

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): December 17, 2004

A. O. Smith Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Table with 3 columns: Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation), 1-475 (Commission File Number), 39-0619790 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

P.O. Box 245008, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224-9508

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(414) 359-4000

(Registrant's telephone number)

Item 5.02(d). Election of Directors

On December 20, 2004, A. O. Smith Corporation ("the Company") issued a news release announcing that Paul W. Jones was elected on December 17, 2004, to the Board of Directors. A copy of the Company's news release is attached as Exhibit 99 to this Current Report on Form 8-K (this "Current Report") and is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

99 News Release of A. O. Smith Corporation, dated December 20, 2004

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: December 20, 2004

By: /s/ W. David Romoser W. David Romoser Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

A. O. SMITH CORPORATION

Exhibit Index to Current Report on Form 8-K Dated December 20, 2004

Table with 2 columns: Exhibit Number, Description. Row 1: (99) News Release of A. O. Smith Corporation, dated December 20, 2004

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Edward J. O'Connor
414-359-4100

ANALYST/INVESTOR INQUIRIES:

Craig Watson
414-359-4009

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**December 20, 2004****A. O. Smith elects Jones to board of directors**

Milwaukee, Wis.— A. O. Smith Corporation (AOS-NYSE) today announced that President and Chief Operating Officer Paul W. Jones has been elected to its Board of Directors.

Jones was named president of the Milwaukee-based manufacturer of electric motors and water heaters in January 2004 with responsibility for its Electrical Products and Water Systems operations worldwide as well as its Corporate Technology Center.

Prior to joining A. O. Smith, he was chairman and chief executive officer of U. S. Can Company, Inc., and president and chief executive officer of Greenfield Industries, Inc.

In addition to the A. O. Smith board, Jones serves as a director of Federal Signal Corporation (FSS-NYSE), a diversified manufacturer with headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill.

A. O. Smith Corporation, with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wis., is one of North America's largest manufacturers of electric motors, with a comprehensive line of hermetic motors, fractional horsepower alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) motors, and integral horsepower motors, as well as one of North America's largest manufacturers of residential and commercial water heating equipment. The company employs approximately 17,000 people worldwide.