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ENSIGN GROUP, INC  
Form SC 13G  
February 10, 2010

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. )\*

THE ENSIGN GROUP, INC.  
(Name of Issuer)

29358P101  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2009  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act.

CUSIP No. 29358P101

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

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(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

-----  
NUMBER OF  
SHARES BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON  
WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

None

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

1,090,780

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

1,200,180  
-----

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,200,180

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES \_\_\_\_\_

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

5.8%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA

CUSIP No. 29358P101

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

U.S.A.

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-----  
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER  
None

6. SHARED VOTING POWER  
1,090,780

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
None

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
1,200,180  
-----

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,200,180

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

5.8%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IN

Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer: THE ENSIGN GROUP, INC.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
27101 Puerta Real, Suite 450  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Item 2.

(a) Names of Persons Filing: (1) Heartland Advisors, Inc.

(2) William J. Nasgovitz

(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

All reporting persons may be contacted at 789 North Water  
Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

(c) Citizenship or Place of Organization: Heartland Advisors is a Wisconsin corporation. William J. Nasgovitz is a United States citizen.

(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number: 29358P101

Item 3.

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If this statement is filed pursuant to Sections 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o);
- (b)  Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);
- (c)  Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);
- (d)  Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940(15 U.S.C. 80a-8);
- (e) \* An investment adviser in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) \* A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h)  A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i)  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940(15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j)  A non-U.S. institution in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J);
- (k)  Group, in accordance with Section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

\* The persons filing this Schedule 13G are Heartland Advisors, Inc., an investment adviser registered with the SEC, and William J. Nasgovitz, President and control person of Heartland Advisors, Inc. The reporting persons do not admit that they constitute a group.

### Item 4. Ownership.

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

1,200,180 shares may be deemed beneficially owned within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the Act by (1) Heartland Advisors, Inc. by virtue of its investment discretion and voting authority granted by certain clients, which may be revoked at any time; and (2) William J. Nasgovitz, by virtue of his control of Heartland Advisors, Inc.

Mr. Nasgovitz disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares reported on the Schedule.

(b) Percent of Class: 5.8%

(c) For information on voting and dispositive power with respect to the above listed shares, see Items 5-9 of the Cover Pages.

### Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following:

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Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

The clients of Heartland Advisors, Inc., a registered investment adviser, including an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other managed accounts, have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends and proceeds from the sale of shares included on this Schedule. To the best of Heartland Advisors' knowledge, no account owns more than 5% of the outstanding stock.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below, the undersigned certify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of their knowledge and belief, the undersigned certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATE: February 10, 2010

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE  
Paul T. Beste  
As Attorney in Fact for  
William J. Nasgovitz  
(Pursuant to Power of Attorney Previously Filed)

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE  
Paul T. Beste  
Chief Operating Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 1 Joint Filing Agreement

EXHIBIT 1

Joint Filing Agreement

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k) (1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, each of the undersigned hereby agrees to the joint filing with the other reporting person of a statement on Schedule 13G

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(including amendments thereto) with respect to the common stock, \$0.001 par value, of THE ENSIGN GROUP, INC. and that this Agreement be included as an Exhibit to such joint filing. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby execute this Agreement this 10th day of February, 2010.

WILLIAM J. NASGOVITZ

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE  
Paul T. Beste  
As Attorney in Fact for William J. Nasgovitz  
(Pursuant to Power of Attorney Previously Filed)

HEARTLAND ADVISORS, INC.

By: /s/ PAUL T. BESTE  
Paul T. Beste  
Chief Operating Officer