STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 4 June 19, 2006

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Issuer

January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per

OMB APPROVAL

response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

Check this box

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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP

may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

Symbol

/WA/[STSA]

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

LUKES DONALD J

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

			e of Earliest h/Day/Year) 5/2006	Transaction	n		X Director Officer (giv below)	0% Owner ther (specify		
			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)				6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _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 Own							ially Owned			
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, it any (Month/Day/Year	Code	4. Securion(A) or D (Instr. 3,	ispose 4 and (A) or	d of (D)	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)	
Common Stock	06/19/2006	06/19/2006	<u>J(1)</u>	622	D	\$ 0	0	D		
Common Stock	06/15/2006	06/19/2006	J(2)	700	A	\$ 30	700	I	WKDT Retirement Plan	
Common Stock	06/16/2006	06/19/2006	J(2)	300	A	\$ 30.494	1,000	I	WKDT Retirement Plan	
Common Stock	06/19/2006	06/19/2006	J <u>(1)</u>	622	A	\$ 0	1,622	I	WKDT Retirement Plan	

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

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

 Title of 	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Titl	e and	8. Price of	9
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transacti	onNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amou	nt of	Derivative	J
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	lying	Security	,
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Secur	ities	(Instr. 5)]
	Derivative				Securities	1		(Instr.	3 and 4)		(
	Security				Acquired]
					(A) or						J
					Disposed						-
					of (D)						(
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
									Amount		
									or		
						Date	Expiration	Title	Number		
						Exercisable	sable Date		of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		
				Code v	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
Reporting Owner Name / Address	

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

LUKES DONALD J 111 N. WALL STREET X SPOKANE, WA 99201

Signatures

E. Marie Hirsch 06/19/2006

**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).
- (2) Cash purchase transaction
- (1) 622 shares were initially designated as "direct" ownership but should have been classified as "indirect" ownership

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.

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