

Markert Thomas Edward  
 Form 4  
 March 17, 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

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 \*  
 Markert Thomas Edward

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 State Auto Financial CORP [STFC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 45 SHAGBARK DRIVE  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 03/13/2009

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |                            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (A) or (D)   | Price   |                            |
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009                           |  | P                              |   | 100   | A  | \$ 16.98  | 2,973.427 <sup>(1)</sup> D |
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009                           |  | P                              |   | 2   | A  | \$ 17.02  | 2,975.427 <sup>(1)</sup> D |
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009                           |  | P                              |   | 110   | A  | \$ 17.03  | 3,085.427 <sup>(1)</sup> D |

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|                                 |            |   |     |   |            |                          |   |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|-----|---|------------|--------------------------|---|
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009 | P | 102 | A | \$ 17.04   | 3,187.427 <sup>(1)</sup> | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009 | P | 100 | A | \$ 17.0587 | 3,287.427 <sup>(1)</sup> | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 03/13/2009 | P | 86  | A | \$ 17.06   | 3,373.427 <sup>(1)</sup> | D |

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 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 (Instr. 8) | 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 Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                     | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Markert Thomas Edward<br>45 SHAGBARK DRIVE<br>NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Thomas E. Markert by James A. Yano, attorney in fact pursuant to a POA filed with the Commission 5-8-07

03/17/2009

\_\_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) Includes restricted share units (RSUs) credited with dividends, equivalent in value to those declared and paid on one share of STFC common stock; 17.552 shares acquired on 6/30/08; 13.916 shares acquired on 9/30/08 and 15.151 shares acquired on 12/31/08.

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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