee.

Your Comments:

Your comments about any aspects of our business are welcome. Although we may not respond on an individual basis, your comments help us to measure your satisfaction, and we may benefit from your suggestions.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Generally:

Our Board of Directors nominated six directors for election at the annual meeting. All the nominees for election as director are currently serving as our directors. All the nominees have consented to be named and have indicated their intent to serve if elected. If elected, each director will hold office until the next annual meeting or until the director's successor has been duly elected. All our directors, other than Ms. Siebert, are independent within the meaning of Rule 5605(a)(2) of The Nasdaq Stock Market.

Nominees:

MURIEL F. SIEBERT

Age 77

Muriel Siebert has been Chairwoman, Chief Executive Officer, President and a director of Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc. since 1969 and of Siebert Financial Corp. (the Company) since November 8, 1996. She is a director of the New York State Business Council, and the Greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

On December 28, 1967, Ms. Siebert became the first woman member of the New York Stock Exchange. Ms. Siebert served as Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York from 1977 to 1982. In March 2009, Ms. Siebert was inducted into the U.S. Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Siebert previously served on the executive committee of the Economic Club of New York, of which she is still a member, and formerly served on the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination, which is involved in the selection of Associate Judges for the Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Committee of 200 (an international organization of pre-eminent businesswomen), the International Women's Forum and the New York Women's Forum of which she was a founder and former president. Ms. Siebert provides expertise on financial brokerage matters, and is a sought-after speaker on current financial matters and a frequent commentator on the major financial news networks.

PATRICIA L. FRANCY

Age 64

Patricia Francy retired as Special Advisor for Alumni Relations and Retired Treasurer & Controller, Columbia University, December 31, 2005. Ms. Francy is also a director of Old Westbury Funds, Inc., the Matheson Foundation, the Siebert Foundation, the Respect for Law and Alliance and the Metropolitan New York Library Council. Ms. Francy became a director on March 11, 1997.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

Patricia Francy served as Treasurer and Controller of Columbia University from 1989 until 2003. Ms. Francy had been affiliated with Columbia University since 1968, and has served as a Director of Finance and Director of Budget Operations. Ms. Francy is governor emeritus of the Columbia University Club of New York, and a former director for the Children's Tumor Foundation, and continues to serve on the finance committees of both organizations. She serves on Outward Bound Custom Programs. Ms. Francy participates as director emeritus of Junior Achievement Worldwide, and is a member of the Economic Club of New York and the International Women's Forum. Ms. Francy provides expertise on financial matters.

**NANCY PETERSON
HEARN**
Age 76

Nancy Peterson Hearn served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Peterson Tool Company, Inc. from 1979 to 2009. She is now Chairman of the Board. Ms. Hearn became a director on June 4, 2001.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

A nationally recognized business entrepreneur, Ms. Hearn was the first American to earn the prestigious Veve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award (in 1990). Ms. Hearn has a distinguished leadership record that includes roles on some of the most prestigious boards in the nation. She has served as Southeast Region chair for C200, which established the Nancy Sanders Peterson Scholars Award in her honor. She chaired the C200 Auction from 2000 to 2008, and her efforts have helped to raise several millions of dollars for the C200 Foundation. She also serves on the board of The Society of International Business Fellows, the Aquinas College Board of Governors, and the Mississippi University for Women's National Board of Distinguished Women. Ms. Hearn's longstanding record of community activism includes past roles on the Tennessee Workforce Development Board and the Tennessee Council on Vocational Education, and she has been recognized by The National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth. As a spokesperson for private industry, she champions the advancement of sound economic policies and professional healthcare standards. Ms. Hearn provides expertise on economic matters.

LEONARD M. LEIMAN
Age 78

Leonard Leiman is of counsel to the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., New York, New York. Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. provides legal services to

us. Mr. Leiman became a director on May 2, 2002.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

Prior to becoming of counsel in 2002, Mr. Leiman was a partner in Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. from 1963 to 2001 except for two years during which he was an official of the Securities and Exchange Commission. During his practice, Mr. Leiman has specialized in corporate and securities law, and has represented large and small broker-dealers, investment advisers, investment companies and investment bankers, as well as other business organizations. He was a member of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, was a member of the Legal Affairs Committee of the New York Stock Exchange, and has been a director of several New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ traded corporations. Mr. Leiman is a member of the Committee on Federal Regulation of Securities of the American Bar Association and has served as chair of the Committee on Securities Regulation of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Mr. Leiman provides expertise on legal matters.

JANE H. MACON
Age 63

Jane Macon has been a partner in the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., San Antonio, Texas since 1984. Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. provides legal services to us. Ms. Macon became a director on November 8, 1996.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

Ms. Macon centers her legal practice on public finance and administrative law, public and private partnerships, real estate, zoning, platting, condemnation and municipal bonds. Prior to joining Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. in 1983, Ms. Macon served as the first female city attorney of the City of San Antonio where she served in that position from 1977 to 1983. Active in professional organizations, Ms. Macon is a past president of the International Women's Forum, the Women Lawyers of Texas and the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association. She presently serves as the program chair of the San Antonio Bar Association, president of the Southwestern Legal Foundation, director of the Women's Advocacy Board, a director of the Texas City Attorneys Association, and she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the following national boards: NOW Legal Defense Fund, Child Care Action Campaign, Center for Democracy, National Women's Political Caucus, National Nurses League and National Civic League (formerly National Municipal League). Ms. Macon is also a member of the

San Antonio and American Bar Associations and the State Bar of Texas. She has received both awards as Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas and the Outstanding Young Lawyer of San Antonio and is listed in Who's Who in America. Ms. Macon provides expertise on legal matters.

**ROBERT P.
MAZZARELLA**
Age 63

Robert Mazzarella is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pyxis Mobile in Waltham, Massachusetts. Mr. Mazzarella also serves as a director and as member of the audit and compensation committees of Placemark Investments, Inc., a registered investment adviser in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Surge Trading Inc. He likewise serves as a Board Member of NASDAQ OMX BX and as the Chairman of the Boston Options Exchange Regulatory Board. Mr. Mazzarella also acts as a consultant to a number of major financial services firms and venture capital firms. Mr. Mazzarella became a director on March 1, 2004.

Specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills:

Mr. Mazzarella retired from Fidelity Investments Brokerage Services LLC in January 2002, at which time he served as its president. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Mazzarella qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr. Mazzarella provides expertise on financial and brokerage matters.

Vote Required:

The six nominees for director who receive the most votes will be elected. The enclosed proxy allows you to vote for the election of all the nominees listed, to withhold authority to vote for one or more of the nominees or to withhold authority to vote for all the nominees. If you withhold authority to vote for any nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not count either for or against the nominee.

The persons named in the enclosed proxy intend to vote FOR the election of all the nominees. Each of the nominees currently serves as a director and has consented to be nominated. We do not foresee that any of the nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve, but if such a situation should arise, your proxy will vote in accordance with his or her best judgment.

THE BOARD DEEMS THIS PROPOSAL TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP. AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS AND RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings:

The Board of Directors held five meetings during 2009. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of his or her Board of Directors meetings and all of his or her committee meetings.

Controlled Company:

We are a Controlled Company as defined in Rule 5615(c)(1) of the Nasdaq Stock Market because Muriel Siebert holds more than 50% of our voting power. As a Controlled Company we are not required to have a majority of our Board of Directors comprised of independent directors, a compensation committee comprised solely of independent directors or a nominating committee comprised solely of independent directors.

Audit Committee of the Board of Directors:

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors currently consists of Ms. Francy, Chairwoman, Ms. Hearn and Mr. Mazzarella. The Board of Directors has determined that Ms. Francy, Mr. Mazzarella and Ms. Hearn are independent within the meaning of Rule 5605(a)(2) of The Nasdaq Stock Market and within the meaning of the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee held five meetings during 2009.

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Mazzarella qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Audit Committee was established to (i) assist the Board of Directors in its oversight responsibilities regarding the integrity of our financial statements, our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and our auditor's qualifications and independence, (ii) prepare the report of the Audit Committee contained herein, (iii) retain, consider the continued retention and terminate our independent auditors, (iv) approve audit and non-audit services performed by our independent auditors and (v) perform any other functions from time to time delegated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is available on the website of Muriel Siebert & Co., LLC at <https://www.siebertnet.com/html/StartAboutAuditCommittee.aspx>.

Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors:

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors currently consists of Ms. Macon, Chairwoman, Ms. Francy and Mr. Mazzarella. The Compensation Committee reviews and determines all forms of compensation provided to our executive officers and directors. The Compensation Committee also administers our stock option and other employee benefit plans. The Compensation Committee does not function pursuant to a formal written charter and as a Controlled Company we are not required to comply with The Nasdaq Stock Market's independence requirements. The Compensation Committee held two meetings during 2009.

The Compensation Committee evaluates the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in terms of our operating results and financial performance and determines her compensation in connection therewith. For the 2009 fiscal year, our Chief Executive Officer requested that her cash compensation be limited to \$150,000. The Compensation Committee determined that the cash compensation for the Chief Executive Officer be \$150,000 for the 2009 fiscal year. This amount was unchanged from 2008.

In accordance with general practice in the securities industry, our executive compensation includes base salaries, an annual cash bonus, and stock options and other equity incentives that are intended to align the financial interests of our executives with the returns to our shareholders. The Compensation Committee determines compensation of our executive officers (other than the Chief Executive Officer) after carefully reviewing self-evaluations completed by the executive officers, each executive officer's business responsibilities, current compensation, the recommendation of our Chief Executive Officer and our financial performance. We did not change the 2009 base salaries of our executive officers from the levels in effect at the end of 2008. After evaluating our financial performance in 2009, our Compensation Committee did not award our executive officers bonuses in 2009. In addition, we did not award any stock options or other equity incentives to our executive officers in 2009.

As part of its oversight of the Company's executive compensation, the Compensation Committee considers the impact of the Company's executive compensation, and the incentives created by the compensation awards that it administers, on the Company's risk profile. In addition, the Company reviews all of its compensation policies and procedures, including the incentives that they create and factors that may reduce the likelihood of excessive risk taking, to determine whether they present a significant risk to the Company. The review found that there were no excessive risks encouraged by the Company's reward programs and the rewards programs do not produce payments that have a material impact on the financial performance of the Company.

**Nominating Committee
of the Board of
Directors:**

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors currently consists of Ms. Hearn, Chairwoman, Ms. Siebert, Ms. Francy and Ms. Macon. The Nominating Committee does not function pursuant to a formal written charter and as a Controlled Company we are not required to comply with The Nasdaq Stock Market's independence requirements. The Nominating Committee did not meet in 2009 but acted in 2010 with respect to the recommendation to the Board of Directors of the nomination of each of the directors for re-election at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify individuals qualified to become members of our Board of Directors and to recommend to the Board of Directors or the shareholders that such individuals be selected for directorship. In identifying and evaluating nominees for director, the Nominating Committee considers each candidate's experience, integrity, background and skills as well as other qualities that the candidate may possess and factors that the candidate may be able to bring to the Board of Directors. We do not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. However, the Board of Directors believes that it is essential that its members represent diverse viewpoints, with a broad array of experiences, professions, skills, geographic representation and backgrounds that, when considered as a group, provide a sufficient mix of perspectives to allow the Board of Directors to best fulfill its responsibilities to the long-term interests of our shareholders.

The Nominating Committee will consider shareholder nominees for election to our Board of Directors. In evaluating such nominees, the Nominating Committee will use the same selection criteria the Nominating Committee uses to evaluate other potential nominees. Any shareholder wishing to recommend a director candidate for consideration by the Nominating Committee must do so by sending written notice to our Secretary at 885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720, New York, New York 10022, no later than January 4, 2011. Such notice must include the recommended candidate's name, experience, qualifications and biographical data, as well as information as to whether such candidate would qualify as independent within the meaning of Rule 5605(a)(2) of The Nasdaq Stock Market and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or as an audit committee financial expert under applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The submission must be accompanied by a written consent by the nominee to stand for election if nominated by the Board of Directors and to serve if elected by the shareholders and a representation that the information with respect to such nominee is truthful and accurate.

**Indemnification of
Officers and Directors:**

We indemnify our executive officers and directors to the extent permitted by applicable law against liabilities incurred as a result of their service to us and against liabilities incurred as a result of their service as directors of other corporations when serving at our request. We have a director's and officer's liability insurance policy, underwritten by Illinois National Insurance Company, a member of the American International Group, Inc., in the annual aggregate amount of \$10 million. As to reimbursements by the insurer of our indemnification expenses, the policy has a \$250,000 deductible; there is no deductible for covered liabilities of individual directors and officers.

**Annual Shareholders
Meeting Attendance
Policy:**

It is the policy of our Board of Directors that all of our directors are strongly encouraged to attend each annual shareholders meeting. All of our directors, with one exception, attended the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders.

Code of Ethics:

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers applicable to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, treasurer, controller, principal accounting officer, and any of our other employees performing similar functions. A copy of the Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is available on our website at www.siebertnet.com.

**Board Leadership
Structure and Board of
Directors**

Ms. Muriel Siebert serves as both our Chairwoman of the Board and Directors and Chief Executive Officer and President. The Company believes this structure allows all of the directors to participate in the full range of the Board's responsibilities with respect to its oversight of the Company's management. The Board of Directors has determined that this leadership structure is appropriate given the size of the Company, the number of directors overseeing the Company and the Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities.

The Board of Directors holds five to seven regular meetings each year to consider and address matters involving the Company. The Board of Directors also may hold special meetings to address matters arising between regular meetings. These meetings may take place in person or by telephone. The independent directors also regularly meet in executive sessions outside the presence of management. The Board of Directors has access to legal counsel for consultation concerning any issues that may occur during or between regularly scheduled Board meetings. As discussed above, the Board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating Committee to assist the Board in performing its oversight responsibilities.

**The Board of Directors
Role in Risk Oversight**

Consistent with its responsibility for oversight of the Company, the Board of Directors, among other things, oversees risk management of the Company's business affairs directly and through the committee structure that it has established. The principal risks associated with the Company are risks related to securities market volatility and the securities industry, lower price levels in the securities markets, intense competition in the brokerage industry, extensive government regulation, net capital requirements, customers' failure to pay, investment banking activities, continuing changes in technology, dependence on the ability to attract and retain key personnel and the ability of our principal shareholder to control many key decisions.

The Board of Directors' role in the Company's risk oversight process includes regular reports from senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, legal, regulatory, strategic and reputational risks. The full Board of Directors (or the appropriate committee) receives these reports from management to identify and discuss such risks.

The Board of Directors periodically reviews with management its strategies, techniques, policies and procedures designed to manage these risks. Under the overall supervision of the Board of Directors, management has implemented a variety of processes, procedures and controls to address these risks.

The Board of Directors requires management to report to the full Board of Directors on a variety of matters at regular meetings of the Board of Directors and on an as-needed basis, including the performance and operations of the Company and other matters relating to risk management. The Audit Committee also receives regular reports from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. These reviews are conducted in conjunction with the Board of Directors' risk oversight function and enable the Board of Directors to review and assess any material risks facing the Company. The Board of Directors does not have a lead independent director.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

**Management
Ownership:**

The following table lists share ownership of our common stock as of April 5, 2010. The information includes beneficial ownership by each of our directors, the persons named in the Summary Compensation Table, all directors and executive officers as a group and beneficial owners known by our management to hold at least 5% of our common stock. To our knowledge, each person named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by such person. Any information in the table on beneficial owners known by management to hold at least 5% of our common stock is based on information furnished to us by such persons or groups and statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Name of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Shares of Common Stock	Percent of Class
Muriel F. Siebert	20,628,700 ⁽²⁾	89.9%
Ameen Esmail	25,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Joseph M. Ramos, Jr.	15,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Jeanne M. Rosendale	25,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Timothy O Leary	0	*
Daniel Iesu	40,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Patricia L. Francy	101,000 ⁽⁴⁾	*
Nancy Peterson Hearn	100,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Leonard M. Leiman	102,000 ⁽⁴⁾	*
Jane H. Macon	101,000 ⁽⁴⁾	*
Robert P. Mazzarella	100,000 ⁽³⁾	*
Directors and current executive officers as a group (11 persons)	21,237,700 ⁽⁵⁾	90.2%

* Less than 1%

- (1) The address for each person named in the table is c/o Siebert Financial Corp., 885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720, New York, New York 10022.
- (2) Includes an option to purchase 750,000 shares of our common stock which is currently exercisable.
- (3) Represents options to purchase shares of our common stock which are currently exercisable.
- (4) Includes options to purchase 100,000 shares of our common stock which are currently exercisable.
- (5) Includes options to purchase an aggregate of 1,355,000 shares of our common stock described above which are currently exercisable.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table

The following table shows, for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, the annual compensation paid to or earned by (1) our Chief Executive Officer and (2) each of the five most highly compensated individuals who were serving as our executive officers at December 31, 2009 (collectively, the Named Executive Officers).

Name and principal position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Muriel F. Siebert <i>Chairwoman and President</i>	2009	150,000							150,000
	2008	150,000							150,000
Joseph M. Ramos, Jr. ⁽²⁾ <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer</i>	2009	195,000							195,000
	2008	195,000	98,000						293,000
Ameen Esmail <i>Executive Vice President and Director of Business Development</i>	2009	185,000							185,000
	2008	185,000	88,000						273,000
Jeanne M. Rosendale <i>Executive Vice President and General Counsel</i>	2009	300,000							300,000
	2008	300,000	145,000						445,000
Timothy O. Leary <i>Executive Vice President</i>	2009	200,000 ⁽³⁾							200,000
	2008	200,000 ⁽³⁾	95,000						295,000
Daniel Iesu <i>Secretary</i>	2009	120,000							120,000
	2008	120,000	80,000						200,000

(1) Represents the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting in accordance with FAS 123(R).

(2) Mr. Ramos also serves as Chief Financial Officer of Siebert, Brandford, Shank & Co., L.L.C. and is separately compensated by Siebert Brandford Shank for such services.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

Our Compensation Committee did not approve grants of options to purchase our common stock or other equity awards under our 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan to any of our Named Executive Officers in 2009.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009

The following table sets forth the outstanding equity award holdings of our Named Executive Officers at December 31, 2009.

Name	OPTION AWARDS					STOCK AWARDS			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option 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 (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)
Muriel F. Siebert	750,000			4.30	4/19/2012				
Joseph M. Ramos, Jr.	15,000	10,000 ⁽¹⁾		2.75	8/17/2016				
Ameen Esmail	25,000			5.06	7/3/2013				
Jeanne M. Rosendale	25,000 ⁽²⁾			4.75	5/4/2014				
Timothy O. Leary									
Daniel Iesu	40,000			5.33	2/27/2011				

(1) These options vested as to 5,000 shares on each of August 17, 2007 and August 17, 2008 and vest as to an additional 5,000 shares on each of August 17, 2009, August 17, 2010 and August 17, 2011. This vesting schedule is accelerated upon a change of control.

(2) These options became fully vested on May 4, 2009.

Termination of Employment and Change-in-Control Arrangements

Employment Agreements. We are not a party to an employment agreement with any Named Executive Officer. All of our Named Executive Officers are employees at-will.

Option Agreements. The Option Agreements we entered into with each of Mr. Ramos and Ms. Rosendale provide that in the event of a Change of Control of our company (as defined below) the options shall immediately become fully exercisable. A Change of Control means the occurrence of (i) any consolidation or merger in which we are not the surviving entity or pursuant to which shares of our common stock are converted into cash, securities or other property, other than a consolidation or merger in which the holders of our common stock immediately prior to such consolidation or merger own not less than fifty percent of the total voting power of the surviving entity following the merger, (ii) any sale of all or substantially all of our assets, (iii) the approval by our shareholders of any plan of complete liquidation or dissolution or (iv) any person or entity becoming the owner of 50% or more of our common stock. All options to purchase our common stock issued to Ms. Siebert and Mr. Iesu have vested and are fully exercisable.

Compensation of Directors

During 2009 our non-employee directors received cash compensation of \$30,000 for service on our Board of Directors. We do not compensate our employees or employees of our subsidiaries for service as directors. The chairs of the Board of Directors Audit and Compensation Committees and the Audit Committee Financial Expert each receive an additional annual fee of \$10,000. Directors fees are paid quarterly.

Director Compensation

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Compensation Earnings (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Muriel F. Siebert ⁽¹⁾							
Patricia L. Francy ⁽²⁾	40,000						40,000
Leonard M. Leiman	30,000						30,000
Jane H. Macon ⁽³⁾	40,000						40,000
Robert P. Mazzarella ⁽⁴⁾	40,000						40,000
Nancy Peterson Hearn	30,000						30,000

- (1) Ms. Siebert is the Chairwoman, President and Chief Executive Officer and accordingly does not receive any compensation for her services as a director.
- (2) Ms. Francy is the Chairwoman of the Audit Committee.
- (3) Ms. Macon is the Chairwoman of the Compensation Committee.
- (4) Mr. Mazzarella is the Audit Committee Financial Expert.

**Audit Committee
Report to
Shareholders:**

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The Audit Committee has also discussed with our independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, Communications with Audit Committees, including our critical accounting policies and our interests, if any, in off balance sheet entities. Additionally, the Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and representations from the independent registered public accounting firm required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees, and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the independent registered public accounting firm's independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to within this report, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 be included in Siebert Financial Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Audit Committee,
Patricia L. Francy, *Chairwoman*
Nancy Peterson Hearn
Robert P. Mazzarella

**Section 16(a)
Beneficial Ownership
Reporting
Compliance:**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our executive officers and directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our common stock to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

These executive officers, directors and shareholders are required by the Securities and Exchange Commission to furnish us with copies of all forms they file pursuant to Section 16(a).

Based solely upon a review of the copies of the forms furnished to us, we believe that during fiscal 2009 all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners were complied with on a timely basis.

Householding

If you share an address with another shareholder, only one copy of our Annual Report and proxy statement is being delivered unless we have received contrary instructions from you. We will promptly deliver a separate copy of either document to any shareholder upon written or oral request to our Secretary at Siebert Financial Corp., 885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720, New York, New York 10022, telephone (212) 644-2400. If you share an address with another shareholder and (i) would like to receive multiple copies of the proxy statement or Annual Report to Shareholders in the future, or (ii) if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy per household in the future, please contact your bank, broker, or other nominee record holder, or you may contact us at the above address and phone number.

RELATIONSHIP WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Eisner LLP currently serves as our independent registered public accounting firm. A representative of Eisner LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so, and will respond to appropriate questions from shareholders.

Audit Fees

Audit Fees. The aggregate fees billed by Eisner LLP for professional services rendered for the audit of our annual financial statements and reviews of our quarterly financial statements were \$242,000 and \$190,000 for the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively.

Audit-Related Fees. Eisner LLP did not perform any audit-related services during the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008.

Tax Fees. The aggregate fees billed by Eisner LLP during the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 for tax compliance services totaled \$78,000 and \$51,000, respectively.

All Other Fees. The aggregate fees billed by Eisner LLP during the years ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 for other products and services totaled \$21,000 and \$56,000, respectively. Other fees during the year ended December 31, 2009 related to the audit of our 401(k) Plan. Other fees during the year ended December 31, 2008 related to the audit of our 401(k) Plan and the review of our compliance with the terms and conditions of an agreement with a third party.

Our Audit Committee has determined that the services described above that were rendered by Eisner LLP are compatible with the maintenance of Eisner LLP's independence from our management.

Pre-Approval Policy

The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services provided by our independent auditors prior to the engagement of the independent auditors with respect to such services. With respect to audit services and permissible non-audit services not previously approved, the Audit Committee has authorized the Chairwoman of the Audit Committee to approve such audit services and permissible non-audit services, provided the Chairwoman informs the Audit Committee of such approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting. All Audit Fees, Tax Fees and All Other Fees set forth above were pre-approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with its pre-approval policy.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Review and Approval of Related Party Transactions

As set forth in our Amended and Restated Audit Committee Charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all related party transactions.

Our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers, applicable to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, controller, treasurer, principal accounting officer and other employees performing similar functions, provides that our Senior Financial Officers should endeavor to avoid any actual or potential conflict of interest between their personal and professional relationships and requires them to promptly report and disclose all material facts relating to any such relationships or financial interests which give rise, directly or indirectly, to an actual or potential conflict of interest to the Audit Committee. The Code of Ethics also provides that no Senior Financial Officer should knowingly become involved in any actual or potential conflict of interest without the relationship or financial interest having been approved by the Audit Committee. Our Code of Ethics does not specify the standards that the Audit Committee would apply to a request for a waiver of this policy.

**SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE
2011 ANNUAL MEETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

If you wish to submit proposals to be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, the proposals must be received by us no later than January 4, 2011 to be included in our proxy materials for that meeting.

The Board of Directors maintains a process for shareholders to communicate with the Board of Directors or individual directors as follows. Shareholders who wish to communicate with the Board of Directors or an individual director should direct written correspondence to our Secretary at our principal office at 885 Third Avenue, Suite 1720, New York, New York 10022. Any such communication must contain (i) a representation that the shareholder is a holder of record of our common stock, (ii) the name and address, as they appear on our books, of the shareholder sending such communication and (iii) the number of shares of our common stock that are beneficially owned by such shareholder. The Secretary will forward such communications to the Board of Directors or a specified individual director to whom the communication is directed unless such communication is unduly hostile, threatening, illegal or similarly inappropriate, in which case the Secretary has the authority to discard the communication or take appropriate legal action regarding such communication.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board does not know of any other matters to be presented at the meeting. If any additional matters are properly presented to the shareholders for action at the meeting, the persons named in the enclosed proxies and acting thereunder will have discretion to vote on these matters in accordance with their own judgment.

YOU MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF OUR ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WITHOUT CHARGE BY WRITING TO: DANIEL IESU, SECRETARY, SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP., 885 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1720, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 OR CALLING 800-872-0711.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Daniel Iesu
Secretary

Dated: April 30, 2010

PLEASE VOTE BY INTERNET OR TELEPHONE OR COMPLETE, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

PLEASE VOTE YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT