

COSTA DONN C
Form 5
February 06, 2009

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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).
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
COSTA DONN C

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)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2008

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
____ Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Sec. 16 Officer

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock | 12/31/2008 | Â | J(2) | 603 A \$ (1) 603 | | I | 401K |
| Common Stock | Â | Â | Â | Â Â Â Â 146,831 | | D | Â |

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

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

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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) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. of D S B O E I S F I (I |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| COSTA DONN C 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201 | Â | Â | Â | Sec. 16 Officer |

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, Chief Financial Officer
Date: 02/06/2009
Amount: 4,296
Type: D

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Agnew Robert F 2000 WESTCHESTER AVENUE PURCHASE, NY 10577 | | | X | |

Signatures

/s/ Michael W. Borkowski Michael W. Borkowski, as Attorney-in-Fact
Date: 05/22/2009
**Signature of 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).

- (1) Upon vesting, the Reporting Person is entitled to receive one share of Common Stock for each restricted stock unit.
- (2) These restricted stock units vested on May 21, 2009 and were automatically converted into an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock.

The units vest in their entirety on the first to occur of the following: (i) the first anniversary of the Date of Grant; (ii) the day immediately preceding the date of the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company occurring in 2010; the day immediately preceding the Reporting

- (3) Person's death; the day immediately preceding the date of termination of the Reporting Person's service on the Board by reason of disability (as defined); or a Change in Control of the Company (as defined). Share payouts will be made as soon as practicable after vesting of the Restricted Stock Units.

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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