

Dunbar Timothy Mark
 Form 4
 February 20, 2013

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Dunbar Timothy Mark

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 711 HIGH STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/19/2013

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 SVP and Chief Investment Officer

DES MOINES, IA 50392

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 | 02/19/2013 | | M ⁽¹⁾ | | 4,930 | A | \$ 27.57 |
| Common Stock | 02/19/2013 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | | 4,923 | D | \$ 31.63 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | (3) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 114 | I | By Spouse |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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. 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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 27.57 | 02/19/2013 | | M ⁽¹⁾ | 4,930 | 02/25/2006 02/25/2013 | Common Stock 4,930 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Dunbar Timothy Mark 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392 | | | SVP and Chief Investment Officer | |

Signatures

Timothy M. Dunbar
Date: 02/20/2013
Signature of Reporting Person

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) Pursuant to a 10b5-1 plan adopted February 6, 2013.
- (2) Includes 2,919 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$31.53 to \$31.73, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to Principal Financial Group, Inc., any security holder thereof, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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