

Eckhardt Ezra
 Form 3/A
 January 26, 2009

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Eckhardt Ezra		(Month/Day/Year)	STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	01/08/2009	
111 N. WALL STREET		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)		(Check all applicable)		01/16/2009
SPOKANE,Â WAÂ 99201		<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
COO of Sterling Savings				

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	6,965 ⁽¹⁾	I	401k

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	

Shares (I)
(Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Eckhardt Ezra 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Â COO of Sterling Savings	Â

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, Chief Financial Officer
01/26/2009

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) 401(k) balance previously disclosed on Form 3 filed 1/16/2009 did not include shares of Sterling common stock owned from a rollover contribution previously made. Account balance is correct as of 12/31/2008.

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.