

BILLER LESLIE S

Form 4

January 31, 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 *
BILLER LESLIE S

 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 N. WALL STREET

 3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
01/29/2013
☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

 (Street)
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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			

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

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 information contained in this form are not
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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	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Am Underlying Sec (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	A	N	SH
Non-Qualified Stock Option (1)	\$ 21.47	01/29/2013			A		141,044		06/30/2013	01/28/2023	Common Stock	1		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BILLER LESLIE S 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	X			

Signatures

/s/ Lara L. Hemingway,
attorney-in-fact

01/31/2013

__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).

Grant of non-qualified stock options pursuant to Sterling's compensation agreement with Mr. Biller dated January 25, 2013. Mr. Biller's compensation is a result of his continued service as non-executive Chairman and member of the Sterling Board of Directors. The stock options will vest in 25% intervals beginning on June 30, 2013 and on each six-month interval thereafter, until such options are fully vested. The award of non-qualified stock options are issued under and governed by the terms of Sterling's 2010 Long Term 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.