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PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION INC
Form DEF 14A
October 15, 2001

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FILED BY THE REGISTRANT /X/
FILED BY A PARTY OTHER THAN THE REGISTRANT / /

Check the appropriate box:

- / / Preliminary Proxy Statement
- /X/ Definitive Proxy Statement
- / / Definitive Additional Materials
- / / Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12
- / / Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

(NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

(NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING PROXY STATEMENT, IF OTHER THAN THE REGISTRANT)

PAYMENT OF FILING FEE (CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX):

- /X/ No fee required.
- / / Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - 1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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

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

 - 4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

 - 5) Total fee paid:

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

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

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3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.
22 EAST BROADWAY
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS 01440

October 15, 2001

To the Shareholders:

The Board of Directors and Officers of Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. invite you to attend the 2001 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, Massachusetts.

A copy of the Proxy Statement and the Company's 2001 Annual Report to Shareholders are enclosed.

If you cannot be present at the meeting, please mark, date, and sign the enclosed proxy and return it as soon as possible in the enclosed envelope.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD E. FORKEY
PRESIDENT

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.
22 EAST BROADWAY
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS 01440

NOTICE OF 2001 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
NOVEMBER 13, 2001

The 2001 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. (the "Company") will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, Massachusetts, for the following purposes:

1. To elect two directors to hold office for a three-year term and until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified.
2. To transact any and all other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

All shareholders of record at the close of business on Friday, September 28, 2001, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Shareholders are requested to sign and date the enclosed proxy and return it in the enclosed envelope. The envelope requires no postage if mailed in the United States.

By Order of the Board of Directors

JACK P. DREIMILLER
CLERK

October 15, 2001

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PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

GENERAL

This Proxy Statement and form of proxy are furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Precision Optics Corporation, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation (the "Company"), for the 2001 annual meeting of shareholders of the Company to be held November 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, Massachusetts, and any adjournments thereof, for the purposes set forth in the notice of meeting. The Company was incorporated in 1982, and its principal executive offices are at 22 East Broadway, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440 (telephone 978-630-1800). This Proxy Statement and form of proxy are first being distributed to shareholders on or about October 15, 2001.

VOTING RIGHTS AND OUTSTANDING SHARES

As of September 28, 2001, the Company had outstanding 10,503,908 shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value (the "Common Stock"). Each share of Common Stock entitles the holder of record thereof at the close of business on September 28, 2001 to one vote in person or by proxy on the matters to be voted upon at the meeting.

The Company will bear all the costs of the solicitation of proxies. The Board of Directors may arrange with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries to forward solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of the stock held of record by such persons, and the Company may reimburse them for the reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in so doing. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by use of the mails, the Company may use the services of some of its directors, officers and regular employees (who will receive no compensation therefor in addition to their regular salaries) to solicit proxies personally or by mail or telephone.

Consistent with Massachusetts law and the Company's by-laws, the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to be cast on a particular matter, present in person or represented by proxy, constitutes a quorum as to such matter. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the annual meeting will be counted by persons appointed by the Company to act as election inspectors for the meeting.

If the enclosed form of proxy is properly signed and returned and not revoked, the shares represented thereby will be voted at the annual meeting. If the shareholder specifies in the proxy how the shares are to be voted, they will be voted as specified. If the shareholder does not specify how the shares are to be voted, such shares will be voted in favor of the proposal described in Item 1 below. Shares represented by proxies that indicate an abstention or a "broker non-vote" (that is, shares represented at the Meeting held by brokers or nominees as to which (i) instructions have not been received from the beneficial owners or persons entitled to vote and (ii) the broker or nominee does not have the discretionary voting power on a particular matter) will be counted as shares that are present and entitled to vote on the matter for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Shares indicating an abstention will be treated as votes against the proposal; shares indicating a broker non-vote, however, will not constitute votes cast at the meeting and thus will have no effect on the outcome. The election of directors described in Item 1 requires a plurality of votes cast. Should either of the persons so named below as nominees for the Board of Directors be unable or unwilling to serve as director, the persons

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named in the form of proxy for the annual meeting may, in their discretion, vote for such other person or may vote to fix the number of directors at such number less than six, as the Board of Directors may recommend.

Any shareholder has the right to revoke his or her proxy at any time before it is voted by: (1) attending the meeting and voting in person, (2) by filing with the Clerk of the Company a written instrument revoking the proxy or (3) delivering to the Clerk another newly executed proxy bearing a later date.

At the date hereof, the Company's management has no knowledge of any business other than that described in the notice for the annual meeting which will be presented for consideration at such meeting. If any other business should come before such meeting, the persons appointed by the enclosed form of proxy may, in their discretion, vote all such proxies in the manner which the Board of Directors may recommend. The persons appointed by the enclosed form of proxy also may, in their discretion, vote all proxies with respect to matters incident to the conduct of the meeting.

ITEM 1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company's Board of Directors is divided into three classes that are equal in number, with staggered terms of office. Only one class is elected each year, and each director serves a three year term and until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified. The Board of Directors has fixed the number of directors at six. At the annual meeting it is intended that the Company's Class II Directors (Messrs. Marx and Pitlor) be elected to hold office until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2004 and until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified. The nominees are currently directors of the Company. The directors in Class I (Messrs. Forkey and Benjamin) will hold office until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2003, and the directors in Class III (Dr. Macleod and Mr. Shannon) will hold office until the annual meeting of shareholders in 2002 (and in each case, until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified). The names, ages, principal occupations for at least the last five years, and certain other information with regard to the directors, including the nominees, are as follows:

| NAME AND YEAR FIRST ELECTED DIRECTOR ----- | AGE --- | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION; DIRECTORSHIPS OF OTH ----- |
|--|------------|--|
| Richard E. Forkey (1982)*..... | 61 | President, Chief Executive Officer, Treasurer of the Company since founding the Company, the Company from May 1983 to June 1990. |
| Edward A. Benjamin (1990)*..... | 63 | Clerk of the Company from June 1990 to January 1992. Benjamin has been a Trustee of the Board of England Zenith Fund and a Member of the Board of New England Variable Annuity Fund I since 1992. Benjamin was a partner in the law firm of Benjamin, Cummings & Associates, Boston, Massachusetts, from 1969 to 1998. |
| H. Angus Macleod (1997)*..... | 68 | Dr. Macleod has been President of the Thin Film Optical Coatings, a firm which provides software consulting and courses for design of thin film optical coating and filters. Dr. Macleod is a professor at the University of Arizona between 1992 and 1998. |

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| NAME AND YEAR FIRST ELECTED DIRECTOR ----- | AGE --- | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION; DIRECTORSHIPS OF OTHER ----- |
|--|------------|--|
| Austin W. Marx (1998)..... | 61 | Mr. Marx has been the Managing Director of Situations Fund III, L.P., a registered investment fund based in New York City, and several other predecessor investment funds, since 1990. |
| Joel R. Pitlor (1990)..... | 62 | Since 1979, President of J.R. Pitlor, a management consulting firm that provides strategic business planning services. Pitlor founded. Mr. Pitlor has provided business consultation to the Company since 1983. Mr. Pitlor is also a director of Uroplasty, Inc., a Minnesota-based medical products supplier, since 1992. |
| Robert R. Shannon (1990)*..... | 69 | Since 1969, professor at the Optical Sciences Center, University of Arizona and Director of the Center since July 1992. |

* Directors whose terms do not expire this year.

All of the shareholders holding shares of the Company's Common Stock are entitled to cast one vote in person or by proxy for each share standing in their names and are entitled to elect two Class II directors at the 2001 annual meeting. If the nominees are not available as candidates when the election occurs, the persons named in the proxy may, in their discretion, vote for the election of such other persons as the Board of Directors may designate or to reduce the number of directors correspondingly. The Company has no reason to believe that the nominees will not be available for election.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, the Company's Board of Directors held one meeting and acted by unanimous written consent on six occasions. The Board of Directors has a standing Audit Committee composed of Messrs. Benjamin, Pitlor and Shannon. The function of the Audit Committee is to provide assistance to the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibility to the shareholders, potential shareholders and the investment community in respect of corporate accounting, reporting practices of the Company, and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of the Company. The Audit Committee held five meetings during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001. The Board does not have standing nominating or compensation committees.

Information as to ownership of the Company's securities by the nominees for director is included under the heading "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management."

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Company's executive officers as of June 30, 2001 were as follows:

| NAME ---- | AGE ----- | POSITION ----- |
|------------------------|--------------|---|
| Richard E. Forkey..... | 61 | President, Chief Executive Officer, Treasurer |

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| | | |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| Jack P. Dreimiller..... | 53 | Senior Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Clerk |
| James D. Rancourt..... | 60 | Senior Vice President, Optical Thin Films Technology |

Mr. Forkey has been the President, Chief Executive Officer, Treasurer, and a director of the Company since he founded the Company in 1982. He was the Clerk of the Company from May 1983 to June 1990.

Mr. Dreimiller has been Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer since April 1992 and Clerk since January 1998.

Dr. Rancourt has been Senior Vice President, Optical Thin Films Technology, since January 2000. From 1997 to January 2000, he was Director of Product Development at Guardian Industries, Inc. From 1995 to 1997, he was Chief Scientist at Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc.

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COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth all compensation for the last three completed fiscal years awarded to, earned by, or paid to the Company's Chief Executive Officer at June 30, 2001 and the executive officers during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 whose total annual salary and bonuses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 exceeded \$100,000 for all services rendered in all capacities to the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Named Executive Officers").

| NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION AT FISCAL YEAR END | YEAR | ANNUAL COMPENSATION | | | LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTION (NUMBER) |
|---|------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | SALARY (\$) | BONUS (\$) | OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION (\$) | |
| Richard E. Forkey..... | 2001 | 195,000 | -0- | 11,750 (1) | - |
| President, Chief Executive Officer | 2000 | 174,232 | -0- | 10,312 (1) | - |
| | 1999 | 155,002 | -0- | 5,484 (1) | - |
| Jack P. Dreimiller..... | 2001 | 150,710 | -0- | 2,705 (3) | - |
| Senior Vice President Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Clerk | 2000 | 141,252 | -0- | 2,708 (3) | 10,000 |
| | 1999 | 128,257 | 2,000 | 2,551 (3) | - |
| James D. Rancourt (5)..... | 2001 | 180,003 | -0- | 1,442 (3) | - |
| Senior Vice President, Optical Thin Films Technology | 2000 | 78,232 | 18,000 | -0- | 150,000 |

(1) Includes \$9,250, \$7,812, and \$2,384 for car expense for 2001, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

(2) Represents premiums for a life insurance policy and a disability insurance policy.

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- (3) Represents Company's matching contribution to Profit Sharing Plan.
- (4) Represents premiums for a life insurance policy.
- (5) Dr. Rancourt joined the Company in January 2000 as Senior Vice President, Optical Thin Films Technology.
- (6) Represents reimbursement for relocation expenses.

OPTION GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

No grants of stock options were made by the Company during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 to its Named Executive Officers.

AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR-END OPTION VALUES

The following table summarizes for each of the Named Executive Officers (i) the total number of shares received upon exercise of stock options during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, (ii) the aggregate dollar value realized upon such exercise, (iii) the total number of unexercised options, if any, held at June 30, 2001 and (iv) the value of unexercised in-the-money options, if any, held at June 30, 2001.

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In-the-money options are options where the fair market value of the underlying securities exceeds the exercise or base price of the option. The aggregate value realized upon exercise of a stock option is the difference between the aggregate exercise price of the option and the fair market value of the underlying stock on the date of exercise. The value of unexercised, in-the-money options at fiscal year-end is the difference between the exercise price of the option and the fair market value of the underlying stock on June 30, 2001, which was \$1.55 per share. With respect to unexercised, in-the-money options, the underlying options have not been exercised, and actual gains, if any, on exercise will depend on the value of the Company's Common Stock on the date of exercise.

| NAME | SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE (NUMBER) | VALUE REALIZED (\$) | FISCAL-YEAR-END OPTION VALUES | | A |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| | | | UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT FISCAL-YEAR END (NUMBER) | UNEXERCISABLE (NUMBER) | |
| Richard E. Forkey..... | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | |
| Jack P. Dreimiller..... | -0- | -0- | 95,000 | 5,000 | |
| James D. Rancourt..... | -0- | -0- | 60,000 | 90,000 | |

LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLANS--AWARDS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

The Company made no awards under a long term incentive plan in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The Company pays each director who is not also an employee of the Company

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\$250 per Board or committee meeting which the director attends and reimburses the director for travel expenses.

In addition, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, the Company issued pursuant to its 1997 Incentive Plan stock options exercisable for a total of 5,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock to each of Messrs. Benjamin, Pitlor, Marxe, Shannon and Dr. Macleod. Each of these options is immediately exercisable at a price per share of \$5.50.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Company has no employment contracts in place with any Named Executive Officers. The Company also has no compensatory plan or arrangement with respect to any Named Executive Officer where such plan or arrangement will result in payments to such Named Executive Officer upon or following his resignation, retirement, or other termination of employment with the Company and its subsidiaries, or as a result of a change-in-control of the Company or a change in the Named Executive Officers' responsibilities following a change-in-control.

SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

To the Company's knowledge, based solely upon a review of Forms 3 and 4 and amendments thereto furnished to the Company during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 and Forms 5 and amendments thereto furnished to the Company with respect to such fiscal year, no person required to file reports under Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 failed to file such reports on a timely basis during or with respect to such fiscal year.

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CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The Company has an arrangement with J.R. Pitlor ("J.R. Pitlor"), a company wholly owned by Mr. Pitlor, a Director of the Company, under which Mr. Pitlor provides consulting services to the Company for a fee currently not to exceed \$2,000 a month. These consulting services consist primarily of advice regarding marketing, strategic planning and other general business issues. Either party may terminate this arrangement at will. The Company paid J.R. Pitlor for consulting services aggregate fees of approximately \$45,000 for fiscal year 2000 and \$24,000 for fiscal year 2001.

The Company leases its facility in Gardner, Massachusetts from Equity Assets, Inc. ("Equity"), a company wholly owned by Mr. Forkey, the President and Treasurer and a Director of the Company, under a Lease Agreement dated January 2, 1989, at an annual base rent of \$108,000. The lease expired on December 31, 1999. The Company is currently a tenant-at-will paying rent of \$9,000 per month.

In a private placement completed in August 1999, the Company issued to investment funds affiliated with Mr. Marxe, a Director of the Company, 1,000,000 shares of its Common Stock and warrants exercisable for an additional 1,000,000 shares.

The Company has paid software and consulting fees of \$66,638 for fiscal year 2000 and \$20,000 for fiscal year 2001 to Thin Film Center, Inc., a company wholly owned by Dr. Macleod, a Director of the Company, together with his wife.

The Company has paid legal fees to Ropes & Gray, a law firm of which Mr. Benjamin, a Director of the Company, is a retired partner, of approximately \$252,611 for fiscal year 2000, and \$320,000 for fiscal year 2001.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

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The following table sets forth information regarding the Company's Common Stock owned as of the close of business on September 28, 2001, the record date for the 2001 Annual Meeting, by the following persons: (i) each person who is known by the Company to own beneficially more than 5% of the Company's Common Stock, (ii) each of the Company's directors and nominees for director who beneficially owns the Company's or its subsidiaries' Common Stock, other than directors' qualifying shares, (iii) each of the Company's Named Executive Officers who beneficially own the Company's or its subsidiaries' Common Stock, and (iv) all executive officers and directors, as a group, who beneficially own the Company's or its subsidiaries' Common Stock. The information on beneficial ownership in the table and footnotes thereto is based upon data furnished to the Company by, or on behalf of, the persons listed in the table.

| NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER ----- | AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1) ----- | PERCENT (2) ----- |
|--|---|----------------------|
| David M. Greenhouse c/o Special Situations Fund III, L.P. 153 East 53rd Street New York, NY 10022 | 851,600 (3) | 8.11% |

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| NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER ----- | AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1) ----- | PERCENT (2) ----- |
|---|---|----------------------|
| DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS | | |
| Edward A. Benjamin* c/o Ropes & Gray One International Place Boston, MA 02110 | 57,000 (4) | ** |
| Richard E. Forkey* c/o Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. 22 East Broadway Gardner, MA 01440 | 1,772,267 | 16.87% |
| H. Angus Macleod* c/o Thin Film Center, Inc. 2745 East Via Rotonda Tucson, AZ 85716 | 40,000 (5) | ** |
| Austin W. Marxe* c/o Special Situations Funds 153 East 53rd Street New York, NY 10022 | 866,600 (6) | 8.24% |
| Joel R. Pitlor* 19 Chalk Street Cambridge, MA 02139 | 51,250 (7) | ** |
| Robert R. Shannon* | 60,000 (4) | ** |

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7040 E. Taos Place
Tucson, AZ 85715

| | | |
|--|---------------|--------|
| Jack P. Dreimiller | 97,500 (5) | ** |
| c/o Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. | | |
| 22 East Broadway | | |
| Gardner, MA 01440 | | |
| James D. Rancourt | 85,000 (8) | ** |
| c/o Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. | | |
| 22 East Broadway | | |
| Gardner, MA 01440 | | |
| All officers and directors as a group, including those named above (8 persons)..... | 3,029,617 (9) | 27.95% |

* Director

** The percentage of shares beneficially owned by such person does not exceed one percent of the Company's Common Stock.

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- (1) Represents shares with respect to which each beneficial owner listed has or will have, upon acquisition of such shares upon exercise or conversion of options, warrants, conversion privileges or other rights exercisable within sixty days, sole voting and investment power.
- (2) Percentages are calculated on the basis of the amount of outstanding Common Stock plus, for each person or group, any securities that such person or group has the right to acquire within sixty days pursuant to options, warrants, conversion privileges or other rights.
- (3) Represents (i) 210,800 shares owned of record by Special Situations Private Equity Fund, L.P. ("SSPEF"); (ii) 374,300 shares owned of record by Special Situations Fund III, L.P. ("SSF III"); (iii) 149,000 shares owned of record by Special Situations Technology Fund, L.P. ("SSTF"); and (iv) 117,500 shares owned of record by Special Situations Cayman Fund, L.P. ("SSCF"). SSPEF, SSF III, SSTF and SSCF are affiliated investment funds. David Greenhouse and Austin Marx, a director of the Company, are principals of the investment funds and their respective investment advisers, M.G. Advisers, L.L.C., SST Advisers, L.L.C. AWM Investment Company, Inc.
- (4) Includes 55,000 shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon the exercise of outstanding stock options.
- (5) Represents shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon the exercise of outstanding stock options.
- (6) Includes (i) 851,600 shares owned by certain affiliated investment funds of which Mr. Marx is a principal (see footnote (3) above) and (ii) 15,000 shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon exercise of outstanding stock options awarded to Mr. Marx personally in his capacity as a Director of the Company.
- (7) Includes 11,250 shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon the exercise of outstanding stock options.
- (8) Includes 60,000 shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon the

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exercise of outstanding stock options.

- (9) Includes 333,750 shares which may be acquired within sixty days upon the exercise of outstanding stock options.

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Arthur Andersen LLP has been selected to serve as independent auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and also served as the principal accountants of the Company for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001. A representative of such firm is expected to be present at the annual meeting to respond to appropriate questions.

AUDIT FEES

The aggregate fees billed or estimated to be billed for professional services rendered by the Company's independent auditors for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 and for the reviews of the financial statements included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-QSB for that fiscal year were approximately \$58,000.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION FEES

The Company's independent auditors did not perform any financial information systems design or implementation work for the Company during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001.

ALL OTHER FEES

The aggregate fees billed for all other professional services rendered by the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 were approximately \$18,000.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee is composed of Messrs. Benjamin, Pitlor and Shannon, each of whom is "independent" as defined in Rule 4200(a)(15) of the National Association of Securities Dealers' listing standards. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, a copy of which is attached to this Proxy Statement as APPENDIX A.

The Audit Committee has submitted the following report:

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, and has discussed with the Company's independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statements on Auditing Standard No. 61 (SAS 61). SAS 61 requires independent auditors to communicate to the Audit Committee various matters, including, if applicable: (1) methods used to account for certain unusual transactions; (2) the effect of certain accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus; (3) the process used by management in formulating certain accounting estimates and the basis for the auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates and (4) disagreements with management over the application of accounting principles and certain other matters. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the Company's independent accountants required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (requiring auditors to make written disclosures to, and to discuss with, the Audit Committee, various matters relating to the auditor's independence), has

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discussed with the accountants their independence and has considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the accountants is compatible with maintaining that independence. Based on the foregoing and further review and discussion, the Audit Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Edward A. Benjamin
Joel R. Pitlor
Robert R. Shannon

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Shareholders may present proposals for inclusion in the 2002 Proxy Statement and form of proxy relating to that meeting provided they are received by the Clerk of the Company no later than June 17, 2002 and are otherwise in compliance with applicable Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

If a Shareholder who wishes to present a proposal at the Company's 2002 Annual Meeting that will not be included in the Company's proxy statement for such Annual Meeting fails to notify the Company of his or her desire to do so by August 31, 2002, then the proxies that the Board of Directors solicits for the 2002 Annual Meeting will include discretionary authority to vote on the Shareholder's proposal, if such proposal is properly brought before the meeting.

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APPENDIX A

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

ORGANIZATION

There shall be a committee of the Board of Directors to be known as the Audit Committee.

During any period in which the company qualifies as a small business issuer within the meaning of Item 10(a) of SEC Regulation S-B, the Audit Committee shall be composed of at least two members, a majority of whom are independent directors within the meaning of Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 4200(a)(15) ("Independent Directors").

During any period in which the company does not qualify as a small business issuer, the Audit Committee shall be composed of at least three Independent Directors and the composition of the Audit Committee shall meet the requirements of Nasdaq Marketplace Rule 4460(d)(2). Specifically, each member of the Audit Committee shall be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a company's balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. In addition, at least one member must have had past employment experience in finance or accounting or any other comparable experience that has resulted in such member's financial sophistication.

Members of the Audit Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Audit Committee shall provide assistance to the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibility to the shareholders, potential shareholders and

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the investment community in respect of corporate accounting, reporting practices of the company, and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of the company. In so doing, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open means of communication between the directors, the independent auditors, and the financial management of the company. The company's independent auditors are ultimately responsible to the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee, as representatives of the company's shareholders.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In carrying out its responsibilities, the policies and procedures of the Audit Committee should remain flexible in order to best react to changing conditions and to ensure that the corporate accounting, control and reporting practices of the company are prudent, sound and in accordance with all applicable requirements.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Audit Committee will:

- Elect a member of the Audit Committee to serve as Chairman of the Audit Committee.
- Meet as a Committee in person or by conference telephone at least four times per year to carry out the responsibilities outlined in this Charter. The Committee shall also meet at least once per year in executive session with the independent auditors, and the Chief Executive Officer and Chief

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Financial Officer of the company. The Chairman of the Audit Committee shall call all meetings of the Audit Committee.

- The attendance, in person or by conference telephone, of at least a majority of the members of the Audit Committee shall be required in order to constitute a quorum at any meeting. Action by the Audit Committee at a meeting shall be taken by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. Any action of the Audit Committee may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Audit Committee consent thereto in writing.
- Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval.
- Review, evaluate and recommend to the directors the independent auditors to be selected to audit the financial statements of the company and, where appropriate, replace the independent auditors.
- Take or recommend that the Board of Directors take appropriate action to oversee the independence of the company's independent auditors, including the following:
 - Receive from the independent auditors each year a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditors and the company consistent with Independent Standards Board Standard 1; and
 - Actively engage in a dialogue with the independent auditors regarding any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the auditor.
- Discuss with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61.
- Meet with the independent auditors and financial management of the company annually to review the scope of the proposed audit for each fiscal year

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and the audit procedures to be utilized, and at the conclusion thereof, review such audit, including any comments or recommendations of the independent auditors.

- In consultation with the independent auditors, review the integrity of the company's financial reporting process and consider the independent auditor's judgments about the quality and appropriateness of the corporation's accounting principles.
- Review any proposed major changes to the company's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the independent accountants or the financial management of the company.
- Review with the independent auditors and the company's financial and accounting personnel the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls of the company, and elicit any recommendations for the improvement of such internal control procedures or particular areas where new or more detailed controls or procedures are desirable.
- Review the company's audited financial statements with management and the independent auditors and, as appropriate, recommend to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the company's annual report on Form 10-KSB to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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- Review with management and the independent auditors the company's interim financial statements prior to including them in any quarterly report on Form 10-QSB filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Review the financial statements contained in the annual report to shareholders with management and the independent auditors to determine that the independent auditors are satisfied with the disclosure and content of the financial statements to be presented to the shareholders.
- Prepare a report for inclusion in the company's annual proxy statement that describes the Audit Committee's composition and responsibilities and how they were discharged.
- Provide sufficient opportunity for the independent auditors to meet with the members of the Audit Committee without members of management present. Among the items to be discussed in these meetings are the independent auditors' evaluation of the company's financial, accounting, and auditing personnel, and the level of cooperation that the independent auditors received during the course of the audit.
- Review the performance of the company's accounting and financial personnel.
- Promptly bring to the attention of the Board of Directors any matter that, in the its judgment, bears significantly on the quality of the company's accounting, control and reporting procedures and practices.
- Investigate any matter brought to its attention within the scope of its duties, with the power to retain outside counsel at the company's expense for such purpose if, in its judgment, that is appropriate.

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Such responsibility rests with the company's management and independent auditor.

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Nor is it the duty of the Audit Committee to resolve disagreements, if any, between management and the outside auditor, or to assure compliance with laws, regulations or any internal rules of the company.

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POPCM-PS-01

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION

C/O EQUISERVE
P.O. BOX 9398
BOSTON, MA 02205-9398

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

Dear Shareholder,

Please take note of the important information enclosed with this Proxy Ballot. The Proposals which are discussed in detail in the enclosed proxy materials require your immediate attention and approval.

Your vote counts, and you are strongly encouraged to exercise your right to vote your shares.

Please mark the boxes on this proxy card to indicate how your shares will be voted. Then sign the card, detach it and return your proxy vote in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

Your vote must be received prior to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on November 13, 2001.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

Precision Optics Corporation, Inc.

DETACH HERE

ZPOPC1

/X/ PLEASE MARK
VOTES AS IN
THIS EXAMPLE.

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

1. Election of two Class II Directors. The nominees for the Board of Directors to serve for a three-year term as Class II Directors:

NOMINEES: (01) Austin W. Marxe
(02) Joel R. Pitlor

FOR WITHHELD
ALL / / / / FROM ALL
NOMINEES NOMINEES

/ /

For all nominees except as noted above

Mark box at right if an address change or comment has / /
been noted on the reverse side of this card.

Please sign this proxy exactly as name appears hereon. When
shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When
signing as attorney, administrator, trustee or guardian,
please give full title as such.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DETACH HERE

ZPOPC2

PRECISION OPTICS CORPORATION, INC.

COMMON STOCK PROXY

The undersigned, revoking any previous instructions, hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice and Proxy Statement dated October 15, 2001. In connection with the Annual Meeting mentioned below, the undersigned hereby appoint(s) Richard E. Forkey and Jack P. Dreimiller as attorneys of the undersigned, each with power to act alone and with full power of substitution, to act and to vote all shares of stock which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Precision Optics Corporation, Inc. to be held on November 13, 2001, at 10:00 A.M. at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, Massachusetts, and at any adjournment or postponement thereof, upon the matters set forth in the proxy statement for such Annual Meeting. The foregoing attorneys are authorized to vote, in their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. WHEN THIS PROXY IS PROPERLY EXECUTED, THE SHARES REPRESENTED HEREBY WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED BY THE SHAREHOLDER(S) ON THE REVERSE SIDE HEREOF OR, WHERE NO DIRECTION IS GIVEN, WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CLASS II DIRECTOR NOMINEES.

PLEASE VOTE, DATE AND SIGN ON REVERSE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

Please sign exactly as your name appears on the books of the Company. Joint owners should each sign personally. Trustees and other fiduciaries should indicate the capacity in which they sign, and where more than one name appears,

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a majority must sign. If a corporation, this signature should be that of an authorized officer who should state his or her title.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS?
