

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
 Definitive Proxy Statement
 Definitive Additional Materials
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to 240.14a-11(c) or 240.14a-12

Akorn, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Board of Directors of Akorn, Inc.
(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.

- 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:
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- 1) Amount Previously Paid:
- 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- 3) Filing Party:
- 4) Date Filed:

AKORN
100 Akorn Drive
Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held February 28, 1997

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF AKORN, INC.:

The annual meeting of shareholders of Akorn, Inc. (the "Company") will be held at ____ p.m., local time, on Friday, February 28, 1997 on the 52nd Floor of Place St. Charles, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana for the following purposes, more fully described in the accompanying proxy statement:

1. To elect a board of five directors.
2. To consider a vote upon a proposal to amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of capital stock from 20 million shares of common stock, no par value per share, to 45 million shares, of which 40 million would be common shares, no par value per share, and 5 million would be shares of preferred stock issuable at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
3. To consider and vote upon an amendment to the Amended and Restated Akorn, Inc. 1988 Incentive Compensation Program.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on January 6, 1997 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting and all adjournments thereof.

Your vote is important regardless of the number of shares you own. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting, please mark, date and sign the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the enclosed stamped envelope. Furnishing the enclosed proxy will not prevent you from voting in person at the meeting should you wish to do so.

By Order of the Board of Directors

George S. Ellis, M.D.
Secretary

Abita Springs, Louisiana
January ____, 1997

AKORN, INC.
100 Akorn Drive
Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420

PROXY STATEMENT

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

To be Held February 28, 1997

This proxy statement is furnished to shareholders of Akorn, Inc. (the "Company") in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Company's Board of Directors for use at its annual meeting of shareholders to be held at the date, time and place set forth in the accompanying notice and at any adjournments thereof (the "Meeting"). The date of this Proxy Statement is January ___, 1997.

On January 6, 1997, the record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting, the Company had outstanding _____ shares of common stock (the Company's only class of authorized capital stock), each of which is entitled to one vote on all matters to be considered at the Meeting.

Shares represented by all properly executed proxies on the enclosed form received in time for the Meeting will be voted at the Meeting. A proxy may be revoked at any time before it is exercised by filing with the Secretary of the Company an instrument revoking it or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the Meeting and voting in person. Unless revoked, the proxy will be voted as specified and, if no specifications are made, will be voted in favor of the proposed nominees as described herein.

The cost of soliciting proxies in the enclosed form will be borne by the Company. In addition to the use of the mails, proxies may be solicited by personal interview, telephone, telefax and telegraph. Banks, brokerage houses and other institutions, nominees and fiduciaries will be requested to forward solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of the shares of common stock of the Company; upon request, the Company will reimburse such persons for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection therewith.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Effective at the time of the Meeting the Company's by-laws will provide for a Board of five directors and only five directors can be elected at the Meeting. The Board of Directors has nominated five candidates for election at the Meeting and recommends that shareholders vote FOR the election of all five nominees.

Proxies cannot be voted for more than five candidates. In the absence of contrary instructions, the proxy holders will vote for the election of the five nominees listed below. In the unanticipated event that one or more of such persons is unavailable as a candidate for director, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote for another candidate nominated by the Board of Directors.

The following table sets forth as of June 30, 1996 the age, principal occupation and employment, position with the Company, directorships in other public corporations, year first elected a director of the Company, and beneficial ownership of shares of Company common stock of each nominee for election as director at the coming meeting. Unless otherwise indicated, each nominee has been engaged in the principal occupation or occupations shown for more than the past five years.

Name and Age	Principal Occupation and Directorships in Other Public Corporations	Director Since
Floyd Benjamin, 53	Executive Vice President of the Company and President of	1996

	Taylor Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a subsidiary of the Company) since May 1996; president of Pasadena Research Laboratories, Inc. ("PRL") from October 1994 to May 1996 and consultant to PRL from October 1993 to October 1994; president and chief executive officer of Neocrin, Inc. (biomedical venture capital company) from February 1992 to October 1993; prior to October 1993, chief operating officer of Lyphomed, Inc. (injectable pharmaceuticals)	
Daniel E. Bruhl, M.D., 54	Ophthalmologist; director of Surgical Care Affiliates, Inc. (physicians' group practice management)	1983
Doyle S. Gaw, 65	Private investor	1975
John N. Kapoor, Ph.D., 53	Chief Executive Officer of the Company since May, 1996; Chairman of the Board of the Company since May 1995 and from December 1991 to January 1993, and acting Chairman of the Board of the Company from April 1993 to May 1995; chairman of the board of Option Care, Inc. (infusion services and supplies); chief executive officer of Option Care, Inc. from August 1993 to April 1996; president of E J Financial Enterprises, Inc. since April 1990; director of Unimed, Inc. and NeoPharm, Inc. (specialty pharmaceutical companies)	1991
[Name of fifth nominee]	[Biographical information to come.]	

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996, the Board of Directors of the Company held four meetings. The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, of which Mr. Gaw, Dr. Ellis and Dr. Turner are members, and a Compensation Committee, of which Drs. Bruhl, Cunningham and Yannuzzi are members. The Board of Directors does not have a Nominating Committee. The Audit Committee, which met during fiscal 1996, is responsible for consulting with the independent auditors with regard to the plan of audit, reviewing the plan and the results of audits of the Company by its independent auditors and discussing audit recommendations with management and reporting the results of its reviews to the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee met twice during fiscal 1996 to review various compensation matters with respect to executive officers and directors. The Composition of Board committees is reviewed and redetermined each year at the initial meeting of the Board after the annual meeting of shareholders.

For services as Chairman of the Board and as a consultant to the Company, Dr. Kapoor receives a fee of \$50,000 per year. Each other director who is not a salaried officer or consultant of the Company receives a fee for his services as a director of \$1,000 per regular meeting of the Board of Directors, \$250 per telephone meeting and \$500 per committee meeting, plus reimbursement of his expenses related to

those services. In addition, the chairman of each committee (other than Dr. Kapoor) receives an annual fee of \$2,500.

All directors of the Company participate in the Company's Stock Option Plan for Directors, pursuant to which each director of the Company is granted an option to acquire 5,000 shares of Company common stock on the day after each annual meeting of shareholders at which he is elected to serve as a director. Any director appointed between annual meetings is entitled to receive a pro rata portion of an option to acquire 5,000 shares. The Committee may, in its sole discretion, grant an option to purchase up to 100,000 shares to a person who is not already a director and who becomes a director at any time; no member of the Committee is eligible to be granted such an option and any director who has been granted such an option is not permitted to serve on the Committee for one year after such grant. Options granted under the plan expire five years from the date of grant. The option exercise price is the fair market value of the shares covered by the option at the time of the grant.

Pursuant to the agreement under which Pasadena Research Laboratories, Inc. was acquired by the Company in May 1996, Mr. Benjamin was appointed a director of the Company for a term expiring at the Meeting.

Under agreements between the Company and the John N. Kapoor Trust dated September 20, 1989, the Trust is entitled to designate two individuals to be nominated and recommended by the Company's Board of Directors for election as a director. The individuals designated for this purpose by Dr. Kapoor are himself and _____.

During 1996, Dr. Campbell, a director of the Company, failed to file timely with the Securities and Exchange Commission two Forms 4 to report three transactions, as required by Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Mr. Gaw, also a director, failed to file timely two Forms 4 to report four such transactions. All such transactions have been reported on amended annual statements on Form 5.

BENEFICIAL OWNERS

As of [June 30, 1996], the following persons were directors or named executive officers with beneficial ownership. Dr. Kapoor is the only person known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of five percent or more of the Company's common stock. His address is 225 East Deerpath, Suite 250, Lake Forest, Illinois, 60045. The information set forth below has been determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 based upon information furnished by the persons listed.

Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned(1)	Percent of Class

Directors and Nominees		
Floyd Benjamin	466,667 (2)	2.82%
Daniel E. Bruhl, M.D.	290,517 (3)	1.75%
J. Ed Campbell, M.D.	193,691 (3)	1.17%
George S. Ellis, M.D.	284,260 (3)	1.71%
Doyle S. Gaw	175,824 (3)	1.06%
John N. Kapoor, Ph.D.	4,259,000 (4)	24.20%

David H. Turner, M.D.	249,650(3)	1.50%
Lawrence A. Yannuzzi, M.D.	200,883(3)	1.21%
Fifth Nominee	-----	-----
Named Executive Officers(5)		
Harold O. Koch	127,107	0.76%
Tim J. Toney	179,967	1.08%
Directors and officers as a group (11 persons)	6,485,291(6)	35.98%

- (1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- (2) Mr. Benjamin's shares are held by a trust of which Mr. Benjamin and his wife are trustees and their child is beneficiary.
- (3) These numbers contain options to purchase shares. The following directors and officers have options to purchase 35,000 shares: Dr. Bruhl, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Ellis, Mr. Gaw, Dr. Turner, and Dr. Yannuzzi. Furthermore, several directors' shares are owned partially by family members and pensions. The following shows the family members and pensions of each such director and their amounts: Dr. Bruhl's pension - 64,266; and Dr. Ellis' wife - 101,500.
- (4) Of such 4,259,000 shares, (i) 3,204,000 are owned directly by the John N. Kapoor Trust dated September 20, 1989 (the "Trust") of which Dr. Kapoor is the sole trustee and beneficiary, (ii) 1,000,000 are issuable pursuant to a warrant issued to the Trust in 1992, (iii) 30,000 are owned by a trust, the trustee of which is Dr. Kapoor's wife and the beneficiaries of which are their children, and (iv) 25,000 are issuable pursuant to options granted by the Company directly to Dr. Kapoor.
- (5) Mr. Benjamin and Dr. Kapoor are named executive officers of the Company, and information regarding their beneficial ownership is included in this table under the section, "Directors and Nominees."
- (6) Of such 6,485,291 shares, 1,448,950 are not presently outstanding, but are issuable pursuant to option and warrant rights described in the preceding footnotes and 213,950 are issuable pursuant to options held by three officers of the Company who are not also directors.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following table summarizes the compensation paid by the Company for services rendered during the fiscal years ended June 30, 1994, 1995 and 1996 to each person who, during fiscal 1996, served as the chief executive officer of the Company and to each other executive officer of the Company whose total annual salary and bonus for fiscal 1996 exceeded \$100,000:

Name and Principal Position	Annual Compensation			Long-Term Compensation	All Other (1) Compensation
	Year ended June 30	Salary	Bonus	Number of Options Awarded	
John N. Kapoor, Ph.D.(2) Chief Executive Officer	1996	\$10,000(3)	---	---	\$40,000(3)
Barry D. LeBlanc(4) President and Chief Executive Officer	1996	\$210,000	---	---	\$2,100
	1995	207,731	---	34,000	2,310
	1994	184,362	\$24,667	50,000	2,310
Harold O. Koch(5) Senior Vice President	1996	\$125,000	---	---	\$ 938
	1995	122,247	---	58,000	1,530

	1994	105,602	\$16,444	25,000	791
Tim J. Toney (6)	1996	\$120,000	---	---	\$1,800
Vice President-	1995	117,292	---	10,000	2,018
Manufacturing,	1994	115,000	\$17,250	---	359
Taylor Pharmaceuticals, Inc.					

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- (1) Represents contributions to the Company's Savings and Retirement Plan, except as indicated in note (3).
 - (2) Dr. Kapoor became Chief Executive Officer effective May 3, 1996.
 - (3) During fiscal 1996, Dr. Kapoor received \$50,000 for his services as Chairman of the Board of the Company, \$40,000 of which was waived in exchange for other consideration, as described under, "Transactions with Shareholders and Directors."
 - (4) Mr. LeBlanc ceased being Chief Executive Officer of the Company effective May 3, 1996.
 - (5) Mr. Koch became an executive officer of the Company in February 1993 and became Senior Vice President in January 1995.
 - (6) Mr. Toney ceased being an executive officer of the Company in May 1996.

Stock Option Exercises

Aggregate Option Exercises in Fiscal 1996 and Option Values as of June 30, 1996

Name	No. of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized	No. of Unexercised Options at June 30, 1996		Value of Unexercised In-the Money Options at June 30, 1996	
			Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable	Unexercisable
John N. Kapoor	0	\$ 0	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Barry D. LeBlanc	143,500	121,075	328,469	0	399,462	0
Harold O. Koch	0	0	118,700	29,300	86,654	15,091
Tim J. Toney	0	0	45,000	5,000	27,500	0

Employment Agreements

In January 1996 the Company entered into employment agreements with Messrs. LeBlanc, Koch and Toney calling for annual salaries of, respectively, \$210,000, \$125,000 and \$120,000, increased annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index (and, in the case of Mr. LeBlanc, by specified increments conditioned on certain increases in the trading price of the Company's common stock) plus bonuses determined by the Board of Directors in its discretion. Messrs. LeBlanc and Koch were provided with the use of an automobile.

The agreements terminate one year after notice of termination is given by the Company or the employee. If the employee's employment is otherwise terminated by the Company without "cause" (as defined in the agreement) or by the employee for "good reason" (as defined in the agreement), the employee is entitled to a lump sum payment equal to his annual salary plus any performance-based bonus and options to which the employee would have been entitled had the performance goals been met. In the event of a change of control of the Company, the employee is entitled upon termination of his employment by the Company for "cause"

(as defined in the agreement) or by the employee for "good reason" (as defined in the agreement), to a lump sum payment equal to his annual salary until the later of the second anniversary of the change of control or one year after the notice of termination, plus any performance-based bonus and options to which the employee would have been entitled had the performance goals been met. If any such payments are considered "excess parachute payments" under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996, the employee is entitled to such additional amounts as would be necessary to place him in the same position after payment of federal, state and local taxes as he would have been in if such provisions had not been applicable to him.

The Company and Mr. LeBlanc entered into a separation agreement effective as of July 3, 1996 under which Mr. LeBlanc's employment by the Company and all of his rights under his employment agreement were terminated in consideration of payment to him of \$213,045 in four equal installments of principal, plus interest, in July and October of 1996 and January and April of 1997, plus accrued but unpaid vacation and sick leave of \$23,423.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

Drs. Campbell, Bruhl and Yannuzzi, who comprise the Compensation Committee, are all independent, non-employee directors of the Company.

Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors reviews, analyzes and makes recommendations related to compensation packages for the Company's executive officers, evaluates the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and administers the grant of stock options under the Company's Incentive Compensation Plan. The committee awards all stock options. As to other matters the committee makes recommendations that are presented to the full Board for final approval.

The Company's executive compensation policies are designed to (a) provide competitive levels of compensation to attract and retain qualified executives, (b) reward achievements in corporate performance, (c) integrate pay with annual and long-term performance goals, and (d) align the interests of executives with the goals of shareholders.

Compensation paid to Company executives consists of salaries, annual cash incentive bonuses and long-term incentive opportunities in the form of stock options.

Salary

Dr. John N. Kapoor, the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors, has served as chief executive officer of the Company since May 3, 1996. During fiscal 1996 Dr. Kapoor received no additional compensation for serving as the Company's chief executive officer. The salaries of Mr. Barry D. LeBlanc, who served as president and chief executive officer of the Company until May 3, 1996, and the other executive officers named in the table under Summary of Executive Compensation, were fixed in their employment agreements, which are described above under "Employment Agreements." Such amounts were determined after considering the executive compensation policies noted above, the impact the executive has on the Company, the skills and experience the executive brings to the job, competition in the marketplace for those skills and the potential of the executive in the job.

Incentive Bonus

Annual incentive compensation for executive officers during fiscal 1996 was based on corporate net earnings as compared to pre-established objectives set at the beginning of the fiscal year. Based on the Company performance in relation to such objectives, no incentive bonus was granted to any of the executive officers or any other officer of the Company for fiscal 1996.

Mr. Floyd Benjamin, was hired as Executive Vice President of the Company and president of the Company's injectable subsidiary effective May 31, 1996. Pursuant to the three year contract with Mr. Benjamin, he is eligible for bonuses each fiscal year beginning June 30, 1997 based on certain performance criteria.

Stock Options

The Committee's practice with respect to stock options has been to grant options based upon the attainment of Company performance goals and that vest based on the passage of time. Based on the Company performance in relation to pre-established objectives, no stock option awards were made to executive officers in fiscal 1996.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to address the issues raised by tax laws under which certain non-performance based compensation paid to executives of public companies in excess of \$1 million per year is non-deductible to the Company and to determine whether any actions with respect to this limit should be taken by the Company. It is not currently anticipated that any executive officer of the Company will receive any such compensation in excess of this limit in the near future. The Committee will continue to monitor this situation and will take appropriate action if it is warranted in the future.

The Compensation Committee is currently evaluating its policies with respect to executive compensation in light of the recent realignment of the Company into two distinct operating divisions.

Submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

J. Ed Campbell, M.D. Daniel E. Bruhl, M.D.
Lawrence A. Yannuzzi, M.D.

Performance Graph

The graph below compares the cumulative shareholder return on the Company's Common Stock for the last five fiscal years with the S&P Small Cap 600 Index and an index composed of a group of peer issuers. The members of the peer group were selected by the Company based upon size and type of business. The peer group consists of the following companies: Chesapeake Biological, Inc.; Faulding, Inc.; Hi Tech Pharmacal Co. Inc.; Insite Vision, Inc.; Nutramax Products, Inc.; Pharmos Corp.; and Unimed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The graph assumes \$100 was invested in June 1991 in the Company Common Stock and the two indices presented. The cumulative total return on the Company's Common Stock for the period presented was 50%. The cumulative returns for the S&P Small Cap 600 and the Company's peer group were 132% and 26%, respectively.

[Insert - Performance Graph]

TRANSACTIONS WITH SHAREHOLDERS AND DIRECTORS

For services performed by Dr. Kapoor in connection with the Company's acquisition of Taylor Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the John N. Kapoor Trust dated September 20, 1989 received, among other things,

125,000 shares of Company common stock which were subject to forfeiture if the market price of the Company common stock were not to reach \$5.00 by January 15, 1996. At the time of this issuance, the market price of Company common stock was \$3.50 per share. In August 1995, the Company, the Trust and Dr. Kapoor entered into an agreement under which (i) the forfeiture period was extended to January 15, 1998, (ii) forfeiture would not occur in the event that persons unaffiliated with Dr. Kapoor acquire beneficial ownership of more than 50% of the outstanding common stock of the Company, and (iii) Dr. Kapoor waived his right to receive \$40,000 otherwise payable to him by the Company for serving as Chairman of the Board in fiscal 1996.

In connection with the acquisition of Pasadena Research Laboratories, Inc. ("PRL") on May 31, 1996, the Company issued to Mr. Floyd Benjamin, as a shareholder of PRL, 466,667 shares of Company common stock. This amount was determined by arm's length negotiation between the Company and the PRL shareholders.

PROPOSAL TO APPROVE AMENDMENT
TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Amendment to Increase Authorized Shares of Common Stock and to Authorize Shares of Preferred Stock

The Company is currently authorized to issue an aggregate of 20 million shares of capital stock, consisting of 20 million shares of common stock, no par value per share ("Common Stock"). As of November 6, 1996, there were 16,582,073 shares of Common Stock outstanding and 2,639,324 shares of Common Stock were reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding warrants and options. Accordingly, there are only 778,603 shares of Common Stock authorized under the Company's articles of incorporation and available for issuance in the future pursuant to stock incentive plans and for other purposes. For the reasons given below the Board believes that this number of unreserved shares of Common Stock available for issuance in the future is inadequate. The Board also believes that in order to provide the flexibility it needs to properly manage the Company and to raise additional capital, a class of preferred stock should be authorized. Accordingly, the Board proposes to amend the Company's articles of incorporation to increase the authorized number of shares of capital stock to 45 million shares of which 40 million shares will be Common Stock and five million shares will be preferred stock (the "Preferred Stock"). The Preferred Stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series. Authority would be vested in the Board to amend the articles of incorporation from time to time to fix the preferences, limitations and relative rights as between the Preferred Stock and the Common Stock, and to fix the variations in the preferences, limitations and relative rights as between different series of Preferred Stock. The affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the voting power present or represented at the Meeting is required to approve the proposal. See "Other Matters -- Quorum and Voting." The text of the amendment is attached as Exhibit A and this discussion of the amendment is qualified in its entirety by this reference to Exhibit A.

Purposes and Effects of the Proposed Amendment

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to allow the Company to make full use of its stock-based benefit plans and to increase the Company's flexibility to take advantage, without the need for further shareholder approval, of transactions that require the issuance of shares of Common Stock or Preferred Stock.

The three current benefit plans under which shares of Common Stock may be issued are the 1991 Stock Option Plan for Directors, the Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan and the Amended and Restated Akorn, Inc. 1988 Incentive Compensation Program (the "Plans"). On

November 6, 1996 1,639,324 shares were authorized for issuance, but not yet issued, pursuant to the Plans or under options not yet granted pursuant to the Plans. Because the number of shares of Common Stock that are authorized by the articles of incorporation and available for issuance in the future is less than the number of shares that are currently authorized for issuance under the Plans, the Board will not be able to make full and appropriate use of the Plans unless the number of authorized shares of Common Stock is increased, as contemplated by the proposed amendment. Moreover, as described below, the Board believes that the number of shares issuable under the Company's Amended and Restated Incentive Compensation Program should be increased. See "Proposal to Approve the Amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Incentive Compensation Program."

The Board further believes that adoption of the proposed amendment will enable the Company promptly and appropriately to respond to business opportunities, such as opportunities to raise additional equity capital or to finance acquisitions with Common Stock or Preferred Stock, or to declare stock splits and stock dividends, although no such transactions are currently planned by the Company. Given the number of shares currently available for issuance, the Company would not be able to accomplish any of these transactions without obtaining shareholder approval of an increase in the authorized number of shares of Common Stock and the authorization of the Preferred Stock. The cost, prior notice requirements and delay involved in obtaining shareholder approval at the time that corporate action may become desirable could prevent the accomplishment of the action or reduce the expected benefits.

The additional shares of Common Stock proposed to be authorized, and the Preferred Stock proposed to be created, together with existing authorized and unissued shares, generally will be available for issuance without any requirement for further shareholder approval, unless shareholder action is required by applicable law or by the rules of the Nasdaq National Market or of any stock exchange on which the Company's securities may be listed. Although the Board will authorize the issuance of additional shares only when it considers doing so to be in the best interest of shareholders, the issuance of additional shares of Common Stock and the issuance of Preferred Stock may, among other things, have a dilutive effect on earnings per share of the Common Stock and on the voting rights of holders of shares of Common Stock. The Company's shareholders do not have any preemptive rights to subscribe for additional shares of Common Stock that may be issued. Although the Board has not made a determination as to whether it will adopt a shareholder rights plan, it may do so in the future, in which case a portion of the additional shares of Common Stock could facilitate the operation of such a plan. The Board will be able to adopt such a plan, however, whether or not the proposed amendment is approved by the shareholders. In addition, although the Board has no current plans to do so, shares of Common Stock could be issued in various other transactions that would make a change in control of the Company more difficult or costly and, therefore, less likely. For example, shares of Common Stock could be sold privately to purchasers who might support the Board in a control contest or to dilute the voting or other rights of a person seeking to obtain control. The proposed amendment is not the result of any specific effort to obtain control of the Company by a tender offer, proxy contest, or otherwise, and the Company has no present intention to use the increased shares of authorized Common Stock or the newly authorized shares of Preferred Stock for anti-takeover purposes.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that shareholders vote FOR the proposal to amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation.

PROPOSAL TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED AKORN, INC.
1988 INCENTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

General

The Company's 1988 Incentive Compensation Program (the "Program") was originally adopted by the Board of Directors and approved by the shareholders in 1988. In 1993 the Board adopted and the shareholders approved an amendment to the Program to increase the number of shares issuable thereunder. The Board of Directors has subsequently adopted additional amendments to the Program. The terms of the Program are summarized below.

At the Meeting, the shareholders will be requested to approve an amendment to the Amended and Restated Akorn, Inc. 1988 Incentive Compensation Program for the purpose of increasing the number of shares issuable under the Program from two million shares to three million shares.

Purpose of the Proposal and Prior Amendment of the Program

The Board of Directors continues to believe that the growth of the Company depends significantly upon the efforts of its key employees. The Board of Directors also believes that providing key employees with a proprietary interest in the growth and performance of the Company is crucial to stimulating individual performance while at the same time enhancing shareholder value. The Board of Directors is proposing a one million share increase in the number of shares issuable through the Program in order that the Company may continue to provide an effective means to secure, motivate and retain key personnel. The amendment is being submitted to the shareholders for approval in order to satisfy the requirements of the Nasdaq National Market.

Awards to be Granted

The grant of options under the Program is entirely in the discretion of the Compensation Committee. The Committee has not yet made a determination as to the awards to be granted under the amendment to the Program, if it is approved by the shareholders.

Terms of the Program

Eligibility

The Program provides that key employees of the Company, including directors who are also officers of the Company, will be eligible to receive options under the Program when designated by the Compensation Committee. Currently, there are approximately ___ key employees eligible to receive options under the Program.

Shares Issuable through the Program

If the amendment is approved, a total of 1,000,000 additional shares of Common Stock will be authorized to be issued under the Program. As of _____, 1996, a total of _____ shares were available for issuance under the Program, and _____ shares were subject to outstanding options. On December ____, 1996, the closing sale price of a share of Common Stock, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market, was \$_____.

Adjustments under the Program

Proportionate adjustments will be made to the number of shares of Common Stock subject to the Plan, including shares subject to outstanding options, in the event of any recapitalization, stock dividend, stock split, combination of shares or other change in the Common Stock.

In the event of a dissolution or liquidation of the Company, or a reorganization, merger or consolidation of the Company with any other corporation, or a transfer of substantially all the property or more than two-thirds of the then outstanding shares to another corporation, notice must be given to every participant in the Program not less than

40 days prior to the anticipated effective date of the proposed transaction, and every option granted under the Program shall be accelerated and become immediately exercisable in full prior to a date specified in such notice, not more than 10 days prior to the anticipated effective date of the proposed transaction. If the transaction is consummated, each previously unexercised option shall terminate. If the transaction does not occur, the options will remain unexercised.

Terms of Stock Options

The Compensation Committee determines the number and purchase price of the shares subject to options, the term of the options and the time or times that the options become exercisable, provided that the purchase price may not be less than 50% of the fair market value of the Common Stock on the date of grant. The Compensation Committee may accelerate the exercisability of any option or may determine to cancel any option in order to make a participant eligible for the grant of an option at a lower price. The Compensation Committee may approve the purchase by the Company of an unexercised stock option for the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the shares covered by such option.

The option exercise price may be paid in cash, in shares of Common Stock which must have been held for at least six months, in a combination of cash and shares of Common Stock or through a broker assisted exercise arrangement approved in advance by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee determines at what time or times during its term a stock option shall be exercisable; provided, however, that no stock option granted to an officer, director or beneficial owner of more than 10% of the Common Stock who is subject to Section 16 of the 1934 Act may be exercised within the six-month period immediately following the date of grant.

The Committee shall determine the term of each Option granted under the Program, but such term shall not exceed ten years and one day from the date of grant.

Amendments to the Program

The Board of Directors may amend or discontinue the Program at any time. No amendment or discontinuance, however, may change or impair, without the consent of the optionee, an option previously granted. Under the terms of the Program, shareholder approval is required for an amendment if it is necessary to comply with Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Pursuant to recent amendments to Rule 16b-3, shareholder approval of amendments is no longer required. The Board seeks approval of this amendment for purposes of Nasdaq National Market rules, which require approval by shareholders of an amendment to a compensation plan for officers or directors that materially increases the number of shares issuable under the plan. Shareholder approval of subsequent amendments to the Program will be sought if required by Nasdaq National Market or other applicable rules.

Federal Income Tax Consequences

Under existing federal income tax provisions, a participant who receives non-qualified stock options will not normally realize any income, nor will the Company normally be entitled to any deduction for federal income tax purposes, in the year of grant.

When a non-qualified stock option is exercised, the participant will realize ordinary income measured by the difference between the aggregate fair market value of the shares of Common Stock on the exercise date and the aggregate purchase price of the shares of Common Stock as to which the option is exercised, and, subject to compliance with Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company will be entitled to a deduction in the year the option is exercised equal to the amount the employee is required to treat as ordinary income.

If the exercise price of an option is paid by the surrender of previously-owned shares, the basis and the holding period of the previously-owned shares carries over to some of the shares received in exchange therefor. The income recognized on exercise is added to the basis of the remaining shares received.

When the exercisability of a stock option granted under the Program is accelerated upon a change of control, any excess on the date of the change of control of the fair market value of the shares subject to the option over the exercise price may be characterized as "parachute payments" (within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code) if the sum of such amounts and any other such contingent payments received by the employee in connection with the change of control exceeds an amount equal to three times the "base amount" for such employee. The base amount generally is the average of the annual compensation of such employee for the five years preceding such change in ownership or control. An "excess parachute payment" with respect to any employee is the excess of the present value of the parachute payments to such person, in the aggregate, over and above such person's base amount. If the amounts received by an employee upon a change of control are characterized as parachute payments, such employee will be subject to a 20% excise tax on the excess parachute payments pursuant to Section 4999 of the Code, and the Company will be denied any deduction with respect to such excess parachute payments.

This summary of federal income tax consequences of non-qualified stock options does not purport to be complete. Reference should be made to the applicable provisions of Code.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power present or represented at the Meeting is required for the approval of the amendment to the Program.

The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that shareholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated 1988 Incentive Compensation Program.

INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A representative of Deloitte & Touche, the Company's independent accountant for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1996, is expected to attend the Meeting, will have an opportunity to make a statement if he wishes to do so, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

OTHER MATTERS

Quorum and Voting

The presence, in person or by proxy, of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company is necessary to constitute a quorum. Shareholders voting, or abstaining from voting, by proxy on any issue will be counted as present for purposes of constituting a quorum. If a quorum is present, (i) the election of the five directors to be elected at the Meeting will be determined by plurality vote (that is, the five nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected), (ii) the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the voting power present or represented at the Meeting is required to approve the proposal to approve the amendment to the Company's articles of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares and to authorize shares of preferred stock, (iii) a majority of votes actually cast at the Meeting is required to approve the proposal to amend the Company's Amended and Restated Incentive Compensation

Program and (iv) a majority of votes actually cast will decide any other matter properly brought before the Meeting for a vote of shareholders. Shares for which proxy authority to vote for any nominee for election as a director is withheld by the shareholder and shares that have not been voted by brokers who may hold shares on behalf of the beneficial owners ("broker non-votes") will not be counted as voted for the affected nominee. With respect to the proposal to approve the amendment to the Company's articles of incorporation, shares abstained from voting will be considered present or represented at the Meeting for purposes of determining whether or not two-thirds of such shares were voted for such proposal, but shares not voted as a result of broker non-votes will not be so considered. With respect to all other matters, shares not voted as a result of abstentions and broker non-votes will not be considered as voted for purposes of determining whether or not a majority of votes were cast for such matters.

Other Business

Management is unaware of any matter for action by shareholders at the Meeting other than those described in the accompanying notice. The enclosed proxy, however, will confer discretionary authority with respect to any other matter that may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. It is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote in accordance with their best judgment on any such matter.

Shareholder Proposals

Any shareholder who desires to present a proposal qualified for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 1998 must forward the proposal in writing to the President of the Company at the address shown on the first page of this proxy statement in time to arrive at the Company no later than September ___, 1997.

By Order of the Board of Directors

George S. Ellis, M.D.
Secretary

Abita Springs, Louisiana
January ___, 1997

EXHIBIT A

Set Forth Below is the Text of the Amendment to the Articles of
Incorporation

Increasing the Number of Authorized Shares of Common Stock
and authorizing shares of Preferred Stock. Material to be Added as a
Result of the Amendment is Shown in Boldface Type, and Material to be
Deleted is Shown in Brackets.

ARTICLE V

CAPITAL

A. The Corporation shall have authority to issue an aggregate of [20 million] 45 million shares of capital stock, of which 40 million shares shall be Common Stock, no par value per share, and 5 million

shares shall be Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share.

B. Shares of Preferred Stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series. Authority is hereby vested in the Board of Directors of the Corporation to amend these Articles of Incorporation from time to time to fix the preferences, limitations and relative rights as between the Preferred Stock and the Common Stock, and to fix the variations in the preferences, limitations and relative rights as between different classes and series of Preferred Stock.

[FRONT]

PROXY This Proxy is Solicited on Behalf of the Board of Directors of
AKORN, INC.

The undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints _____ and _____ or either of them proxy for the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to represent the undersigned and to vote, as designated below, all of the shares of Common Stock of Akorn, Inc. (the "Company") that the undersigned is entitled to vote held of record by the undersigned on January 6, 1997, at the annual meeting of shareholders of the Company to be held on February 28, 1997 (the "Annual Meeting"), and at all adjournments thereof.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the nominees listed below.

1. Election of Directors.

FOR [] all nominees listed below (except as WITHHOLD AUTHORITY [] to vote marked to the contrary below) for all nominees listed below

INSTRUCTIONS: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, strike a line through the nominee's name in the list below:

Daniel E. Bruhl, M.D. Doyle S. Gaw [Name of Fifth Nominee]
Floyd Benjamin John N. Kapoor, Ph.D.

2. Proposal to amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of capital stock to 45 million shares of capital stock of which 40 million would be shares of common stock and 5 million would be shares of preferred stock.

FOR [] AGAINST [] ABSTAIN []

3. Proposal to amend the Amended and Restated Akorn, Inc. 1988 Incentive Compensation Program.

FOR [] AGAINST [] ABSTAIN []

4. In their discretion to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

(Please See Reverse Side)

[REVERSE SIDE]

This proxy when properly executed will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned shareholder. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted FOR the nominees and FOR the proposals listed over. The individuals designated above will vote in their discretion on any other matter that may properly come before the meeting.

Date:

, 1997

Signature of Shareholder

Signature if held jointly
Please sign exactly as name
appears on the certificate or
certificates representing
shares to be voted by this
proxy, as shown on the label
to the left. When signing as
executor, administrator,
attorney, trustee, or guar-
dian please give full title
as such. If a corporation,
please sign full corporation
name by president or other
authorized officer. If a
partnership, please sign in
partnership name by author-
ized persons.

Please mark, sign, date and return this proxy promptly using
the enclosed envelope.