

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP
 Form 4
 January 30, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2015
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 *
CRANE TIMOTHY

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP [WTFC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 9700 WEST HIGGINS ROAD, 8TH FLOOR

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/26/2017

____ Director
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

(Street)
 ROSEMONT, IL 60018

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount or Price | | |
| Common Stock | 01/26/2017 | | A | | 1,247 A \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾ | 15,888 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/27/2017 | | M | | 1,910 A \$ 33.28 | 17,798 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/27/2017 | | M | | 1,049 A \$ 30.98 | 18,847 | D |
| Common Stock | 01/27/2017 | | S | | 2,959 D \$ 71.59 ₍₂₎ | 15,888 | D |
| | | | | | | 1,109 ₍₃₎ | I By ESPP |

Common
Stock

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 1474
(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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 33.28 | 01/27/2017 | | M | 1,910 | 08/03/2014 08/03/2018 | Common Stock | 1,910 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 30.98 | 01/27/2017 | | M | 1,049 | 01/26/2015 01/26/2019 | Common Stock | 1,049 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

CRANE TIMOTHY
9700 WEST HIGGINS ROAD, 8TH FLOOR
ROSEMONT, IL 60018

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Signatures

/s/Kathleen M. Boege,
Attorney-in-fact

01/30/2017

**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 stock awarded upon attainment of performance objectives under the Company's Long Term Incentive Program.

The price reported is the weighted average price. The shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$71.40 to \$71.73.

(2) The reporting person undertakes to provide to the SEC, the issuer and any security holder full information regarding the number of shares and the prices at which the shares were sold.

(3) Includes 135 shares purchased by reporting person during 2016 in the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

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.