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SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY Form 4 April 18, 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 Form 5 obligations April 18, 2011							OMB Number: Expires: Estimated a burden hou response	irs per				
1(b). (Print or Type Resp	oonses)											
SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY Sy ST				2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Month/I				ate of Earliest Transaction nth/Day/Year) 15/2011				_X_ Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) CEO/President - SFC				
				nendment, Date Original (onth/Day/Year)				 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting 				
(City)		Zin)						Person				
1.Title of 2.	1.Title of Security2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)2A. Deemed Execution Date		med on Date, if	n Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or				quired, Disposed o 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	f, or Beneficial 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	-		
Stock	4/15/2011			$A^{(1)}$	Amount 1,303 (2)	(D) A	Price \$ 0	21,388	D			
Common Stock								2,234	Ι	401K		

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

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 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)	4. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		ate	Unde Secur	unt of rlying	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secu Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Х		CEO/President - SFC					
Signatures								
/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, attorney-in-fact		04/18/2011						

Date

**Signature of 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).

Grant of salary stock in the form of mandatorily deferred Restricted Stock Units as approved by Sterling's board of directors on December
 (1) 8, 2010. Future RSUs are to be granted each payroll period and will be calculated using the closing price of Sterling's common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market as of the last trading day in each payroll period.

(2) Units vest immediately upon grant, however, delivery of the awarded shares is deferred until future distribution dates provided in the Agreement between Sterling and Mr. Seibly.

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