

RUSNAK PATRICK J
Form 3
February 17, 2011

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *

Â RUSNAK PATRICK J
(Last) (First) (Middle)

111 NORTH WALL STREET
(Street)

SPOKANE,Â WAÂ 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement

(Month/Day/Year)
02/15/2011

3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer ____ Other
(give title below) (specify below)
Chief Financial Officer

5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/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 Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security
(Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned
(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form:
Direct (D)
or Indirect (I)
(Instr. 5)

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
(Instr. 5)

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security
(Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date
(Month/Day/Year)

Date Exercisable Expiration Date

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security
(Instr. 4)

Title Amount or Number of Shares

4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security

5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:
Direct (D)
or Indirect (I)
(Instr. 5)

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
RUSNAK PATRICK J 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	À	À	À Chief Financial Officer	À

Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen,
attorney-in-fact

02/17/2011

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

No securities are beneficially owned

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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).

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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