

Hartheimer Robert Herman
 Form 4
 May 01, 2013

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Hartheimer Robert Herman

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)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 04/29/2013

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

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

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)	Price		
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock	04/30/2013		M		2,575	A	\$ 0 (1)
					28,103	D	

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

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 (9-02)

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

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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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title
Restricted Stock Unit	(2)	04/29/2013		A	1,608	(2) (2)	Common Stock
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 21.76	04/29/2013		A	2,626	04/01/2014 04/29/2023	Common Stock
Restricted Stock Unit	(3)	04/30/2013		M	2,575	(3) (3)	Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Hartheimer Robert Herman 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201			X	

Signatures

/s/ Lara L. Hemingway,
attorney-in-fact

05/01/2013

**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 2,575 restricted stock units and subsequent issuance of 2,575 shares of common stock effective April 30, 2013.
 - (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Sterling common stock. The restricted stock units are scheduled to become 100% vested on April 1, 2014, subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Company on such date.
 - (3) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Sterling common stock. The restricted stock units became 100% vested on April 30, 2013, the first anniversary date of the grant, subject to the reporting person's continued service 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.