

SCHULTHEIS ANDREW J  
 Form 4  
 February 06, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 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 \*  
 SCHULTHEIS ANDREW J

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)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/31/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below)  
 \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 General Counsel

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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

(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)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock (ESPP) (1)	01/31/2012		A	V 500 A 15.61 (2)	500	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)**

Edgar Filing: SCHULTHEIS ANDREW J - Form 4

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 Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 6)	
							Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V	(A)	(D)			

### Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SCHULTHEIS ANDREW J 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201			General Counsel	

### Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen, attorney-in-fact  
02/06/2012  
\*\*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).
- The reporting person is voluntarily reporting the acquisition of shares of the issuer's common stock pursuant to the Sterling Financial Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), for the ESPP offering period of August 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. This transaction is also exempt under Rule 16b-3(c).
- (1) In accordance with the ESPP, the purchase price of these shares was based on 85% of the closing price of the issuer's common stock on January 31, 2012.

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.