
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): January 11, 2019

A. O. Smith Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-475
(Commission
File Number)

39-0619790
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

11270 West Park Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(414) 359-4000
(Registrant's telephone number)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communication pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 204.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13-e4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On January 11, 2019, John J. Kita, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of A. O. Smith Corporation (the “Company”), advised the Company that he will retire from the Company effective May 1, 2019.

On January 14, 2019, the Company announced that Charles T. Lauber, who currently serves as the Company’s Senior Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development and is 56 years old, will succeed Mr. Kita as Chief Financial Officer effective May 1, 2019. In his current position, Mr. Lauber oversees strategic planning and acquisitions. Mr. Lauber originally joined the Company as Director of Audit and Tax in 1999, and he has held positions of progressively greater responsibility including serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of A. O. Smith Water Products Company, the Company’s biggest division, from 2006 to 2012. He was named Senior Vice President, Strategy and Corporate Development in 2013. A copy of the Company’s news release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K (this “Current Report”) and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

The following exhibit is being filed herewith:

(99.1) [News Release of A. O. Smith Corporation, dated January 14, 2019.](#)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

A. O. SMITH CORPORATION

Date: January 14, 2019

By: /s/ James F. Stern

James F. Stern

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary



News Release

A. O. Smith Corporation PO Box 245008 Milwaukee, WI 53224-9508 414-359-4000 NYSE:AOS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Mark A. Petrarca
414-359-4100
mpetrarca@aosmith.com

Analyst/Investor Contact:
Patricia K. Ackerman
414-359-4130
packerman@aosmith.com

January 14, 2019
For Immediate Release

A. O. Smith Announces Retirement of John J. Kita and Appointment of Charles T. Lauber as Chief Financial Officer

Milwaukee, Wis. – A. O. Smith Corporation (NYSE:AOS), one of the world's leading manufacturers of residential and commercial water heating equipment and boilers, as well as a manufacturer of water treatment and air purification products, today announced the retirement of John J. Kita and the appointment of Charles T. Lauber as Chief Financial Officer, effective May 1, 2019. Kita and Lauber will work together in the coming months to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

"In his 19 years with A. O. Smith, Chuck Lauber has proven to be an invaluable resource to the organization. Holding significant leadership roles in both corporate and business unit finance and accounting, and most recently as SVP of Corporate Development and Strategy, Chuck has played a key role in helping to guide A. O. Smith to its current success. He has our utmost confidence as he assumes this critical role for our company," said Kevin Wheeler, President and CEO. "I want to thank John Kita for his 30 years of tireless and inspiring work with A. O. Smith, including the instrumental role he played in transforming A. O. Smith into a water technology company, and wish him well in retirement."

As Chief Financial Officer, Lauber will be responsible for all financial functions of the company, including financial reporting, treasury, investor relations, capital structure, risk management and capital allocation.

Prior to joining A. O. Smith as director of audit and tax in 1999, Lauber held a number of audit and management roles as a senior manager at Ernst & Young LLP. He has a Bachelor's Degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and an MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

About A. O. Smith Corporation

A. O. Smith Corporation, with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wis., is a global leader applying innovative technology and energy-efficient solutions to products manufactured and marketed worldwide. Listed on the S&P 500, the company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of residential and commercial water heating equipment and boilers, as well as a manufacturer of water treatment and air purification products. For more information, visit www.aosmith.com.