

# The Depository Trust Company

# IMPORTANT

**B#:** 3073

**DATE:** March 08, 2002

**TO:** All Participants

**CATEGORY:** Dividends

**FROM:** Nilesh Desai, Supervisor, Dividend Department

**ATTENTION:** Dividend Managers, Cashiers and Reorganization Managers

**SUBJECT:** Optional Dividend: American Banking Corporation of Lake  
Wales Cusip: 024488108 R/D:02/26/02 P/D:04/05/02  
Rate: \$0.40 in Cash or Stock & CIL based on a price of  
\$21.47 per share DTC Cut-off 03/21/2002

\*\*\*\*\* WARNING TIME CRITICAL \*\*\*\*\*

**American Banking Corporation of Lake Wales** has declared a dividend distribution of \$0.40 per share. Participants, who have positions in the above captioned security, can elect to receive the dividend distribution in cash or stock, as follows:

**Cash Option #1:** You may elect to receive the **\$0.40** in cash.

**Stock Option #2:** You may elect to receive additional common shares of **American Banking Corporation of Lake Wales** for the **\$0.40** per share.

The stock dividend will be based on the undiluted common stock book value as of December 31, 2001 of \$21.47 per share and cash will be paid in lieu of fractional shares.

**THE NASD HAS DECLARED 03/08/2002 AS THE EX-DATE FOR THIS DISTRIBUTION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH NASD GUIDELINES, THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY "DTC" WILL PICK UP DELIVERY ORDERS (RECEIVES AND DELIVERS) FROM RECORD DATE + 1 UP TO AND INCLUDING THE MARCH 12, 2002 SETTLEMENT DATE (THE INTERIM PERIOD). ELECTIONS SHOULD BE BASED UPON THE FINAL SETTLEMENT DATE POSITIONS (RECORD DATE POSITION PLUS OR MINUS DELIVERY ORDERS FROM 02/27/02 – 03/12/02).**

(over)

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**PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SUBMIT ELECTION INSTRUCTIONS OVER THE PARTICIPANT TERMINAL SYSTEM (PTS) THROUGH THE ELECTIVE DIVIDEND SYSTEM (EDS) FUNCTION. DUE TO THE INTERIM PERIOD, THE EDS FUNCTION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS' ELECTIONS ON MARCH 13, 2002.**

**Participants not responding to the above option by 3/21/2002, will receive the mandatory distribution in accordance with Option #1 (cash).**

To confirm your Record Date positions Participants should access the Dividend and Allocation History (DPAL) Option, via the PTS Dividend Announcements Inquiry (DIVA) Function.

If there are any questions regarding this Important Notice or the processing of related instructions via EDS, DTC participants should contact Mr. John McCarthy or Ms. Janet Tuccillo of DTC's Stock Dividend Department at (212) 855-4521 or 4533.