

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
March 17, 2011

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**Date of report: March 11, 2011**

**(Date of earliest event reported)**

**Sterling Financial Corporation**

**(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

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|---|--|--|
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization) | (Commission<br>File Number)<br><b>111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201</b><br><br>(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)<br><br><b>(509) 458-3711</b><br><br>(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)<br><br><b>Not Applicable</b><br><br>(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification Number) |
|---|--|--|

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

(d) Sterling Financial Corporation ( Sterling ) hereby discloses that all necessary regulatory approvals have been received for the appointment of C. Webb Edwards to the Sterling Board of Directors. The appointment had been subject to approval by Sterling s primary regulator, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, which has advised Sterling that it has no objection to the appointment. Mr. Edwards is expected to serve on the Board s Audit Committee. The appointment became effective on March 11, 2011.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Registrant)

March 16, 2011

Date

By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak

**Patrick J. Rusnak**

Chief Financial Officer