

LINDNER S CRAIG  
Form 4  
February 17, 2009

**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 \*  
LINDNER S CRAIG

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC [AFG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
ONE EAST FOURTH STREET  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/12/2009

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Co-CEO & Co-President

CINCINNATI, OH 45202  
(City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	02/12/2009		A <sup>(1)</sup>	11,250 A \$ 0	4,013,169	I	#1 <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock					108,449	I	#3 <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Stock					27,685	I	#6 <sup>(4)</sup>
Common Stock					1,020,043	I	#9 <sup>(5)</sup>
Common Stock					1,485,000	I	#10 <sup>(6)</sup>

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Common Stock	37,679.02	I	#12 <sup>(7)</sup>
Common Stock	63,604	I	#14 <sup>(8)</sup>
Common Stock	63,604	I	#15 <sup>(9)</sup>
Common Stock	63,604	I	#16 <sup>(10)</sup>
Common Stock	36,330	I	#20 <sup>(11)</sup>
Common Stock	341,568	I	#23 <sup>(12)</sup>

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)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option	\$ 19.1	02/12/2009		A	37,500	<sup>(13)</sup>	02/12/2019	Common	37,500

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
LINDNER S CRAIG ONE EAST FOURTH STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	X		Co-CEO & Co-President	

## Signatures

S. Craig Lindner By: Karl J. Grafe, as  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/17/2009

\_\_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) Represents the grant of restricted stock that vests four years from the date of grant.
- (2) Indirect #1: SCL TTEE of the SCL Living Trust DTD 03/30/83.
- (3) Indirect #3: By Frances R. Lindner, Trustee for the Frances R. Lindner living Trust dated 9/13/93. (SCL)
- (4) Indirect #6: FRL, Cust. CFL Under OH Tsfr to Min Act. (SCL)
- (5) Indirect #9: KEL, TTEE Under an Irrev. Trust Ind. with SCL DTD 12/22/83. (SCL)
- (6) Indirect #10: SCL Investments, LLC (SCL)
- (7) Indirect #12: The Company's Retirement and Savings Plans. The number of shares of Common Stock which would be represented by the value of the Reporting Person's Company Securities Funds account in the Issuer's Retirement and Savings Plan is based on a statement dated as of 12/31/08. (SCL)
- (8) Indirect #14: M. Nyhart TTEE CEL Under Trust Agreement dtd 3/8/96. (SCL)
- (9) Indirect #15: M. Nyhart TTEE CAL Under Trust Agreement dtd 3/8/96. (SCL)
- (10) Indirect #16: M. Nyhart TTEE CFL Under Trust Agreement dtd 3/8/96. (SCL)
- (11) Indirect #20: KEL, TTEE CFL C/U Irrev Trust DTD 2/13/85. (SCL)
- (12) Indirect #23: CFL TR U/A DTD 4/21/05 FRL TTEE (SCL)
- (13) These Employee Stock Options ("Options") become exercisable as to 20% of the shares initially granted on the first anniversary of the date of grant, with an additional 20% becoming exercisable on each subsequent anniversary. The Options were granted under the Issuer's Stock Option Plan pursuant to Rule 16b-3.

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.