

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/
Form 5
February 13, 2014

FORM 5

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).
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
RUSNAK PATRICK 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)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2013

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chief Financial Officer

111 NORTH WALL STREET
(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting
(check applicable line)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Amount	Price			
Common Stock (ESPP)	07/31/2013	Â	L ⁽¹⁾	A	162	\$ 22.55 ⁽¹⁾	996	D	Â
Common Stock (ESPP)	12/31/2013	Â	J ⁽²⁾	A	50	\$ 0 ⁽²⁾	996	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	14	I	401k Plan

Common Stock 6,059 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 2270 (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 (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. of D Se B O E Is F (I
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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
RUSNAK PATRICK J 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Financial Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signatures

/s/ Lara L. Hemingway,
attorney-in-fact 02/13/2014

**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.