

HERITAGE FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form DEF 14A  
March 15, 2005

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**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- |                                     |   |                          |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Preliminary Proxy Statement   | <input type="checkbox"/> | CONFIDENTIAL FOR USE OF THE<br>COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY<br>RULE 14a-6(e)(2)) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Definitive Proxy Statement  |                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Definitive Additional Materials   |                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12 |                          |  |

**Heritage Financial Corporation**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No fee required.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11. |

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(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:

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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

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**To be held April 28, 2005**

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To Our Stockholders:

You are invited to attend the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders of Heritage Financial Corporation (Heritage) to be held at the Phoenix Inn, 417 Capitol Way N., Olympia, Washington, on April 28, 2005 at 10:30 a.m., Pacific Time. At the annual meeting, you will be asked to:

1. Elect three (3) persons to serve on the Board of Directors of Heritage until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2008 and one (1) person to serve on the Board of Directors of Heritage until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2006.
2. Approve whatever other business as may properly be brought before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on March 9, 2005 are entitled to vote at the annual meeting or any adjournment of the annual meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward D. Cameron

Secretary

Olympia, Washington

March 22, 2005

**We urge you to complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card as soon as possible, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person. If you do attend the annual meeting, you then may withdraw your proxy and vote in person. The proxy may be withdrawn at any time prior to voting.**

201 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98501

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

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Heritage is sending this proxy statement to you for the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Heritage to be voted at the annual meeting. This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card are being mailed to stockholders on or about March 22, 2005.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING**

**When and Where is the Annual Meeting?**

The annual meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Pacific Time, on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at the Phoenix Inn, 417 Capitol Way N., Olympia, Washington.

**What Matters will be Voted on at the Annual Meeting?**

At the annual meeting, you will be asked to:

Elect three (3) persons to serve on the Board of Directors of Heritage until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2008 and one (1) person to serve on the Board of Directors of Heritage until the annual meeting of stockholders in 2006;

Approve whatever other business may properly come before the annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Who is Entitled to Vote?**

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on the record date, March 9, 2005, are entitled to receive notice of the annual meeting and to vote at the annual meeting. On March 9, 2005, there were 6,050,150 shares of Heritage common stock outstanding, held by approximately 1,415

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holders of record. Each share of Heritage common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter considered at the meeting, including one vote for each director to be elected. Stockholders are not entitled to cumulate their votes in the election of directors.

### **What Constitutes a Quorum?**

The presence at the annual meeting, in person or by proxy, of a majority of the outstanding shares eligible to vote at the annual meeting is required for a quorum to exist at the annual meeting. For this purpose, abstentions and broker non-votes are counted in determining the shares present at the annual meeting.

### **What Vote is Required to Elect the Directors?**

The four nominees for election as directors who receive a simple majority of votes cast will be elected directors. Votes may be cast in favor of some or all of the nominees for election to the Board of Directors or withheld as to some or all of the nominees.

**How Do I Vote?**

If you complete and properly sign the accompanying proxy card and return it to Heritage, it will be voted as you direct. If you give no directions on your proxy, the shares represented by your proxy, if properly signed, will be voted FOR the nominees for directors listed in this proxy statement. If any other matters are properly presented at the annual meeting for consideration, the persons named in the proxy will have discretion to vote on those matters according to their best judgment. Street name stockholders who wish to vote at the annual meeting will need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds their shares.

**Can I Change My Vote After I Return My Proxy Card?**

Yes. Even after you have submitted your proxy, your proxy may be withdrawn at any time before it is voted by

delivering written notice to Edward D. Cameron, Heritage's Secretary, at 201 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Olympia, Washington 98501, before 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2005, *or*

completing a later dated proxy, *or*

attending the annual meeting and voting in person.

**Who Pays the Costs of Soliciting Proxies?**

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of Heritage. Heritage will bear the costs of soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, Heritage's directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies personally or by telephone or fax. No director, officer or employee of Heritage who solicits proxies will receive any compensation for their solicitation other than their regular compensation for the positions they hold. Heritage does not intend to pay any compensation to any other persons for the solicitation of proxies. However, it will reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses to mail proxy materials for beneficial owners.

**STOCK OWNERSHIP**

**Who are the Largest Owners of Heritage Stock?**

The following table sets forth information concerning the number of shares of Heritage common stock held as of March 9, 2005 by the only stockholders who are known to management to be the beneficial owners of more than five percent (5%) of Heritage's outstanding shares:

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature	Percent of Class
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	<u>of Beneficial Ownership (1)</u>	
Donald V. Rhodes	415,068(2)	6.98%
201 Fifth Avenue, S.W.		
Olympia, WA 98501		

- (1) Of common stock.
- (2) Includes 6,800 options, which are exercisable at \$11.13 per share, 13,600 options exercisable at \$8.44 per share, 15,000 options exercisable at \$9.75 per share, and 12,000 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share. Includes 17,120 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.

**How Much Stock Do Heritage's Directors and Executive Officers Own?**

The following table shows the beneficial ownership of Heritage common stock as of March 9, 2005 by:

Each director and director nominee;

The chief executive officer and those persons who served as executive officers in 2004 and received salaries and bonuses totaling in excess of \$100,000 during 2004; and

All directors and executive officers as a group.



For purposes of this table and according to Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, a person is the beneficial owner of any shares if he or she has voting and/or investment power over those shares. The table includes shares owned by spouses, other immediate family members in trust, shares held in retirement accounts or funds for the benefit of the named individuals, and other forms of ownership, over which shares the persons named in the table possess voting and/or investment power.

Name	Shares Beneficially	
	Owned at March 9, 2005	
	Number	Percent of Outstanding Common Stock
D. Michael Broadhead (1)	72,684	1.07%
Lynn M. Brunton (2)	126,179	2.12%
Edward D. Cameron (3)	23,028	*
Brian S. Charneski (4)	26,300	*
Gary B. Christensen (5)	29,171	*
Peter N. Fluetsch (6)	25,100	*
Daryl D. Jensen (7)	162,495	2.73%
Melvin R. Lewis (8)	54,428	*
Jeffrey S. Lyon (9)	14,346	*
H. Edward Odegard (10)	14,789	*
Gregory D. Patjens (11)	40,188	*
Donald V. Rhodes (12)	415,068	6.98%
James P. Senna (13)	80,000	1.35%
Brian L. Vance (14)	164,519	2.77%
Philip S. Weigand (15)	128,035	2.15%
Directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons) (16)	1,376,330	19.32%

\* Represents less than 1.0% of Heritage's outstanding common stock.

- (1) Includes 4,100 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$9.00 per share, 6,900 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 6,900 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 4,600 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 1,800 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share. Includes 3,904 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.
- (2) Includes 500 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (3) Includes 4,050 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$9.75 per share and 3,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share. Includes 2,978 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.
- (4) Includes 1,200 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$8.00 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,500 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (5) Includes 300 shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$7.72 per share, 200 options exercisable at \$9.00 per share, 300 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 450 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 300 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 150 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (6) Includes 1,200 shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$7.81 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,500 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (7) Includes 1,950 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,300 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 650 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (8) Includes 500 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,300 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,300 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 650 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.

- (9) Includes 1,200 shares issuable upon the exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,500 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (10) Includes 500 shares issuable upon the exercise of options at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (11) Includes 6,900 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$9.75 per share, 4,900 options exercisable at \$8.44 per share, 4,600 options exercisable at \$8.75 per share, 4,050 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 3,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 1,200 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share. Includes 3,538 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.
- (12) Includes 6,800 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$11.13 per share, 13,600 options exercisable at \$8.44 per share, 15,000 options exercisable at \$9.75 per share and 12,000 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share. Includes 17,120 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.
- (13) Includes 800 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$8.50 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$7.81 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,500 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (14) Includes 3,600 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$8.44 per share, 8,000 options exercisable at \$9.75 per share, 15,000 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 14,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 4,000 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share. Includes 9,979 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.
- (15) Includes 800 shares issuable upon exercise of options, which are exercisable at \$8.50 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$7.81 per share, 1,200 options exercisable at \$10.15 per share, 1,500 options exercisable at \$12.25 per share, 1,000 options exercisable at \$21.38 per share and 500 options exercisable at \$21.11 per share.
- (16) Includes 190,950 shares issuable upon exercise of options. Includes 37,519 vested shares in the Heritage 401(k) ESOP.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table provides information about the executive officers of Heritage. All officers are appointed by the Board of Directors and serve at the pleasure of the Board for an unspecified term.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Has Served Heritage, Heritage Bank or Central Valley Bank Since</u>
Donald V. Rhodes (1)	69	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Heritage; Chairman of Heritage Bank; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Central Valley Bank	1986
Brian L. Vance (2)	50	President of Heritage and President and Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Bank	1996
Gregory D. Patjens (3)	55	Executive Vice President, Heritage Bank	1999
Edward D. Cameron (4)	64	Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary of Heritage and Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary of Heritage Bank	1999
D. Michael Broadhead (5)	60	President Central Valley Bank, N.A.	1986

- (1) For background information on Mr. Rhodes, see page 7 of the proxy statement.
- (2) For background information on Mr. Vance, see page 8 of the proxy statement.

- (3) Mr. Patjens joined Heritage Bank on March 16, 1999. Mr. Patjens was employed for over 25 years with Key Bank and its predecessor, Puget Sound National Bank in positions with responsibilities for a variety of administrative and bank operations functions. Prior to leaving Key Bank, Mr. Patjens was Senior Vice President for Key Services, National Client Services.
- (4) Mr. Cameron became the Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary of Heritage in January of 2003. Mr. Cameron was named Corporate Secretary of Heritage in June 2002. Prior to that he was Vice President and Treasurer of Heritage. Mr. Cameron was the Senior Vice President and Treasurer of Heritage Bank in August 1999. Prior to that since April 1999, Mr. Cameron was Vice President, Investment Manager at Heritage Bank. Prior to that, he had over 25 years of banking experience, most recently as Senior Vice President, Investment Manager at Security Pacific Bank.
- (5) Mr. Broadhead joined Central Valley Bank in 1986 and has been President of Central Valley Bank since 1990. Heritage acquired Central Valley Bank in March 1999.

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Heritage's Articles of Incorporation call for the Board of Directors to fix the exact number of directors from time to time within a range of no fewer than 5 nor more than 25 persons. The Board of Directors has fixed the number of directors at 11 persons.

Directors are divided into three classes with each class having three year terms that expire in successive years. Approximately one third of the members of the Board of Directors are elected by the stockholders annually. The directors whose terms will expire at the 2005 annual meeting are Daryl D. Jensen, Jeffrey S. Lyon, H. Edward Odegard and Donald V. Rhodes. All with the exception of Mr. Odegard, have been nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors for reelection at the 2005 annual meeting. Mr. Odegard has indicated his decision to retire at the expiration of his term. If elected, directors Jensen, Lyon and Rhodes will hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in the year 2008.

In addition, the Nominating Committee of the Board nominated Mr. Gary B. Christensen for election to the Board. If elected Mr. Christensen will hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in the year 2006.

Each nominee has indicated that he is able and willing to serve on the Board of Directors. If any nominee becomes unable to serve, the shares represented by all properly completed proxies will be voted for the election of the substitute recommended by the Board of Directors. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any nominee might be unavailable to serve.

Information about the nominees for election at the annual meeting as well as information about those directors continuing in office after the annual meeting is as follows:

#### **Nominees for Election at This Annual Meeting for a Term Expiring in 2008**

*Daryl D. Jensen, Director Since 1985.* Mr. Jensen, 66, was the President of Sunset Life Insurance Company of America from 1973 until his retirement in 1999. Currently, Mr. Jensen is Vice President of Western Institutional Review Board, located in Olympia, WA. He serves as a director of Sunset Life Insurance Company and of Kansas City Life Insurance Company. Mr. Jensen is also a director of Generations Bank, located in Missouri, and a director of Panorama City Corporation, a large retirement community located in Lacey, Washington. Mr. Jensen has served as a director of Central Valley Bank since 1989.

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*Jeffrey S. Lyon, Director since 2000.* Mr. Lyon, 52, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of GVA Kidder Mathews, headquartered in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Lyon serves as a director for GVA Worldwide and a director for Kidder Mathews-Segner Inc. Mr. Lyon is a member of the Real Estate Advisory Board of Washington State University and has over 32 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry in the Puget Sound area.

*Donald V. Rhodes, Director Since 1989.* Mr. Rhodes, 69, currently serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Heritage; Chairman of Heritage Bank; and since 1986, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Central Valley Bank, a subsidiary of Heritage which was acquired on March 5, 1999. Mr. Rhodes joined Heritage Bank in 1989 as President and Chief Executive Officer and was elected Chairman in 1990.

**Nominee for Election at This Annual Meeting for a Term Expiring in 2006**

*Gary B. Christensen.* Mr. Christensen, 56, is the owner of R.E. Powell Distributing a fuel, lubricant and propane distributorship headquartered in Yakima, Washington. In 2004 R.E. Powell Distributing was named one of five inductees into the University of Washington sponsored Leadership Circle at the Annual UW Minority Business of the Year Awards dinner. Mr. Christensen serves as a director for Central Valley Bank, N.A. and serves on the Board of Directors for Yakima County Economic Development. Mr. Christensen was recently appointed to the Chevron/Texaco National Distributor Advisory Council.

**The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of Messrs. Christensen, Jensen, Lyon, and Rhodes.**

**Incumbent Directors Whose Terms Expire in 2006**

*Lynn M. Brunton, Director Since 1990.* Ms. Brunton, 67, is presently a community volunteer and serves as a member of the St. Peter Hospital Community Board and is actively involved in several local community organizations. Ms. Brunton is also a director of Panorama City Corporation, a large retirement community located in Lacey, Washington.

*Melvin R. Lewis, Director Since 1999.* Mr. Lewis, 73, is a Broker and former President of the firm Terril, Lewis, Wilke Insurance. Since 1993, Mr. Lewis has served as a director of Central Valley Bank and, until March 5, 1999 was a director of Washington Independent Bancshares, Inc., the holding company for Central Valley Bank. On March 5, 1999, Heritage acquired Washington Independent Bancshares, Inc., and Central Valley bank then became a subsidiary of Heritage. Mr. Lewis became a director of Heritage on March 25, 1999 to fulfill the requirements of the acquisition agreement between Heritage and Washington Independent Bancshares, Inc. Mr. Lewis is also Vice President of the Yakima Community College Foundation and a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

*Philip S. Weigand, Director Since 1985.* Mr. Weigand, 67, is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Marine Corps with 20 years of active service. Since 1988, Mr. Weigand has been a real estate agent with Virgil Adams Real Estate, located in Olympia, Washington.

**Incumbent Directors Whose Terms Expire in 2007**

*Brian S. Charneski, Director since 2000.* Mr. Charneski, 43, is the President of L&E Bottling Company located in Olympia, Washington. He also serves as Chairman and CEO of Snack Time Foods, headquartered in Tumwater, Washington. Mr. Charneski is a director of Columbia Beverage Company headquartered in Tumwater, Washington, L&E Bottling Company and ET Financial Services, Inc.

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*Peter N. Fluetsch, Director since 1999.* Mr. Fluetsch, 67, is the Chief Executive Officer of Sunset Air, Inc. in Lacey, Washington, a heating and air conditioning contractor that he founded in 1976.

*James P. Senna, Director since 1976.* Mr. Senna, 70, is retired.

*Brian L. Vance, Director since 2003.* Mr. Vance, 50, currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Bank and President of Heritage. Mr. Vance has been employed by Heritage Bank since 1996. Prior to joining Heritage Bank, Mr. Vance was employed for over 20 years with West One Bank, a bank with offices in Idaho and Washington. Prior to leaving West One, he was Senior Vice President and Regional Manager of Banking Operations for the south Puget Sound region. On February 25, 2005, Mr. Vance was named

President of Heritage. On March 24, 2003, Mr. Vance was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Bank. On August 17, 1998, the Board of Directors of Heritage Bank approved the appointment of Mr. Vance as President and Chief Operating Officer of Heritage Bank to be effective as of October 1, 1998. Prior to that, Mr. Vance was named Executive Vice President of Heritage Bank.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES

### How Often Did the Board Meet During 2004?

During the year ended December 31, 2004, the Board of Directors of Heritage held twelve meetings. No director of Heritage attended fewer than 75% of the total meetings of the Board and committees on which a director served during this period. It is Heritage's policy that its directors attend the annual meeting of stockholders. At the 2004 annual meeting, ten of the eleven Heritage directors were in attendance.

### What Committees Has the Board Established?

The Board of Directors of Heritage has an Executive Committee, an Audit and Finance Committee, a Personnel and Compensation Committee and a Nominating Committee.

*Audit and Finance Committee.* The Audit and Finance Committee:

Reviews and approves the selection of Heritage's independent auditors;

Reviews the plan, scope and audit results of the internal auditors and the independent auditors;

Reviews the reports of bank regulatory authorities; and

Reviews the annual and other reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the annual report to Heritage's stockholders.

The Audit and Finance Committee consists of directors Jensen (chair), Weigand, Charneski, Lyon and Fluetsch. Additionally, John A. Clees, a former member of the Heritage Board of Directors and an accountant with the firm of RSM McGladrey, Inc. acts as a non-voting consultant to the Audit and Finance Committee. None of the members of the Audit and Finance Committee are officers or employees of Heritage or any Heritage subsidiary. Our Board has determined that all members of the Audit and Finance Committee are considered independent under the NASDAQ's listing standards. There were seven meetings of the Audit and Finance Committee during the year ended December 31, 2004.

*Personnel and Compensation Committee.* The Personnel and Compensation Committee reviews and recommends compensation arrangements for all officers. The members of the Personnel and Compensation Committee are directors Fluetsch (chair), Jensen and Brunton. None of the members of the Committee are officers or employees of Heritage or any subsidiary of Heritage. Our Board has determined that all members of the Personnel and Compensation Committee are considered independent under the NASDAQ's listing standards. There were five meetings of the

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Personnel and Compensation Committee during the year ended December 31, 2004.

*Nominating Committee.* Heritage's Board has established a Nominating Committee which reviews and recommends nominees to serve as directors and officers of Heritage. Heritage's Nominating Committee consists of directors Daryl D. Jensen (chair), Brunton and Fluetsch. None of the members of the Nominating Committee are officers or employees of Heritage or any Heritage subsidiary. Our Board has determined that all members of the Nominating Committee are considered independent under the NASDAQ's listing standards. The Nominating Committee provides oversight on a broad range of issues surrounding the composition and operation of the Board of Directors of Heritage Financial Corporation. The Nominating Committee has a Charter which is available on Heritage's website at [www.hf-wa.com](http://www.hf-wa.com). There was one meeting of the Nominating Committee during the year ended December 31, 2004.



The Nominating Committee's Charter has established general criteria for considering director candidates. The Nominating Committee considers the following criteria when selecting nominees:

Ability to represent all Heritage stockholders;

Expected period of time available for service;

Independence;

Current knowledge and contacts in Heritage's market area;

Ability to work effectively with the Board group; and

Ability to commit adequate time to serve as a Heritage director.

#### **How Can a Stockholder Nominate Someone for the Board?**

According to Heritage's Articles of Incorporation, any stockholder nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Directors at the 2006 annual meeting must be made in writing to Heritage's chairman not fewer than fourteen days nor more than fifty days prior to the date of the annual meeting. If fewer than twenty-one days notice of the annual meeting is given to stockholders, stockholder nominations must be mailed or delivered to Heritage's chairman by the close of business on the seventh day after the day the notice of the annual meeting is mailed. Stockholder nominations must contain the following information if known to the nominating stockholder:

The name and address of each proposed nominee;

The principal occupation of each proposed nominee;

The total number of shares of Heritage common stock that will be voted for each stockholder proposed nominee;

The name and address of the nominating stockholder; and

The number of shares of Heritage common stock owned by the nominating stockholder.

Heritage's Nominating Committee, in its discretion, may disregard any nominations that do not comply with the above-listed requirements. Upon the Nominating Committee's instructions, the vote teller may disregard all votes cast for a nominee if the nomination does not comply with the above-listed requirements.

**How Can Stockholders Communicate with the Board of Directors?**

Heritage has implemented a stockholder communication process to facilitate communication with its Board of Directors. All stockholder communications to the Board of Directors should be forwarded to the attention of Edward D. Cameron, Secretary, Heritage Financial Corporation, 201 Fifth Avenue S.W., Olympia, Washington 98501. E-mail address: HFWA@heritagebankwa.com.

**How are Directors Compensated?**

During the year ended December 31, 2004, Heritage's non-officer directors received a monthly retainer of \$500 and a monthly fee of \$750 for each Board meeting attended. For all committees other than the Audit and Finance Committee, non-officer directors also received \$150 for each committee meeting attended with the Chair of the committee receiving \$200 per meeting attended. Non-officer directors of the Audit and Finance Committee received \$500 for each meeting attended with the Chair of the committee receiving an additional \$550 per meeting. Directors who are officers or employees of Heritage or its subsidiaries receive no additional compensation for service as directors or members of Board committees.

Under Heritage's 1997 stock option plan, directors Brunton, Clees, Jensen, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option in January 1997 to purchase 6,863 shares of Heritage common

stock at an exercise price of \$3.58 per share (as adjusted for the mutual holding company conversion). Under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan, in April 1999, directors Brunton, Clees, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,200 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$8.50 per share. Also, in 1999, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock: 1,200 in April 1999 at an exercise price of \$8.50 per share as directors of Heritage and 300 in March 1999 at an exercise price of \$9.00 per share as directors of Central Valley Bank. Under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan, in April 2000, directors Brunton, Clees, Fluetsch, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,200 shares of Heritage stock at an exercise price of \$7.81 per share. Also, in 2000, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock: 1,200 in April 2000 at an exercise price of \$7.81 per share as directors of Heritage and 300 in March 2000, at an exercise price of \$7.72 per share as directors of Central Valley Bank. Under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan, on May 18, 2000, Director Charneski was granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,200 shares of Heritage stock at an exercise price of \$8.00 per share. Under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan, on March 27, 2001, directors Brunton, Charneski, Fluetsch, Lyon, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,200 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$10.15 per share. Also in March 2001, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$10.15 per share: 1,200 as a director of Heritage and 300 shares as a director of Central Valley Bank. In February 2002, directors Brunton, Charneski, Fluetsch, Lyon, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$12.25 per share. 6,009 of those options were granted under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan and 4,491 options were granted under the Heritage Financial Corporation Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002. Also in February 2002, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,950 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$12.25 per share: 1,500 as a director of Heritage and 450 shares as a director of Central Valley Bank. 2,232 of those options were granted under Heritage's 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan and 1,668 options were granted under the Heritage Financial Corporation Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002. Under Heritage's Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002, in March 2003, directors Brunton, Charneski, Fluetsch, Lyon, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.38 per share. Also in March 2003, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,950 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.38 per share: 1,500 as a director of Heritage and 450 shares as a director of Central Valley Bank. Under Heritage's Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002, in March 2004, directors Brunton, Charneski, Fluetsch, Lyon, Odegard, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.11 per share. Also in March 2004, directors Jensen and Lewis each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,950 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.11 per share: 1,500 as a director of Heritage and 450 shares as a director of Central Valley Bank. Under Heritage's Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002, in February 2005, directors Brunton, Charneski, Fluetsch, Lyon, Senna and Weigand each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,500 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.52 per share. Also in February 2005, directors Jensen and Rhodes each were granted a Non-Qualified stock option to purchase 1,950 shares of Heritage common stock at an exercise price of \$21.52 per share: 1,500 as a director of Heritage and 450 shares as a director of Central Valley Bank. All director options vest and become exercisable in annual one-third increments beginning one year after the date of grant. The options are exercisable for a period of five years after they vest.

## AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### Report of the Audit and Finance Committee

This report of Heritage's Audit and Finance Committee describes the manner in which the committee reviews Heritage's financial reporting process.

**What are the Responsibilities of the Audit and Finance Committee?**

The committee monitors Heritage's internal financial controls and its financial reporting process. The committee:

Reviews and discusses the audited financial statements with management.

Reviews and discusses reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Discusses with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees).

Receives written disclosures as required by Independent Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discusses with the independent auditors the auditors' independence.

Recommends to the Board of Directors whether the audited financial statements should be included in Heritage's annual report on Form 10-K.

**Who are the Members of Heritage's Audit and Finance Committee?**

Heritage's Audit and Finance Committee consists of directors Daryl D. Jensen (chair), Philip S. Weigand, Brian S. Charneski, Jeffrey S. Lyon and Peter N. Fluetsch. Additionally, John A. Clees acts as a non-voting consultant to the Audit and Finance Committee. None of the members of the Audit and Finance Committee are officers or employees of Heritage or any Heritage subsidiary. Our board has determined that all members of the Audit and Finance Committee are considered independent under the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Nasdaq's listing standards, and further, our board of directors has determined that Mr. Jensen meets the definition of an audit committee financial expert, as set forth in Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K.

**Audit and Finance Committee Report**

The Audit and Finance Committee of the Heritage Board of Directors is composed of five independent directors and one consultant and operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors. The committee is responsible for the selection of Heritage's independent auditors.

Management is responsible for maintaining Heritage's effective internal controls over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. The independent auditors are responsible for performing an independent audit of Heritage's consolidated financial statements, management's assessment, and the effectiveness of Heritage's internal control over financial reporting, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and for issuing reports thereon. The Audit and Finance Committee's responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes.

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In this context, the Audit and Finance Committee has met and held discussions with management and the independent auditors. Management represented to the Audit and Finance Committee that Heritage's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with auditing principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and the Audit and Finance Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent auditors. The Audit and Finance Committee discussed with the independent auditors matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees).

Heritage's independent auditors also provided to the Audit and Finance Committee the written disclosures required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), and the Audit and Finance Committee discussed with the independent auditors that firm's independence.

Based on the Audit and Finance Committee's discussion with management and the independent auditors and the Audit and Finance Committee's review of the representation of management and the report of the independent auditors to the Audit and Finance Committee, the Audit and Finance Committee recommended that the Board of Directors include the audited consolidated financial statements in Heritage's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Respectfully submitted:

Daryl D. Jensen, Chair of the Committee and designated audit committee

financial expert  
Philip S. Weigand, Member  
Brian S. Charneski, Member  
Jeffrey S. Lyon, Member  
Peter N. Fluetsch, Member

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Report of the Personnel and Compensation Committee

This report of Heritage's Personnel and Compensation Committee describes in general terms the process the committee undertakes and the factors it considers to determine the appropriate compensation for Heritage's officers.

### What Are The Responsibilities of the Personnel and Compensation Committee?

The committee establishes and monitors compensation programs for executive officers of Heritage and its subsidiaries. The committee:

reviews and approves individual officer salaries, bonus plan allocations, and stock option grants and other equity-based awards; and

establishes the compensation and evaluates the performance of the chief executive officer, while the chief executive officer evaluates the performance of the other executive officers and recommends individual compensation levels for approval by the committee.

None of the members of the committee are officers or employees of Heritage or any Heritage subsidiary.

### What is Heritage's Philosophy of Executive Officer Compensation?

The committee's compensation philosophy is intended to reflect and support the goals and strategies that Heritage has established. The key elements of Heritage's strategy are geographic and product expansion, loan portfolio diversification, development of relationship banking and maintenance of asset quality. The committee believes these goals, which are intended to create long-term stockholder value, must be supported by a compensation program that:

attracts and retains highly qualified executives;

provides levels of compensation that are competitive with those offered by other financial institutions;

motivates executives to enhance long-term stockholder value by helping them to build their own ownership in Heritage; and

integrates Heritage's long-term strategic planning and measurement processes.

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Heritage's compensation program includes competitive salary and benefits, opportunities for employee ownership of Heritage stock through participation in an employee stock ownership plan and, for certain employees, an annual incentive cash bonus based upon attainment of company and individual performance goals and opportunities for stock ownership of Heritage stock through stock option and restricted stock programs.

To determine compensation packages for individual executives, the committee considers various subjective and objective factors, including:

individual job responsibilities and experience;

individual performance in terms of both qualitative and quantitative goals;

Heritage's overall performance, as measured by attainment of strategic and budgeted financial goals and prior performance; and

industry surveys, prepared by an independent consulting firm, of compensation for comparable positions with similar institutions in the State of Washington, the Pacific Northwest and the United States.



The components of Heritage's compensation program are the following:

*Base Salary.* Salary levels of executive officers are designed to be competitive within the banking industry. To set competitive salary ranges, the committee periodically evaluates current salary levels of other financial institutions with size, lines of business, geographic dispersion and market place position similar to Heritage's. Base salaries for Heritage's executive officers other than the chief executive officer are based upon recommendations by the chief executive officer, taking into account the subjective and objective factors described above. The committee reviews and approves or disapproves those recommendations.

*Annual Incentive Bonus.* Executive officers have an annual incentive opportunity with cash bonus awards based on the overall performance of Heritage and on attainment of individual performance targets. The annual awards are determined by formulas established by the committee following each fiscal year and are based upon an assessment of Heritage's performance (for the year ended December 31, 2004, primarily with respect to the Company's return on average equity) as compared to both budgeted and previous fiscal year performance and upon an evaluation by the chief executive officer of an executive's individual performance and contribution to Heritage's overall performance. The committee then reviews and approves the bonus recommendations and presents them to the Board of Directors for approval.

*Stock Option and Other Stock-Based Compensation.* Equity-based compensation is intended to more closely align the financial interests of Heritage's executives with long-term stockholder value, and to assist in the retention of executives who are key to the success of Heritage and its subsidiaries. Equity-based compensation generally has been in the form of incentive stock options and restricted stock awards pursuant to Heritage's existing stock option plans. The committee determines from time to time which executives, if any, will receive stock options or awards and determines the number of shares subject to each option or award. Grants of stock options and awards are based on various subjective factors relating primarily to the responsibilities of individual executives, their expected future contributions to Heritage and prior option grants.

#### **How Is Heritage's Chief Executive Officer Compensated?**

The base compensation for Heritage's chairman and chief executive officer, Donald V. Rhodes, was determined by the committee with final approval by the Board based on the same criteria as the compensation for the other executive officers. In October 1997, Heritage entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Rhodes providing for an annual base salary of \$174,000, which could be increased at the discretion of the Board of Directors or the committee. During the first quarter of 2002, Heritage entered into a new employment agreement with Mr. Rhodes, effective June 1, 2001, providing for an annual base salary of not less than \$234,000 beginning on April 1, 2001. During the year ended December 31, 2004, the annual salary of Mr. Rhodes was \$240,000. In addition to this, he received a performance bonus of \$87,150. The chief executive officer's bonus was based on achievement of certain targeted results of the Company (for 2004 with respect to the Company's return on average equity) and is determined by the committee with final approval by the Board.

The committee believes that for the year ended December 31, 2004, the compensation for Mr. Rhodes, as well as for the other executive officers, was consistent with Heritage's overall compensation philosophy and clearly related to the realization of Heritage's goals and strategies for the period.

Respectfully submitted by:

Peter N. Fluetsch, Chair of the Committee  
Lynn M. Brunton, Member  
Daryl D. Jensen, Member

**Stock Performance Graph**

The chart shown below depicts total return to stockholders during the period beginning December 31, 1999 and ending December 31, 2004. Total return includes appreciation or depreciation in market value of Heritage common stock as well as actual cash and stock dividends paid to stockholders. Indices shown below, for comparison purposes only, are the S&P 500(TM) stock index, which is a broad nationally recognized index of stock performance by publicly traded companies, the SNL Securities Bank Index which is comprised of publicly traded commercial banks with assets of \$500 million to \$1 billion, and the SNL Securities Thrift Index, which is comprised of publicly-traded thrift institutions with assets of \$500 million to \$1 billion located throughout the United States. The chart assumes that the value of the investment in Heritage's common stock and each of the three indices was \$100 on December 31, 1999, and that all dividends were reinvested.

**HERITAGE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

<i>Index</i>	<b>12/31/99</b>	<b>12/31/00</b>	<b>12/31/01</b>	<b>12/31/02</b>	<b>12/31/03</b>	<b>12/31/04</b>
Heritage Financial Corporation	100.00	122.59	149.09	230.08	285.46	302.53
S&P 500*	100.00	91.20	80.42	62.64	80.62	89.47
SNL \$500M-\$1B Thrift Index	100.00	114.11	160.10	224.29	319.35	353.25
SNL \$500M-\$1B Bank Index	100.00	95.72	124.18	158.54	228.61	259.07

\*Source: CRSP, Center for Research in Security Prices, Graduate School of Business, The University of Chicago 2005.

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Source: SNL Financial LC, Charlottesville, VA

**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table shows the aggregate compensation for services rendered to Heritage or its subsidiaries in all capacities paid or accrued for the year ended December 31, 2004, compared to the same periods ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, to Heritage's chief executive officer and each of the four other most highly compensated executive officers whose aggregate cash and cash equivalent forms of compensation exceeded \$100,000 in 2004.

Name and Principal Position	Period	Annual Compensation		Long-Term Compensation Awards		
		Salary	Bonus	Restricted		
				Stock Awards (\$)	Securities Underlying Options (#)	All Other Compensation (1)
Donald V. Rhodes	2004	\$ 240,000	\$ 87,150	-0-	-0-	\$ 20,117
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Heritage Financial Corp.	2003	\$ 240,000	\$ 94,920	-0-	-0-	\$ 20,354
	2002	\$ 238,500	\$ 122,850	-0-	12,000	\$ 21,222
Brian L. Vance	2004	\$ 176,400	\$ 56,697	-0-	12,000	\$ 20,117
President Heritage Financial Corp.	2003	\$ 168,600	\$ 54,100	-0-	21,000	\$ 19,934
	2002	\$ 156,750	\$ 74,125	\$61,250	15,000	\$ 21,195
President and Chief Executive Officer Heritage Bank						
Gregory D. Patjens	2004	\$ 130,125	\$ 23,707	-0-	3,600	\$ 14,240
Executive Vice President Heritage Bank	2003	\$ 126,770	\$ 21,729	-0-	4,500	\$ 15,702
	2002	\$ 121,800	\$ 27,000	-0-	4,050	\$ 16,272
D. Michael Broadhead	2004	\$ 130,830	\$ 20,690	-0-	5,400	\$ 15,804
President Central Valley Bank	2003	\$ 126,390	\$ 28,500	-0-	6,900	\$ 15,645
	2002	\$ 122,700	\$ 25,800	\$30,625	6,900	\$ 14,807
Edward D. Cameron	2004	\$ 105,000	\$ 20,076	-0-	3,600	\$ 12,248
Senior Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer	2003	\$ 97,200	\$ 19,069	-0-	4,500	\$ 12,166
	2002	\$ 88,500	\$ 28,175	\$30,625	4,050	\$ 15,374

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- (1) Amounts in calendar 2004 represent for Messrs. Rhodes, Vance, Patjens, Broadhead and Cameron: (i) matching contributions under Heritage's 401(k) ESOP in the amount of \$6,150, \$6,150, \$3,750, \$4,815 and \$3,722, respectively; (ii) additional discretionary and non-discretionary contributions under Heritage's 401(k) ESOP of approximately \$13,103, \$13,103, \$9,744, \$10,258 and \$7,930, respectively; and (iii) life insurance premiums paid by Heritage for the benefit of each executive in the amount of \$864, \$864, \$746, \$731 and \$596, respectively.

#### **Option Grants During 2004**

In October 1998, the stockholders approved the adoption of the 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan, providing for the award of incentive stock options to employees and Non-Qualified stock options to directors of the Company at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Under the plan, on the date of grant, the exercise price of the option must at least equal the market value per share of the Company's common stock. The plan provides for the granting of options for up to 395,000 common shares and restricted stock awards of up to 66,125 shares. All incentive stock option awards made under the plan require vesting over a three year period beginning on the date of grant and must be exercised within five years of vesting. Restricted stock awarded under the Plan vest at the end of five years. In 2004, 27,500 restricted stock awards were granted under the 1998 Stock Option and Restricted Stock Award Plan. There are 2,125 restricted stock awards available under the Plan that have not been awarded.

In April 2002, the stockholders approved the adoption of the Heritage Financial Corporation Incentive Stock Option Plan of 2002, the Heritage Financial Corporation Director Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002 and the Heritage Financial Corporation Restricted Stock Plan of 2002. These plans provided for the award of incentive stock options and restricted stock to employees and Non-Qualified stock options and restricted stock to directors of the Company at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Under the plans, on the date of grant, the exercise price of the option must at least equal the market value per share of the Company's common stock. The plan provides for the granting of incentive options for up to 430,000 common shares, Non-Qualified options for up to 70,000 common shares and restricted stock awards of up to 50,000 common shares. All awards are subject to a vesting schedule as determined by the Board of Directors. Under the plans, the options must be exercised within five years of vesting. In 2004, 113,130 options were granted under the Heritage Financial Corporation Incentive Stock Option Plan of 2002 and 17,100 options were awarded under the Heritage Financial Corporation Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan of 2002. There are 143,653 Incentive Stock Options available that have not been awarded, 28,486 Non-Qualified Stock Options available that have not been awarded and 50,000 restricted stock awards available that have not been awarded.

The following table summarizes options granted to each of the executives listed in the summary compensation table for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Options Granted (#)	Percentage of total options granted to employees during year		Exercise Price (\$/share)	Expiration Date (1)	Grant Date Present Value (\$)
Donald V. Rhodes	-0-		0.00%			
Brian L. Vance	12,000		1.04%	\$ 21.11	3/2009 (1)	\$ 30,928
Gregory D. Patjens	3,600		0.31%	\$ 21.11	3/2009 (1)	\$ 9,278
D. Michael Broadhead	5,400		0.47%	\$ 21.11	3/2009 (1)	\$ 13,917
Edward D. Cameron	3,600		0.31%	\$ 21.11	3/2009 (1)	\$ 9,278

- (1) One-third of the options granted vests on each of the first, second and third anniversary dates of the grants and each grant expires five years after it becomes vested.

*Option Exercises and Period End Option Values.*

The following table summarizes option exercises during the year ended December 31, 2004 by each of the executives listed in the summary compensation table and the period end value of unexercised options granted:

Name	Shares Acquired On Exercise	Value Realized	Value of Unexercised In-the-Money Options At December 31, 2004(1)	
			Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at December 31, 2004 (Exercisable/Unexercisable)	(Exercisable/Unexercisable)
Donald V. Rhodes	27,427	\$ 410,733	53,537 / 4,000	\$ 654,988 / \$39,480
Brian L. Vance	39,165	\$ 539,542	28,600 / 31,000	\$252,088 / \$71,830
Gregory D. Patjens	-0-	\$ -0-	21,900 / 7,950	\$259,027 / \$19,180
D. Michael Broadhead	500	\$ 6,745	17,900 / 12,300	\$183,489 / \$31,559

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Edward D. Cameron	2,900	\$ 36,530	5,200 / 7,950	\$40,129 /\$19,180
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- (1) Values are calculated by subtracting the exercise price from the fair market value of the underlying stock. For purposes of this table, fair market value is deemed to be \$22.12, the last sale price of Heritage's common stock on the Nasdaq National Market on December 31, 2004.

**Other Employee Benefits and Proposed Changes in Those Benefits.**

On October 1, 1999, Heritage combined its defined contribution retirement plan, its salary savings 401(k) Plan and its Employee Stock Ownership Plan ( ESOP ) into the ESOP and amended the ESOP to give it 401(k) features. The ESOP was renamed the Heritage Financial Corporation 401(k) ESOP ( KSOP ). On that date, account balances in each employee's account in the defined contribution retirement plan and the 401(k) Plan were transferred to the KSOP, and each employee having account balances in those plans was given the ability to allocate up to 20% of those balances to purchase Heritage stock.

Under the KSOP, eligible employees have the right to defer a portion of their compensation to be contributed to the KSOP which is matched 50% by Heritage up to certain specified limits. Employees can elect whether to have their deferred compensation amount placed in a Heritage stock account to be invested in Heritage stock by the KSOP trustee (subject to availability) or in other available investment accounts and invested by the KSOP trustee in investments other than Heritage stock as directed by the participants. In addition to the matching contributions Heritage makes, Heritage makes a nondiscretionary 2% contribution and has the discretion to make additional contributions to the KSOP.

On December 31, 2004, the KSOP owned 370,848 shares of Heritage common stock, of which 299,581 shares were allocated to participants accounts and 71,267 shares were held in an unallocated account. Shares held in the unallocated account are released to participant accounts on a pro rata basis as the KSOP's loan payable to Heritage is repaid.

### **Executive Employment and Severance Agreements**

In the first quarter of 2002, Donald V. Rhodes executed an employment agreement with Heritage and Heritage Bank effective June 1, 2001. The agreement with Mr. Rhodes provided for an annual base salary of not less than \$234,000 beginning on April 1, 2001. In addition to base salary, the agreement provided for Mr. Rhodes' participation in employee benefit plans and other fringe benefits applicable to senior executives of Heritage Bank. The term of the agreement continued until June 30, 2004. Mr. Rhodes was required to notify Heritage prior to 180 days before the end of the term of the employment agreement if Mr. Rhodes did not desire to seek to renew or renegotiate the employment agreement. Mr. Rhodes did provide timely notice that he wished to extend the term of his employment agreement until December 31, 2004 and the Company agreed to the extension. If Mr. Rhodes had not provided this notice, Heritage would not have been obligated to make any severance payments as described in the paragraph below. Mr. Rhodes executed a new agreement on August 26, 2004 to be effective January 1, 2005 that provides for an annual base salary of \$150,000 beginning on January 1, 2005. In addition to base salary, the agreement provides for Mr. Rhodes' participation in employee benefit plans and other fringe benefits applicable to senior executives of Heritage Bank except that Mr. Rhodes will not be eligible to participate in the Management Incentive Plan or receive options other than director restricted options. The term of the agreement will continue until December 31, 2006. If Employer terminates this Agreement for Cause, as defined in the agreement, effective before the end of the term hereof, Employer shall pay Executive upon the effective date of such termination only such salary earned and expenses reimbursable hereunder incurred through such termination date. Executive shall have no right to receive compensation or other benefits for any period after termination for Cause, and in the case of termination for Cause, Executive's unvested stock options, if any, shall terminate immediately. If Employer terminates this Agreement without Cause or Executive terminates this Agreement for Good Reason, both as defined in the agreement, and either termination is effective before the end of the term hereof, Employer shall pay Executive all reimbursable expenses incurred through such termination date and, in addition, a severance benefit in an amount equal to the amount of his then-current base salary which would otherwise have been paid to Executive during the then-remaining term of the Agreement. In such event, all forfeiture provisions regarding restricted stock awards or vesting requirements regarding options shall lapse or be considered completed as of the effective date of termination. Notwithstanding the above, in the event Executive's employment is terminated as a result of a sale or a merger of the Company (a Transaction), Executive will be compensated under the terms of this Agreement through the date of closing of the Transaction without provision for severance thereafter.

In 2002, Brian L. Vance executed an employment agreement with Heritage and Heritage Bank effective June 1, 2001. The agreement with Mr. Vance provides for an annual base salary of not less than \$150,000 per year effective on April 1, 2001. In addition to the base salary, the agreement provides for Mr. Vance's participation in employee benefit plans and other fringe benefits applicable to senior executives of Heritage Bank. The term of the agreement expired on June 30, 2004 and is currently subject to automatic one year renewal extensions unless prior notice otherwise is given. In the event that Mr. Vance is terminated by Heritage at any time for cause or by Mr. Vance without good reason, both as defined in the agreement, no termination benefit will be payable. If Mr. Vance is terminated without cause or he terminates the agreement for good reason,

a severance benefit will be payable in an amount equal to his then current annual base salary or the amount of such salary which would otherwise have been paid to Mr. Vance during the then remaining term of his agreement, whichever is greater.

The agreement with Mr. Vance also provides for the payment of a severance benefit to Mr. Vance in the event of his termination of employment without cause in some cases preceding and for any reason within one year after a change of control of Heritage or Heritage Bank. Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Vance is entitled to receive two times his then current annual base salary following the termination or the amount due him until the end of the term of his agreement, whichever is greater. In those circumstances, Mr. Vance also is entitled to all benefits in his agreement, to be fully vested as to unvested options, and to have restrictions lapse on any restricted stock or other restricted securities.

For purposes of the agreements, change in control generally includes the acquisition by any person of 25% or more of the outstanding securities of Heritage; replacement of incumbent directors or election of newly elected directors constituting a majority of the Board of Heritage where the replacement or election has not been supported by the Board; dissolution, or sale of 50% or more in value of the assets, of either Heritage or Heritage Bank or any of their respective subsidiaries; or the merger of Heritage into any corporation, 25% or more of the outstanding common stock of which is owned by persons other than owners of the common stock of Heritage prior to such merger.

The employment agreement with Mr. Vance provides that in the event he receives an amount under the provisions of the agreements that results in imposition of a tax on the executive under the provisions of the Code Section 4999 (relating to golden Parachute payments), the employer is obligated to reimburse the executive for that amount, exclusive of any tax imposed by reason of receipt of reimbursement under the employment agreements.

The agreements restrict the right of Messrs. Rhodes and Vance to compete against Heritage or Heritage Bank in the State of Washington for a period of two years following termination of employment, except if employment is terminated by Heritage without cause or by Mr. Rhodes or Mr. Vance for good reason.

Effective on March 5, 1999, Central Valley Bank and D. Michael Broadhead entered into an employment agreement. The term of the agreement expired on December 31, 2002 and is currently subject to automatic one year renewal extensions unless prior notice otherwise is given. The agreement calls for Mr. Broadhead to serve as President of Central Valley Bank at a base annual salary of no less than \$110,000 plus customary fringe benefits. Also, under the agreement, on December 31, 2005 (regardless of whether Mr. Broadhead is employed by Central Valley Bank at the time), Mr. Broadhead is eligible to receive a payment of \$40,000 plus \$10,000 for each full year of his service at Central Valley Bank or its successor up to a \$200,000 maximum payment. Mr. Broadhead's estate is also entitled to a death benefit payment of no less than \$100,000 nor more than \$200,000 if he dies prior to the receipt of the December 31, 2005 service payment.

In the event Mr. Broadhead's employment is terminated by Central Valley Bank at any time for cause or if Mr. Broadhead resigns without good reason and his resignation does not coincide with a change in control of Heritage, Mr. Broadhead will not be entitled to any severance benefit payable to him. The agreement does provide for the payment of a severance benefit to Mr. Broadhead (in addition to his service payment described above) in the event of his termination of employment in some cases preceding, and for any reason following by up to one year, a change in control of Heritage. Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Broadhead is entitled to receive an amount of up to 36 months of his base salary in effect at the time if his employment is terminated without cause by Central Valley Bank from the time after a change in control transaction is announced up to one year following the completion of the change in control or if Mr. Broadhead resigns for any reason within a year after the change in control is completed.

The agreement restricts the right of Mr. Broadhead to compete against Heritage or Central Valley Bank in Yakima County, Washington for a period of up to three years unless Mr. Broadhead is terminated without cause or resigns for good reason.





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**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires directors, executive officers and greater than 10% stockholders to file reports of their ownership and any changes in ownership of Heritage securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These directors, executive officers and greater than 10% stockholders are required by regulation to provide Heritage with a copy of any Section 16(a) reports they file. Based on Heritage's review of copies of these reports received by it and written representations made to Heritage by these persons, Heritage believes that all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its directors, executive officers and greater than 10% stockholders were complied with during the year ended December 31, 2004.

**INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS**

During the year ended December 31, 2004, several directors and executive officers of Heritage and Heritage Bank and their associates, were customers of Heritage Bank or Central Valley Bank, and it is anticipated that these persons will continue to be customers of Heritage Bank or Central Valley Bank in the future. All transactions between Heritage Bank and Central Valley Bank and its executive officers and directors, and their associates, were made in the ordinary course of business on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons, and, in the opinion of management, did not involve more than the normal risk of repayment or present other unfavorable features.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

The firm of KPMG LLP performed the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Heritage and its subsidiaries for the period ended December 31, 2004. The Audit and Finance Committee has retained KPMG LLP as independent auditors of Heritage and its subsidiaries for the year ending December 31, 2005, subject to the terms of an engagement letter with that firm. Stockholders are not required to take action on this retention. Representatives of KPMG LLP will be present at the annual meeting. They will have the opportunity to present a statement if they desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

*Fees Billed by KPMG During 2004 and 2003:*

Fees for services provided by KPMG during 2004 and 2003 were as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Audit fees (1)	\$ 250,820	\$ 120,007
Other Fees:		
Audit related	\$	\$
Tax fees	35,530	33,925
All other fees		
Total	<u>\$ 35,530</u>	<u>\$ 33,925</u>

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(1) Fee includes amounts related to the financial statement audit and quarterly reviews, S-O 404 and FDICIA reporting

**STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING**

Stockholders interested in presenting a proposal for consideration at the 2006 annual meeting of stockholders may do so by following the procedures prescribed in Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. To be eligible for inclusion, stockholder proposals must be received by Heritage no later than November 18, 2005.

**OTHER MATTERS**

The Board of Directors knows of no other matters to be brought before the annual meeting. If other matters are properly brought before the annual meeting, the persons appointed in the proxy intend to vote the shares represented by the proxy according to their best judgment.

**We urge you to sign and return the enclosed proxy as soon as possible, whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person. If you do attend the annual meeting, you then may withdraw your proxy and vote in person. The proxy may be withdrawn at any time prior to voting.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Heritage's annual report for the year ended December 31, 2004 has been mailed along with this proxy statement to all stockholders of record as of March 9, 2005. Any stockholder who has not received a copy of this annual report may obtain a copy by writing to Heritage. The annual report is not to be treated as part of the proxy solicitation material or having been incorporated by reference in this proxy statement.

A copy of Heritage's Form 10-K that is to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by March 15, 2005 will be provided to you without charge if you are a stockholder of Heritage as of March 9, 2005. Please make your written request to Edward D. Cameron, Secretary, Heritage Financial Corporation, 201 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Olympia, Washington 98501.

**HERITAGE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
**PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**April 28, 2005**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**HERITAGE FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY**

The undersigned stockholder of HERITAGE FINANCIAL CORPORATION ( Heritage ) hereby nominates, constitutes and appoints Donald V. Rhodes and Daryl D. Jensen, and each of them, jointly and severally, as true and lawful agents and proxies, with full power of substitution, for me and in my name, place and stead, to act and vote all the common stock of Heritage standing in my name and on its books on March 9, 2005 at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at the Phoenix Inn, Olympia, Washington, on April 28, 2005 at 10:30 a.m., and at any adjournment thereof, with all the powers the undersigned would possess if personally present, as follows:

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

“ **FOR** all the nominees listed below.

“ **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE**  
for all nominees listed below (in the manner described below).

INSTRUCTIONS: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, strike a line through the nominee's name listed below.

Election of three (3) directors to serve on the Board of Directors until 2008.

Donald V. Rhodes

Daryl D. Jensen

Jeffrey S. Lyon

Election of one (1) director to serve on the Board of Directors until 2006.

Gary B. Christensen

2. In their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

*(Continued and to be signed on the other side)*

THIS PROXY WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL BE VOTED AS SPECIFIED ABOVE. IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE PROPOSALS SET FORTH ABOVE.

Management knows of no other matters that may properly be, or which are likely to be, brought before the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, this Proxy will be voted according to the discretion of the named proxies.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders for the April 28, 2005 Annual Meeting, and the accompanying documents forwarded therewith, and ratifies all lawful action taken by the above-named agents and proxies.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature, if held jointly

NOTE: Signature(s) should agree with name(s) on Heritage stock certificate(s). Executives, administrators, trustees and other fiduciaries, and persons signing on behalf of corporations, partnerships or other entities should so indicate when signing. All joint owners must sign.