

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS L P

Form 10-K/A

April 14, 2005

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

**Form 10-K/A
(Amendment No. 1)**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-9516

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS, L.P.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

13-3398766

*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

100 South Bedford Road, Mt. Kisco, New York

(Address of principal executive offices)

10549

(Zip Code)

(914) 242-7700

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Depository Units Representing Limited Partner Interests
5% Cumulative Pay-in-Kind Redeemable Preferred Units
Representing Limited Partner Interests

New York Stock Exchange

New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was

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required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by a check mark whether registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of depositary units held by nonaffiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2004, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, based upon the closing price of depositary units on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on such date was \$133,207,103.

Introductory Note:

We are filing this amendment to our Annual Report on Form 10-K to comply with requirements contained in Section 303A.03 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual. In accordance with these requirements, we have identified the non-management director who presides over meetings of non-management directors and the method we established for interested parties to make their concerns known to non-management directors.

PART III**Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant.**

The names, offices held and the ages of the directors and executive officers of API are as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Carl C. Icahn	69	Chairman of the Board
William A. Leidesdorf	59	Director
James L. Nelson	55	Director
Jack G. Wasserman	68	Director
Keith A. Meister	31	President and Chief Executive Officer
Martin L. Hirsch	49	Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions and Development
John P. Saldarelli	63	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Treasurer

The names, offices held and ages of certain key employees of our subsidiaries are as follows:

Name	Age	Position
Bob Alexander	72	President and Chief Executive Officer, National Energy Group, Inc.
Richard P. Brown	57	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, American Casino & Entertainment Properties LLC

Carl C. Icahn has served as Chairman of the Board and a director of Starfire Holding Corporation, or Starfire, (formerly Icahn Holding Corporation), a privately-held holding company, and Chairman of the Board and a director of various subsidiaries of Starfire, since 1984. Mr. Icahn is and has been since 1994 a majority shareholder, the Chairman of the Board and a Director of American Railcar Industries, Inc., or ARI, a Missouri corporation. ARI is primarily engaged in the business of manufacturing, managing, leasing and selling of railroad freight and tank cars. Mr. Icahn has also been Chairman of the Board and President of Icahn & Co., Inc., a registered broker-dealer and a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, since 1968.

Since November 1990, Mr. Icahn has been Chairman of the Board of American Property Investors, Inc., the general partner of American Real Estate Partners, L.P., a public limited partnership that invests in real estate and holds various other interests, including the interests in its subsidiaries that are engaged, among other things, in the oil and gas business and casino entertainment business. Mr. Icahn has been a director of Cadus Pharmaceutical Corporation, a firm that holds various biotechnology patents, since 1993. From August 1998 to August 2002, Mr. Icahn served as Chairman of the Board of Maupintour Holding LLC (f/k/a/ Lowestfare.com, LLC), an internet travel reservations company. From October 1998 through May, 2004, Mr. Icahn was the President and a director of Stratosphere Corporation, which operates the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino. Since September 29, 2000, Mr. Icahn has served as the Chairman of the Board of GB Holdings, Inc., which owns all of the outstanding stock of Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc., which

through its wholly-owned subsidiary owns and operates The Sands Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Icahn also serves in the same capacity with Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc.

In January 2003, Mr. Icahn became Chairman of the Board and a director of XO Communications, Inc., a telecommunications company.

William A. Leidesdorf has served as a Director of API since March 26, 1991 and as a Director of AREP Finance since inception. Mr. Leidesdorf is also a Director of Renco Steel Group, Inc. and its subsidiary, WCI Steel, Inc., a steel producer which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in September 2003. Since June 1997, Mr. Leidesdorf has been an owner and a managing director of Renaissance Housing, LLC, a company primarily engaged in acquiring multifamily residential properties. From April 1995 through December 1997, Mr. Leidesdorf acted as an independent real estate investment banker. Since December 29, 2003, Mr. Leidesdorf has served as a Director of American Entertainment Properties Corp. and American Casino & Entertainment Properties Finance Corp., or ACEP Finance, which are our indirect subsidiaries. Mr. Leidesdorf has been licensed by the New Jersey State Casino Control Commission and the Nevada State Gaming Control Commission.

James L. Nelson has served as a Director of API since June 12, 2001 and as a Director of AREP Finance since inception. From 1986 until the present, Mr. Nelson has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eaglescliff Corporation, a specialty investment banking, consulting and wealth management company. From March 1998 through 2003, Mr. Nelson was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Orbit Aviation, Inc. a company engaged in the acquisition and completion of Boeing Business Jets for private and corporate clients. From August 1995 until July 1999, he was Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chairman of Orbitex Management, Inc. Mr. Nelson currently serves as a Director of Viskase Corporation, a closely-held supplier for the meat and poultry business. Until March 2001, he was on the Board of Orbitex Financial Services Group, a financial services company in the mutual fund sector. Since December 29, 2003, Mr. Nelson has served as a Director of American Entertainment Properties Corp. and ACEP Finance, which are our indirect subsidiaries. Mr. Nelson has been licensed by the New Jersey State Casino Control Commission and the Nevada State Gaming Control Commission.

Jack G. Wasserman has served as a Director of API since December 3, 1993 and as a Director of AREP Finance since inception. Mr. Wasserman is an attorney and a member of the Bars of New York, Florida and the District of Columbia. From 1966 until 2001, he was a senior partner of Wasserman, Schneider, Babb & Reed, a New York-based law firm and its predecessors. Since September 2001, Mr. Wasserman has been engaged in the practice of law as a sole practitioner. Mr. Wasserman has been licensed by the New Jersey State Casino Control Commission and the Nevada State Gaming Control Commission and, at the latter's direction, is an independent member and Chairman of the Stratosphere Compliance Committee. Since December 29, 2003, Mr. Wasserman has served as a Director of American Entertainment Properties Corp. and ACEP Finance, which are our indirect subsidiaries. Mr. Wasserman is not a member of the Stratosphere's Board of Directors. Since December 1, 1998, Mr. Wasserman has been a Director of National Energy Group, Inc. In 2003, National Energy Group, Inc. became our subsidiary. Mr. Wasserman is also a Director of Cadus Corporation, a publicly traded biotechnology company. Affiliates of Mr. Icahn are controlling shareholders of each of these companies. On March 11, 2004, Mr. Wasserman was appointed, and in June 2004, elected to the Board of Directors of Triarc Companies, Inc. a publicly traded diversified holding company. Mr. Wasserman serves on the Audit and Compensation Committees of Triarc.

Keith A. Meister has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of API since August 2003 and of AREP Finance since inception. He continues to serve as a senior investment analyst of High River Limited Partnership, a company owned and controlled by Mr. Icahn, a position he has held since June 2002. Mr. Meister is also a Senior Investment Analyst of Icahn Partners LP and Icahn Partners Master Fund LP. He is also a director of Icahn Fund Ltd., which is the feeder fund of Icahn Partners Master Fund LP. Icahn Partners LP and Icahn Partners Master Fund LP are private investment funds controlled by Mr. Icahn. From March 2000 through 2001, Mr. Meister co-founded and served as co-president of J Net Ventures, a venture capital fund focused on investments in information technology and enterprise software businesses. From 1997 through 1999, Mr. Meister served as an investment professional at Northstar Capital Partners, an opportunis-

tic real estate investment partnership. Prior to Northstar, Mr. Meister served as an investment analyst in the investment banking group at Lazard Freres. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the following companies: XO Communications, Inc., a company that is majority-owned by various entities controlled by Mr. Icahn; TransTexas Gas Corporation; and Scientia Corporation, a private health care venture company in which we hold less than a 10% equity interest. Since December 29, 2003, Mr. Meister has served as a Director of American Entertainment Properties Corp. and ACEP Finance, which are our indirect subsidiaries.

Martin L. Hirsch has served as a Vice President of API since 1991 and of AREP Finance since inception. Mr. Hirsch focuses on investment, management and disposition of real estate properties and other assets. On March 23, 2000, Mr. Hirsch was elected to serve as Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions and Development of API. From January 1986 to January 1991, Mr. Hirsch was a Vice President of Integrated Resources, Inc. where he was involved in the acquisition of commercial real estate properties and asset management. In 1985 and 1986, Mr. Hirsch was a Vice President of Hall Financial Group where he was involved in acquiring and financing commercial and residential properties. Mr. Hirsch has been a director of National Energy Group, Inc. since 1998. Since September 29, 2000 Mr. Hirsch served as a director of GB Property Funding Inc. from September 29, 2000 until July 22, 2004 and of Greate Bay Hotel and Casino, Inc. from February 28, 2001 until July 22, 2004. Mr. Hirsch has served as a Director of GB Holdings, Inc. which owns all of the outstanding stock of Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc., which through its wholly-owned subsidiary owns and operates The Sands Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey and GB Property Funding, Inc. Since July 22, 2004, Mr. Hirsch also serves in the same capacity with Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc.

John P. Saldarelli has served as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of API since March 18, 1991 and as Chief Financial Officer since June 2000 and of AREP Finance since inception. Mr. Saldarelli was President of Bayswater Realty Brokerage Corp. from June 1987 until November 19, 1993, and Vice President of Bayswater Realty & Capital Corp. from September 1979 until April 15, 1993. Mr. Saldarelli served as a Director of Stratosphere from October, 1998 until May 2004. Mr. Saldarelli served as a director of GB Property Funding, Inc. and Greate Bay Hotel and Casino, Inc. from February 28, 2001 until July 22, 2004. Since February 28, 2001, Mr. Saldarelli has served as a Director of GB Holdings, Inc. which owns all of the outstanding stock of Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc., which through its wholly-owned subsidiary owns and operates The Sands Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Since July 22, 2004, Mr. Saldarelli also serves in the same capacity with Atlantic Coast Entertainment Holdings, Inc.

Richard P. Brown has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of ACEP; and President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of American Entertainment Properties Corp. and ACEP Finance since inception. Mr. Brown has over 12 years experience in the gaming industry. Mr. Brown has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of each of the Stratosphere, Arizona Charlie's Decatur and Arizona Charlie's Boulder since June 2002. From January 2001 to June 2002, he served as Chief Operating Officer for all three properties. Prior to joining Stratosphere Gaming Corp. in March 2000 as Executive Vice President of Marketing, Mr. Brown held executive positions with Harrah's Entertainment and Hilton Hotels Corporation. Mr. Brown also serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of GB Holdings, Inc., which owns and operates The Sands Hotel and Casino.

Bob G. Alexander has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of NEG since November, 1998. Mr. Alexander has served as President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of TransTexas and Panaco since August 2003 and November 2004, respectively. A founder of Alexander Energy Corporation, Mr. Alexander has served on the Board of Directors of NEG since Alexander Energy Corporation merged into NEG on August 29, 1996. From 1998 until the merger, he served as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alexander Energy Corporation. From 1976 to 1980, he served as Vice President and General Manager of the Northern Division of Reserve Oil, Inc. and President of Basin Drilling Corp., subsidiaries of Reserve Oil and Gas Company.

Audit Committee

James L. Nelson, William A. Leidesdorf and Jack G. Wasserman serve on our audit committee. We believe that the audit committee members are independent as defined in the currently applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. A copy of the audit committee charter is available on our website at www.areplp.com/files/pdf/audit_committee_charter.pdf or may be obtained without charge by writing to American Real Estate Partners, L.P., 100 South Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, attention John P. Saldarelli.

Our audit committee meets formally at least once every quarter, and more often if necessary. In addition to the functions set forth in its charter, the audit committee reviews potential conflicts of interest which may arise, between us and API and its affiliates. The General Partner and its affiliates may not receive duplicative fees.

The functions of our audit committee as set forth in the Partnership Agreement include (1) the review of our financial and accounting policies and procedures; (2) the review of the results of audits of the books and records made by our outside auditors, (3) the review of allocations of overhead expenses in connection with the reimbursement of expenses to API and its affiliates, and (4) the review and approval of related party transactions and conflicts of interest in accordance with the terms of our partnership agreement.

The audit committee, has confirmed that: (1) the audit committee reviewed and discussed our 2004 audited financial statements with management, (2) the audit committee has discussed with our independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by SAS 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU §380), (3) the audit committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountants required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1; and (4) based on the review and discussions referred to in clauses (1), (2) and (3) above, the audit committee recommended to the Board of Directors that our 2004 audited financial statements be included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Our Board of Directors has determined that we do not have an audit committee financial expert, within the meaning of Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K, serving on our audit committee. We believe that each member of the audit committee is financially literate and possesses sufficient experience, both professionally and by virtue of his service as a director and member of the audit committee of API, to be fully capable of discharging his duties as a member of our audit committee. However, none of the members of our audit committee has a professional background in accounting or preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements. If our audit committee determines that it requires additional financial expertise, it will either engage professional advisers or seek to recruit a member who would qualify as an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of Item 401(h) of Regulation S-K.

Jack G. Wasserman has been chosen to preside and currently presides at executive sessions of our non-management directors.

Interested parties may directly communicate with the presiding director or with the non-management directors as a group by directing all inquiries to our ethics hotline at (877) 888-0002.

Compensation Committee

James L. Nelson, William A. Leidesdorf and Jack G. Wasserman serve on our compensation committee.

Code of Ethics

On October 25, 2004, our Board of Directors adopted a Code of Ethics applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer. A copy of the Code of Ethics is available on our website at www.areplp.com/files/pdf/code_of_ethics.pdf and may be obtained without charge by writing to American Real Estate Partners, L.P., 100 South Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, attention: John P. Saldarelli.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

On October 25, 2004, API's Board of Directors adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines for AREP and its subsidiaries, excluding NEG, which has its own separate set of guidelines. A copy of the Corporate Governance Guidelines is available on our website at www.areplp.com/files/pdf/corporate_governance.pdf and may be obtained without charge by writing to American Real Estate Partners, L.P., 100 South Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, attention: John P. Saldarelli.

Filing of Reports

To the best of our knowledge, no director, executive officer or beneficial owner of more than 10% of AREP's depositary units failed to file on a timely basis reports required by §16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, during the year ended December 31, 2004.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.

Exhibit Index

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| 31.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

American Real Estate Partners, L.P.

By: American Property Investors, Inc.
General Partner

Date: April 14, 2005

By: /s/ Keith A. Meister

Keith A. Meister,
President and Chief Executive Officer

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