

RUSNAK PATRICK J  
Form 4  
February 20, 2013

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
RUSNAK PATRICK J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
STERLING FINANCIAL CORP  
/WA/ [STSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
111 NORTH WALL STREET  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
02/16/2013

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Chief Financial Officer

SPOKANE, WA 99201

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price                                |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/19/2013                           |  | F                              | 2,412 D \$ 22.16  | 6,059   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/16/2013                           |  | M                              | 8,471 A 11  | 8,471   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 14  | I  | 401K                              |
| Common Stock (ESPP)             |                                      |  |                                |   | 784   | D  |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Restricted Stock Unit                      | (2)  | 02/16/2013                           |  | M                              | 8,471   | (2) 02/16/2014   | Common Stock  | 8,471                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| RUSNAK PATRICK J<br>111 NORTH WALL STREET<br>SPOKANE, WA 99201 |               |           | Chief Financial Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen,  
attorney-in-fact

02/20/2013

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Represents the vesting of 8,741 shares of common stock pursuant to a restricted stock unit vest on February 16, 2013. Since the vesting date commenced on a weekend (Saturday), taxable compensation was calculated using the closing price of Sterling stock on the next available trading day (February 19, 2013).

(2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of common stock. 75% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on February 16, 2013, 25% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on February 16, 2014, subject to the reporting person's continued employment with the Company on such date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.