

REIMER TERRY A  
Form 4  
December 20, 2012

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
REIMER TERRY A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Executive Vice President

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/18/2012

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

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266  
(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 Stock	12/18/2012		M		47,250	A	\$ 10.24	205,757	D	
Common Stock	12/18/2012		M		27,750	A	\$ 9.27	233,507	D	
Common Stock	12/18/2012		F		22,875	D	\$ 12.02	210,632	D	
Common Stock	12/18/2012		F		200	D	\$ 12.024	210,432	D	
Common Stock	12/18/2012		F		600	D	\$ 12.025	209,832	D	

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Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	11,766	D	\$ 12.03	198,066	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	200	D	\$ 12.0325	197,866	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	100	D	\$ 12.033	197,766	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	100	D	\$ 12.034	197,666	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	2,050	D	\$ 12.035	195,616	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	1,500	D	\$ 12.037	194,116	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	6,432	D	\$ 12.04	187,684	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	3,900	D	\$ 12.05	183,784	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	900	D	\$ 12.06	182,884	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	3,900	D	\$ 12.07	178,984	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	100	D	\$ 12.075	178,884	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	600	D	\$ 12.08	178,284	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	2,759	D	\$ 12.085	175,525	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	4,618	D	\$ 12.1	170,907	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	500	D	\$ 12.11	170,407	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	200	D	\$ 12.1125	170,207	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	3,700	D	\$ 12.115	166,507	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	275	D	\$ 12.01	166,232	D
Common Stock	12/18/2012	F	100	D	\$ 12.03	166,132	D

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

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**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)		
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
						Code	V	(A)	(D)
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.24	12/18/2012		M	47,250	03/15/2013	03/15/2016	Common Stock	47,250
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.27	12/18/2012		M	27,750	06/11/2013	06/11/2020	Common Stock	27,750

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
REIMER TERRY A 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266			Executive Vice President	

## Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney  
 12/20/2012  
 \*\*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).

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.