

AINSIE CHARLES J  
Form 4  
January 30, 2009

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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**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 \*  
AINSIE CHARLES J

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)  
08/27/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Director - Golf Savings Bank

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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

(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)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	08/27/2008		S <sup>(1)</sup>	500 D	\$ 9.21	102,639	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008		S <sup>(1)</sup>	17,072 D	\$ 9.35	85,567	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008		S <sup>(1)</sup>	300 D	\$ 9.41	85,267	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008		S <sup>(1)</sup>	1,700 D	\$ 9.44	83,567	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008		S <sup>(1)</sup>	122 D	\$ 9.45	83,445	D

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Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	3,582	D	\$ 9.27	79,863	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	5,504	D	\$ 9.28	74,359	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	3,535	D	\$ 9.29	70,824	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	5,378	D	\$ 9.3	65,446	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	3,600	D	\$ 9.36	61,846	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	3,816	D	\$ 9.37	58,030	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	4,500	D	\$ 9.38	53,530	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	2,884	D	\$ 9.39	50,646	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	1,171	D	\$ 9.4	49,475	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	500	D	\$ 9.2115	48,975	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	3,500	D	\$ 9.24	45,475	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	1,500	D	\$ 9.241	43,975	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	9,260	D	\$ 9.25	34,715	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	7,636	D	\$ 9.26	27,079	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	4,200	D	\$ 9.32	22,879	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	200	D	\$ 9.33	22,679	D
Common Stock	08/27/2008	<u>S(1)</u>	300	D	\$ 9.31	22,379	D

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)**

