

Reuling Michael F  
Form 4  
May 01, 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 \*  
Reuling Michael F

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)

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

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

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

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

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock                    | 04/30/2013                           |  | M                              | V<br>A  | Amount<br>2,575<br>Price<br>\$ 0<br>(1)<br>7,589  | 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)**

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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 |
| Reuling Michael F<br>111 N. WALL STREET<br>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.