

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP
Form 10-K/A
April 30, 2018

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K/A

(Amendment No. 1)

(Mark One)

**x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2017

**o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 0-5703

Siebert Financial Corp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | |
|--|--|
| New York (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | 11-1796714 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 120 Wall Street, New York, NY (Address of principal executive offices) | 10005 (Zip Code) |
|---|-----------------------------------|

(212) 644-2400

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|--|---|
| COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01 PER SHARE | THE NASDAQ CAPITAL MARKET |

Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

NONE

(Title of class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).
YES NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated

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filer,” “smaller reporting company,” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” smaller reporting company” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). YES NO

The aggregate market value of the Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant (based upon the last sale price of the Common Stock reported on the NASDAQ Capital Market as of the last business day of the registrant’s most recently completed second fiscal quarter (June 30, 2017), was \$8,265,501.

The number of shares of the registrant’s outstanding Common Stock, as of March 31, 2018, was 27,157,188 shares.

Documents Incorporated by Reference: None.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of this Form 10-K/A is to amend the biographical descriptions of Gloria E. Gebbia, Charles A. Zabatta and Andrew H. Reich provided under Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance of the original Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (the “Original Form 10-K”) filed by Siebert Financial Corp. (the “Registrant”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on April 13, 2018.

In addition, as required by Rule 12b-15 under the Exchange Act, new certifications of the Registrant’s principal executive, financial and accounting officer required by Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Exchange Act are filed as an exhibit to this Form 10-K/A.

Except as stated herein, no other revisions are being made to the Registrant’s Original Form 10-K. This Form 10-K/A does not reflect events occurring after the filing of the Original Form 10-K, and no attempt has been made in this Form 10-K/A to modify or update other disclosures as presented in the Original Form 10-K. Accordingly, this Form 10-K/A should be read in conjunction with the Original Form 10-K and the Registrant’s filings with the Commission subsequent to December 31, 2017.

PART III

Item 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Identification of Directors

The names of our directors and their ages, positions, and biographies are set forth below.

Gloria E. Gebbia

Age 75

Director

Gloria E. Gebbia is the manager and owner of the majority issued and outstanding voting member interests of Kennedy Cabot Acquisition, LLC. Ms. Gebbia is an owner and a director of StockCross Financial Services, Inc., a global financial services company (“StockCross”). Additionally, Ms. Gebbia also serves as the President of Associates for Breast and Prostate Cancer Research, a non-profit organization that raises funds for the John Wayne Cancer Institute, which has under Ms. Gebbia’s leadership raised over \$16 million for breast and prostate cancer research.

Charles A. Zabatta

Age 75

Director

Charles A. Zabatta served as a consultant to StockCross from 2011 until 2016 acting as its head of Corporate Development. Mr. Zabatta has and continues to have a distinguished and successful career, predominately in the financial service industry, including holding various positions with the New York Stock Exchange, Paine Webber, Securities Settlement Corp., Josephthal Lyon & Ross, Kennedy Cabot & Co. and TD Waterhouse. Mr. Zabatta’s creative business skills have been instrumental in several acquisitions of small to midsize companies, in various industries. Mr. Zabatta currently advises on capital raising, general business structure and management. Previously, Mr. Zabatta has served as a member of the board of Knight Capital and Kennedy Cabot & Co. Currently, Mr. Zabatta serves on the board of Paraco Gas Corporation, a large privately held independent energy company in the northeast. Mr. Zabatta holds a BA in industrial psychology from Iona College.

Francis Cuttita

Age 49

Director

Francis V. Cuttita is a Senior Partner of Cuttita, LLP, a New York based law firm. Mr. Cuttita has over 24 years of practicing law, and in the areas of real estate and business transactions, media, sports and entertainment. Mr. Cuttita's list of clients include Fortune 100 corporations, CEOs, hedge fund managers, legendary professional athletes, entertainment icons and Grammy award winning musicians. Mr. Cuttita also serves as an advisor to several national financial, insurance and sports businesses and is an active supporter and member of various nonprofit organizations. Mr. Cuttita graduated from Swarthmore College and received his law degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Andrew H. Reich

Age 62

Andrew H. Reich held various executive positions in StockCross from 2002 and was StockCross' Chairman from 2015 to December 16, 2016. Additionally, Mr. Reich is the owner of Aarianna Realty Inc., a real estate company, has previously served as the CFO of Gebbia Holding Co., a holding company for Ms. Gebbia's family through 2014 and as CFO of Park Wilshire Insurance Company, owned by Gloria Gebbia's children, acquired by the Company for its cash value in March 2018. Mr. Reich has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry, including more than fourteen years in various senior management roles at StockCross. Mr. Reich holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and a BBA from the Bernard Baruch College.

Jerry Schneider, CPA

Age 73

Mr. Schneider, is a certified public accountant and has over 40 years of relevant accounting experience. Mr. Schneider is licensed to practice public accounting in New York and Florida and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Florida Society of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Schneider was the Managing Partner of Schneider & Associates LLP, a CPA firm with approximately 20 professional staff and was the driving force in that firm's growth and development until it merged with Marks Paneth LLP in 2008. From January 2011 to December 1, 2017, Mr. Schneider was a Partner Emeritus and Senior Consultant at Marks Paneth LLP. Mr Schneider is also a member of the board of directors of Promethium, Inc., a development stage blockchain based digital security platform. Mr. Schneider's practice was concentrated in the areas of business planning, high net worth individuals, manufacturing, retailing, securities broker-dealers, the hospitality industry and private educational institutions.

Identification of Executive Officers

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Name | Age | Position |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary |
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| Andrew H. Reich | 62 | Mr. Reich has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary of the Company and Chief Executive Officer of MSCO since December 16, 2016. Prior thereto, Andrew H. Reich served in a variety of executive positions with StockCross Financial Services, Inc., a global financial services company ("StockCross") since 2002 and from 2015 until his resignation effective as of the Closing Date, he served as the Chairman of StockCross. Additionally, Mr. Reich is the owner of Aarianna Realty Inc., a real estate company, has previously served as the CFO of Gebbia Holding Co., a holding company for Gloria E. Gebbia's family through 2014 and as CFO of Park Wilshire Insurance Company since 2010. Mr. Reich has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry, including more than fourteen years as senior management of StockCross. Mr. Reich holds a MBA from the University of Southern California and a BBA from the Bernard Baruch College. |
|-----------------|----|---|

Corporate Governance

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors held five (5) regular meetings and two (2) special meetings during 2017. Each incumbent director attended at least 75% of his or her Board of Directors meetings and all of his or her committee meetings.

Controlled Company

We are a “Controlled Company” as defined in Rule 5615(c)(1) of The Nasdaq Stock Market because Gloria Gebbia and her family members hold more than 50% of our voting power for the election of directors. As a “Controlled Company” we are not required to have a majority of our Board of Directors comprised of independent directors, a compensation committee comprised solely of independent directors or a nominating committee comprised solely of independent directors.

Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors currently consists of Mr. Schneider, Chairman, Mr. Zabatta and Mr. Cuttita. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Schneider, Mr. Zabatta and Mr. Cuttita is each an “independent director” within the meaning of Rule 5605(a)(2) of The Nasdaq Stock Market and within the meaning of the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC.

The Audit Committee held six (6) meetings during 2017.

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Schneider qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” under the applicable rules of the SEC.

The Audit Committee was established to (i) assist the Board of Directors in its oversight responsibilities regarding the integrity of our financial statements, our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and our auditor’s qualifications and independence, (ii) prepare the report of the Audit Committee contained herein, (iii) retain, consider the continued retention and terminate our independent auditors, (iv) approve audit and non-audit services performed by our independent auditors and (v) perform any other functions from time to time delegated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has adopted a written charter for the Audit Committee, which is available on the website of Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc. at <https://www.siebertnet.com/company/governance>.

Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors currently consists of Mr. Zabatta and Mr. Cuttita. The Compensation Committee reviews and determines all forms of compensation provided to our executive officers and directors. The Compensation Committee will administer a stock option and other employee benefit plans if and when adopted. The Compensation Committee does not function pursuant to a formal written charter and as a “Controlled Company” we are not required to comply with The NASDAQ Stock Market’s independence requirements. The Compensation Committee held no meetings during 2017.

The Compensation Committee will evaluate the performance of our executive officers in terms of our operating results and financial performance and will determine their compensation in connection therewith.

In accordance with general practice in the securities industry, our executive compensation includes base salaries, an annual discretionary cash bonus, and stock options and other equity incentives that are intended to align the financial interests of our executives with the returns to our shareholders. There were no material increases in compensation to our sole executive officer in 2017.

As part of its oversight of the Company’s executive compensation, the Compensation Committee will consider the impact of the Company’s executive compensation, and the incentives created by the compensation awards that it administers, on the Company’s risk profile. In addition, the Compensation Committee will review the Company’s compensation policies and procedures, including the incentives that they create and factors that may reduce the likelihood of excessive risk taking, to determine whether they present a significant risk to the Company.

Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors currently consists of Mr. Zabatta and Mr. Cuttita. The Nominating Committee does not function pursuant to a formal written charter and as a “Controlled Company” we are not required to comply with The NASDAQ Stock Market’s independence requirements. The Nominating Committee

did not meet in 2017.

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify individuals qualified to become members of our Board of Directors and to recommend to the Board of Directors or the shareholders that such individuals be selected for directorship. In identifying and evaluating nominees for director, the Nominating Committee considers each candidate's experience, integrity, background and skills as well as other qualities that the candidate may possess and factors that the candidate may be able to bring to the Board of Directors. We do not have a formal policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees. However, the Board of Directors believes that it is essential that its members represent diverse viewpoints, with a broad array of experiences, professions, skills, geographic representation and backgrounds that, when considered as a group, provide a sufficient mix of perspectives to allow the Board of Directors to best fulfill its responsibilities to the long-term interests of our shareholders.

The Nominating Committee will consider shareholder nominees for election to our Board of Directors. In evaluating such nominees, the Nominating Committee will use the same selection criteria the Nominating Committee uses to evaluate other potential nominees.

Indemnification of Officers and Directors

We indemnify our executive officers and directors to the extent permitted by applicable law against liabilities incurred as a result of their service to us and against liabilities incurred as a result of their service as directors of other corporations when serving at our request. We have a director's and officer's liability insurance policy, underwritten by Illinois National Insurance Company, a member of the American International Group, Inc., in the annual aggregate amount of \$5 million dollars. As to reimbursements by the insurer of our indemnification expenses, the policy has a \$250,000 deductible; there is no deductible for covered liabilities of individual directors and officers.

Pursuant to the terms of the Acquisition Agreement, we obtained a director's and officer's liability policy for the Prior Board of Directors in the aggregate amount of \$15 million, which was charged as an expense prior to new management acquiring control.

Annual Shareholders Meeting Attendance Policy

It is the policy of our Board of Directors that all of our directors are strongly encouraged to attend each annual shareholders meeting. All of our directors attended the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders.

Code of Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers applicable to our chief executive officer, chief financial officer, treasurer, controller, principal accounting officer, and any of our other employees performing similar functions. A copy of the Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is available on our website <https://www.siebertnet.com/company/governance>.

Board Leadership Structure and Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors does not have a chairman nor a lead independent director. The Company believes this structure allows all of the directors to participate in the full range of the Board's responsibilities with respect to its oversight of the Company's management. The Board of Directors has determined that this leadership structure is appropriate given the size of the Company, the number of directors overseeing the Company and the Board of Directors' oversight responsibilities.

The Board of Directors intends to hold at least four regular meetings each year to consider and address matters involving the Company. The Board of Directors also may hold special meetings to address matters arising between regular meetings. These meetings may take place in person or by telephone. The independent directors also regularly meet in executive sessions outside the presence of management. The Board of Directors has access to legal counsel for consultation concerning any issues that may occur during or between regularly scheduled Board meetings. As discussed above, the Board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating Committee to assist the Board in performing its oversight responsibilities.

The Board of Directors' Role in Risk Oversight

Consistent with its responsibility for oversight of the Company, the Board of Directors, among other things, oversees risk management of the Company's business affairs directly and through the committee structure that it has established. The principal risks associated with the Company are risks related to securities market volatility and the securities industry, lower price levels in the securities markets, intense competition in the brokerage industry, extensive government regulation, net capital requirements, customers' failure to pay, investment banking activities, an increase in volume on our systems or other events which could cause them to malfunction, reliance on information processing and communications systems, continuing changes in technology, dependence on the ability to attract and retain key personnel, the ability of our principal shareholder to control many key decisions and there may be no public market for our common stock.

The Board of Directors' role in the Company's risk oversight process includes regular reports from senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, legal, regulatory, strategic and reputational risks. The full Board of Directors (or the appropriate committee) receives these reports from management to identify and discuss such risks.

The Board of Directors periodically reviews with management its strategies, techniques, policies and procedures designed to manage these risks. Under the overall supervision of the Board of Directors, management has implemented a variety of processes, procedures and controls to address these risks.

The Board of Directors requires management to report to the full Board of Directors on a variety of matters at regular meetings of the Board of Directors and on an as-needed basis, including the performance and operations of the Company and other matters relating to risk management. The Audit Committee also receives reports from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. These reviews are conducted in conjunction with the Board of Directors' risk oversight function and enable the Board of Directors to review and assess any material risks facing the Company.

Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our executive officers and directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of our common stock to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the SEC. These executive officers, directors and shareholders are required by the SEC to furnish us with copies of all forms they file pursuant to Section 16(a).

Other than Form 3's and Form 4's filed by the members of the Board of Directors and executive officer, no forms were filed and greater than 10% holders under Section 16(a) or were furnished to us during fiscal 2016. Based solely upon this review, we believe that during fiscal 2017 all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% beneficial owners were complied with on a timely basis.

Advisers to the Company

Special Adviser to the Board of Directors

In February 2017, the Board of Directors appointed John J. Gebbia as a Special Advisor to the Board of Directors. John J. Gebbia commenced his employment in the brokerage industry in 1959. In 1962, Mr. Gebbia became an executive vice president of Walston & Company. After becoming CEO of Jesup & Lamont, an institutional brokerage firm, Mr. Gebbia purchased the company in 1983. Thereafter, Mr. Gebbia owned and/or controlled various brokerage firms including Kennedy Cabot & Co., which was sold in 1997 to Toronto Dominion Bank for \$160,000,000. Mr. Gebbia controls various companies in the insurance, sports management & home building industries.

Senior Advisers

John M. Gebbia and Richard Gebbia, sons of Gloria E. Gebbia and John J. Gebbia, are registered with MSCO and will be serving as registered principals and associated persons of MSCO. They are also serving as executive officers and directors of StockCross. Both Richard and John M. Gebbia have extensive experience in the securities industry and will be working with MSCO and senior management of the Company to identify cost saving opportunities and improvements of the Company's business.

John M. Gebbia has been in the brokerage industry in various capacities since 1990. Mr. Gebbia was the President and CEO of Kennedy Cabot & Co., from 1992 to 1997 when it was acquired by Toronto Dominion Bank. Thereafter he was active with various Gebbia family businesses. Since 2007, Mr. Gebbia has been associated with StockCross, most recently as a Director and its Executive Vice President.

Richard S. Gebbia has been in the brokerage industry since 1993. Since 2002, Mr. Gebbia has been associated with StockCross in various capacities. Mr. Gebbia is currently the CEO and a Director of StockCross.

David J. Gebbia has been in the brokerage industry since 1993. Mr. Gebbia is currently the CEO of the Company's RIA subsidiary AdvisorNXT and CEO of the Company's recently acquired insurance company, Park Wilshire

Companies, Inc.

PART IV

Item 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

15(a)(3) Exhibits

The exhibits listed in the following Index to Exhibits are filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Amendment No. 1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K/A.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

No. Description Of Document

31.1 Certification of Andrew H. Reich pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SIEBERT FINANCIAL CORP.

By: /s/ Andrew H. Reich
Andrew H. Reich
Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer,
Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Director
(principal executive, financial and accounting officer)

Date: April 30, 2018

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Name | Title | Date |
|--|--|----------------|
| /s/ Andrew H. Reich Andrew H. Reich | Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Secretary (principal financial and accounting officer) and Director | April 30, 2018 |
| /s/ Gloria E. Gebbia Gloria E. Gebbia | Director | April 30, 2018 |
| /s/ Charles A. Zabatta Charles A. Zabatta | Director | April 30, 2018 |
| /s/ Francis V. Cuttita Francis V. Cuttita | Director | April 30, 2018 |
| /s/ Jerry Schneider Jerry Schneider | Director | April 30, 2018 |