

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 4  
April 22, 2014

**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 \*  
Eckhardt Ezra

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 N. WALL STREET  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
04/18/2014

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

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) Price  |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 04/18/2014                           |  | D                              | 74,046 D  | 0   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 04/18/2014                           |  | D                              | 13,340 D  | 0   | I  | 401k Plan                         |
| Common Stock                    | 04/18/2014                           |  | D                              | 925 D   | 0   | I  | Spouse IRA                        |
| Common Stock (ESPP)             | 04/18/2014                           |  | D                              | 1,468 D   | 0   | D  |                                   |

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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option                 | \$ 21.76   | 04/18/2014                           |  | D <sup>(2)</sup>               | 8,231   | 04/29/2014 04/29/2023                                    | Common Stock  | 8,231                         |
| Restricted Stock Unit                      | (3)  | 04/18/2014                           |  | D <sup>(3)</sup>               | 3,746   | (3) 03/13/2015   | Common Stock  | 3,746                         |
| Restricted Stock Unit                      | (3)  | 04/18/2014                           |  | D <sup>(3)</sup>               | 8,639   | (3) (3)  | Common Stock  | 8,639                         |
| Restricted Stock Unit                      | (3)  | 04/18/2014                           |  | D <sup>(3)</sup>               | 13,469  | (3) (3)  | Common Stock  | 13,469                        |
| Restricted Stock Unit                      | (3)  | 04/18/2014                           |  | D <sup>(3)</sup>               | 9,771   | (3) (3)  | Common Stock  | 9,771                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                           | Relationships |           |                                |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                        | Other |
| Eckhardt Ezra<br>111 N. WALL STREET<br>SPOKANE, WA 99201 |               |           | COO - Sterling Financial Corp. |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Lara L. Hemingway,  
attorney-in-fact

04/22/2014

\*\*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).

## Edgar Filing: STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ - Form 4

- Common stock of Sterling Financial Corporation ("Sterling") disposed of in connection with the merger of Sterling with and into Umpqua Holdings Corporation ("Umpqua") on April 18, 2014 pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 11, 2013, between Sterling and Umpqua, each share of Sterling's common stock was exchanged for \$2.18 in cash and 1.671 shares of Umpqua common stock.
- (1)
  - (2) Nonqualified stock options of Sterling disposed of pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger. Each Sterling stock option will be converted into an option to purchase Umpqua common stock per the equity award exchange ratio as referred to in the Agreement and Plan of Merger.
  - (3) Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs") of Sterling disposed of pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger. Each Sterling RSU will be converted into an Umpqua RSU per the equity award exchange ratio as referred to in the Agreement and Plan of Merger.

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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