

BERDING JOHN B  
Form 3  
May 23, 2012

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â BERDING JOHN B		(Month/Day/Year)	AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC [AFG]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
301 EAST FOURTH STREET,Â 27TH FLOOR			(Check all applicable)	
(Street)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
			<input type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
CINCINNATI,Â OHÂ 45202			(give title below)	(specify below)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	117,598 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	Â
Common Stock	23,746	I	ESPP <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	1,144,484	I	401(k) <sup>(3)</sup>

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying	4. Conversion	5. Ownership	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Derivative Security (Instr. 4) Title	Amount or Number of Shares	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	(Instr. 5)
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/24/2015	Common Stock	52,500	\$ 20.28	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/22/2016	Common Stock	52,500	\$ 26.89	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/22/2017	Common Stock	43,750	\$ 36.57	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	09/05/2017	Common Stock	20,000	\$ 28.61	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/21/2018	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 27.2	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/12/2019	Common Stock	25,000	\$ 19.1	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/11/2020	Common Stock	25,000	\$ 24.83	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/16/2021	Common Stock	27,500	\$ 34.34	D	Â
Stock Option Grant	Â (4)	02/23/2022	Common Stock	30,000	\$ 38.11	D	Â
Phantom Stock	Â (5)	Â (5)	Common Stock	982.422	\$ 38.92	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BERDING JOHN B 301 EAST FOURTH STREET 27TH FLOOR CINCINNATI, OH 45202	Â X	Â	Â	Â

## Signatures

John B. Berding By: Karl J. Grafe, as  
Attorney-in-Fact

05/23/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Includes 115,348 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to Issuer's stock incentive plan.
- (2) Shares owned by the Reporting Person in the Issuer's Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP"). The ESPP information reported herein is based on a plan statement dated as of April 30, 2012.
- (3) Represents shares held in the Issuer's 401(k) Retirement and Savings Plan. The number of shares of Common Stock is based on a Plan Statement dated as of April 30, 2012.
- (4) These Employee Stock Options were granted under the Issuer's Stock Option Plan and 2005 Stock Incentive Plan and become exercisable in five equal installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date.

Represents amounts held by the Reporting Person in a retirement plan of the Issuer at April 30, 2012. Each share is the economic equivalent of one share of Common Stock. The Reporting Person's account balance is distributed in cash following termination of employment.

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.