

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 5

February 13, 2012

FORM 5

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).

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 DEPILO 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)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2011

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Chief Credit Officer

111 NORTH WALL STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

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 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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Amount Price			
Common Stock	08/12/2011	WA	P4	8,058 (1) A \$ 13.2	237,273	I	The DePillo Family Trust
Common Stock	08/15/2011	WA	P4	1,942 (1) A \$ 13.2	237,273	I	The DePillo Family Trust
	12/31/2011	WA	J	38 (3) A	38	I	401 K

Common Stock \$ 0
(2)

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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. of D Se B O E Is Fi (I
						Date Exercisable (A) (D)	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
DEPILLO DAVID S 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Â Chief Credit Officer	Â

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne,
attorney-in-fact 02/13/2012

**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) Share purchases made by Mr. DePillo were not communicated to Sterling on a timely basis and are hereby being reported on Form 5 to reconcile share holdings as of December 31, 2011.
- (2) Not required.
- (3) To balance 401(k) company share ownership at 12/31/2011 -- This amount reflects shares owned through employee contributions as well as company match shares at 12/31/2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.