

KIRSCHBAUM JAMES L  
 Form 4  
 December 11, 2007

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**KIRSCHBAUM JAMES L**

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)  
**111 N. WALL STREET**  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/11/2007**

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

**SPOKANE, WA 99201**  
 (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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2007                           | 12/11/2007   | P                              | 423   | A \$ 19.16  | 423  | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2007                           | 12/11/2007   | P                              | 1,800   | A \$ 19.17  | 2,223  | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2007                           | 12/11/2007   | P                              | 200   | A \$ 19.18  | 2,423  | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2007                           | 12/11/2007   | P                              | 977   | A \$ 19.19  | 3,400  | D   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/11/2007                           | 12/11/2007   | P                              | 1,600   | A \$ 19.2   | 5,000  | D   |

|                 |       |   |                   |
|-----------------|-------|---|-------------------|
| Common<br>Stock | 5,656 | I | 401k<br>ownership |
|-----------------|-------|---|-------------------|

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.** 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<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Bene<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repor<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|

  

| Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|

Code V (A) (D)

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                | Relationships  |
|---|--|
| KIRSCHBAUM JAMES L<br>111 N. WALL STREET<br>SPOKANE, WA 99201 | Director 10% Owner Officer Other<br>Vice President-Sterling Sav. P |

## Signatures

Daniel G. Byrne                      12/11/2007  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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).
- 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.