

Hartheimer Robert Herman  
Form 4  
April 25, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Hartheimer Robert Herman

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)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
04/22/2011

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner  
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

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

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V Amount (D) Price                                                         |                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                   |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
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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<br>Derivative<br>Security | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any | 4. Transaction<br>Code | 5. Number<br>of Derivative<br>Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Pr<br>Deriv<br>Secu |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|

## Edgar Filing: Hartheimer Robert Herman - Form 4

| (Instr. 3)               | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) |       |     |                     |                    |                 | (Instr. 9)                             |    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|----|
|                          |                                    |                  | Code       | V                                                                   | (A)   | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |    |
| Restricted<br>Stock Unit | (1)                                | 04/22/2011       | A          |                                                                     | 2,798 |     | (1)                 | (1)                | Common<br>Stock | 2,798                                  | \$ |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                         | Relationships |           |         |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                                        | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Hartheimer Robert Herman<br>111 NORTH WALL STREET<br>SPOKANE, WA 99201 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Robert G. Butterfield,  
attorney-in-fact

04/25/2011

                    \*\*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).

Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Sterling common stock. The restricted stock units are

- (1) scheduled to become 100% vested after the first anniversary date of the grant (April 22, 2012) subject to the reporting person's continued service with the Company on such date.

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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