

SMELKO MICHAEL G

Form 4

January 21, 2011

**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 \*  
**SMELKO MICHAEL G**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

100 LIBERTY STREET

(Street)

WARREN, PA 16365

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
 Symbol

Northwest Bancshares, Inc. [NWBI]

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

01/19/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
 Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

EVP & Chief Credit Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
 Applicable Line)  
 \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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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 Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Options	\$ 12.12	01/19/2011		13,000 <u>(1)</u>	A				01/19/2012	01/19/2021	Common Stock	13,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMELKO MICHAEL G 100 LIBERTY STREET WARREN, PA 16365			EVP & Chief Credit Officer	

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G.  
Smelko 01/21/2011

          Signature of                      Date  
Reporting Person

## 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) Stock options vest at a rate of 1/7 per year commencing on January 19, 2011.

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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