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SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY Form 4 August 08, 2011										
FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549								-	2235-0287	
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 BENEFICIAI SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Ex Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company 30(h) of the Investment Company Act						chang Act o	ge Act of 1934, f 1935 or Sectio	Estimated a burden hou response	irs per	
(Print or Type Responses)										
SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY Sym STI			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Month			Date of Earliest Transaction Month/Day/Year) 8/05/2011				X_ Director10% Owner X_ Officer (give title0ther (specify below) below) CEO/President - SFC			
(Street) SPOKANE, WA 99201	Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable _X_FormForm f					Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by Form filed by 1	y One Reporting Person y More than One Reporting			
(City) (State)	(Zip)	Table	I - Non-De	erivative S	Securi	ties Ac	Person quired, Disposed o	of. or Beneficia	llv Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)2. Transaction D (Month/Day/Yea)	r) Execution any	ned n Date, if	3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securi onAcquired Disposed	ties l (A) o l of (D	r)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial	
Common Stock 08/05/2011			Code V $A^{(1)}$	Amount 1,246 (2)	or (D) A	Price \$ 0	(Instr. 3 and 4) 31,331	D		
Common Stock							2,234	Ι	401K	

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

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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)	4. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		ate	Under Secur	ınt of rlying	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Х		CEO/President - SFC					
Signatures								
/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, attorney-in-fact		08/08/2011						

**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).

Date

Grant of salary stock in the form of mandatorily deferred Restricted Stock Units as approved by Sterling's board of directors on December (1) 8, 2010. Future RSUs are to be granted each payroll period and will be calculated using the closing price of Sterling's common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market as of the last trading day in each payroll period.

Units vest immediately upon grant, however, delivery of the awarded shares is deferred until future distribution dates provided in the (2) Agreement between Sterling and Mr. Seibly.

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.