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Kunkel Willia	am R.										
Form 4											
March 13, 20	13										
FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549										APPROVAL 3235-0287	
								irs per			
(Print or Type R	esponses)										
Kunkel William R. Symb AMI			Symbol AMERI	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AMERICAN EQUITY NVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Last) 6000 WEST	(First) OWN PARK	(Middle)	5 Date of Earnest Fransaction				Director X Officer (give below) Executive V	ve title 10% Owner below) VP & General Counsel			
				Amendment, Date Original Month/Day/Year)				 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting 			
		1 30200						Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table	e I - Non-Do	erivative S	Securi	ties Ac	quired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	lly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transactior (Month/Day/Y	any	emed on Date, if /Day/Year)	Code	4. Securi onAcquired Disposed (Instr. 3, Amount	l (A) o l of (D)	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	03/11/2013			А	2,497 (1)	A	\$0	2,497	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.

 Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

 (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exer	cisable and	7. Tit	le and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	onNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amou	int of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	rlying	Security	Secu
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Secur	ities	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative		-		Securities			(Instr	. 3 and 4)		Owne
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	2				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
					.,						
									Amount		
						Date	Expiration		or		
						Exercisable	Date	Title	Number		
						Excicisable	Date	(of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
Kunkel William R. 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266			Executive VP & General Counsel					
Signatures								
Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney								
**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) An award of restricted stock pursuant to the American Equity Investment Life Holding Company 2009 Employee Incentive Plan.

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.