STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 5

Stock

February 13, 2014

OMB APPROVAL FORM 5 **OMB** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 3235-0362 Number: Washington, D.C. 20549 Check this box if January 31, Expires: no longer subject 2005 to Section 16. Estimated average ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL Form 4 or Form burden hours per 5 obligations OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES response... 1.0 may continue. See Instruction Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 1(b). Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Form 4 Transactions Reported 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer RUSNAK PATRICK J Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP (Check all applicable) /WA/[STSA] (Middle) 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Last) (First) Director 10% Owner _ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 12/31/2013 Chief Financial Officer 111 NORTH WALL STREET (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting Filed(Month/Day/Year) (check applicable line) SPOKANE, WAÂ 99201 _X_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person Form Filed by More than One Reporting (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 7. Nature of (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction Indirect Security (A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Form: Direct Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned at end (D) or Ownership of Issuer's Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) Fiscal Year (Instr. 4) (A) (Instr. 3 and or 4) (D) Amount Price Common \$ 07/31/2013 Â $L^{(1)}$ 22.55 D Â Stock 162 A 996 (1) (ESPP) Common Â Â J(2)\$ 0 (2) Stock 12/31/2013 50 996 D (ESPP) Common Â Â Â Â Â Â 14 I 401k Plan

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Common Stock Â Â Â Â Â Â A 6,059 D Â

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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		ate	Amor Unde Secur	le and ant of rlying ities . 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)
				(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	

of D

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
RUSNAK PATRICK J 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Chief Financial Officer	Â			

Signatures

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

**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) In accordance with the Sterling Financial Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the purchase price of these shares was based on 85% of the closing price of Sterling's common stock on July 31, 2013. This transaction was exempt under Rule 16-b-3(c).
- (2) Shares acquired under the Sterling Financial Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan as a result of reinvested cash dividends paid in 2013.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.

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