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Washington, D.C. 20549

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO

Form 4

September 17, 2013

Check this box

if no longer

Section 16.

Form 4 or

subject to

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

OMB APPROVAL

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

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading **GERLACH JAMES M** Issuer Symbol AMERICAN EQUITY

(Check all applicable) INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL] _X__ Director 10% Owner

Officer (give title __ Other (specify (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY 09/16/2013

> (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-	Derivative	Secui	rities Acquir	ed, Disposed of,	or Beneficially	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securition Dispose (Instr. 3, 4	ed of (` 1	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	09/16/2013		M M	15,000	A	\$ 9	238,167	D	
Common Stock	09/16/2013		S	12,200	D	\$ 21.14	225,967	D	
Common Stock	09/16/2013		S	400	D	\$ 21.15	225,567	D	
Common Stock	09/16/2013		S	2,400	D	\$ 21.1679	223,167	D	

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

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of tionDerivative 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)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	09/16/2013		M		15,000	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
GERLACH JAMES M							
6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY	X						
WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266							

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney

09/17/2013

**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).

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.

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