

THORSON JOHN A  
Form 4  
January 27, 2012

**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 \*  
THORSON JOHN A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
WESTAMERICA  
BANCORPORATION [WABC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/26/2012

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
SVP/Chief Financial Officer

WESTAMERICA  
BANCORPORATION

(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

4550 MANGELS BLVD 94534

(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) (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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 01/26/2012                           |  | A                              | 2,830 (1)   | \$ 0  | 2,862.7884   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 415   | I  | By Daughter R                     |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 415   | I  | By Daughter S                     |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 6,884   | I  | By Trust                          |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 0   | I  | Deferred                          |

Common Stock 658.756 <sup>(2)</sup> I Esop

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

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SEC 1474 (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 | 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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Non-qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)  | \$ 45.93   | 01/26/2012                           |  | A                   | 21,700  | 01/26/2013 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/26/2022                     | Common Stock                                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                             |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                     | Other |
| THORSON JOHN A<br>WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION<br>4550 MANGELS BLVD 94534 |               |           | SVP/Chief Financial Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/John "Robert" A. Thorson 01/27/2012

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) The Restricted Performance Shares granted in 2009 vested on 1/26/12 upon meeting performance criteria.
- (2) Includes allocations through 12/31/11, as reported in the latest quarterly report, to Westamerica Bancorporation's Tax Deferred Savings/Retirement (ESOP) Plan.

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(3) Options vest ratably over three years beginning one year after date of grant.

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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