

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 4  
March 15, 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 \*  
DEPILLO DAVID S

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)  
111 NORTH WALL STREET  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/13/2013

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP/Vice Chairman

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	03/13/2013		M	9,692 A	9,692	D	
Common Stock	03/13/2013		F	3,307 D \$ 21.3	6,385	D	
Common Stock					40	I	401 K
Common Stock <u>(2)</u>					237,273	I	The DePillo Family Trust

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

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(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. Pr Deriv Secur (Instr	
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
						Code	V	(A)	(D)
Restricted Stock Unit	(3)	03/13/2013		M	9,692	(3)	(3)	Common Stock	9,692

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
DEPILLO DAVID S 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201			EVP/Vice Chairman	

## Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen,  
attorney-in-fact

03/15/2013

\_\_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) Represents the vesting of 9,692 restricted stock units and subsequent issuance of 6,385 shares of common stock effective March 13, 2013.

(2) 1,200,000 shares of common stock owned by The DePillo Family Trust to which Mr. DePillo is a Trustee.

Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Sterling common stock. The restricted stock units are  
(3) scheduled to vest 25% on March 13, 2013, 25% on March 13, 2014 and 50% on March 13, 2015 subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Company through such dates.

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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