

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 4

August 24, 2007

# 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 \*  
HARLOW JOHN M

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. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
08/23/2007

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Vice President - Sterling Sav.

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

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

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)		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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				V	Amount or Price			
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	7,800	A \$ 4.3933	41,526	D	
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	2,400	A \$ 4.3933	43,926	D	
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	450	A \$ 4.3933	44,376	D	
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	6,000	A \$ 4.6	50,376	D	
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	5,250	A \$ 4.6	55,626	D	

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Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	4,500	A	\$ 6.4467	60,126	D	
Common Stock	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>	15,000	A	\$ 6.7467	75,126	D	
Common Stock							7,485	I	401(k) Plan

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)	
					V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option	\$ 6.6933	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		450	07/25/2000	02/29/2008	Common Stock	450
Stock Option	\$ 6.6933	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		7,800	07/25/2000	02/28/2009	Common Stock	7,800
Stock Option	\$ 6.6933	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		2,400	07/25/2000	02/28/2010	Common Stock	2,400
Stock Option	\$ 6.7467	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		15,000	12/19/2001	02/28/2008	Common Stock	15,000
Stock Option	\$ 7.0133	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		6,000	12/14/1999	02/28/2008	Common Stock	6,000
Stock Option	\$ 7.0133	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		5,250	12/14/1999	02/28/2009	Common Stock	5,250
Stock Option	\$ 9.8267	08/23/2007	08/23/2007	J <sup>(1)</sup>		4,500	12/16/1998	02/28/2008	Common Stock	4,500

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Reporting Owners

Director 10% Owner Officer

Other

HARLOW JOHN M  
111 N. WALL STREET  
SPOKANE, WA 99201

Vice President - Sterling Sav.

## Signatures

Daniel G. Byrne

08/24/2007

\*\*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) Cash purchase transaction

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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