FOX BRIAN Form 4 March 16, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

January 31, 2005

0.5

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Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

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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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

See Instruction

FOX BRIAN Issuer Symbol HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA (Check all applicable) INC [HTLF] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 1398 CENTRAL AVE 03/11/2018 EVP, Operations (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting DUBUQUE, IA 52001 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) any Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Indirect (I) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 2,000 $D^{(1)}$ Stock Common 11,668.8689 I Trust (3) (2) Stock Common 12,009.8689 Trust (3) 03/11/2018 341 I M Stock Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474

information contained in this form are not

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number.

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	ionof Derivative		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
2018 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>						<u>(5)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	Common Stock	799
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(4)</u>						<u>(6)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	Common Stock	1,066
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	<u>(4)</u>						<u>(7)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	Common Stock	799
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>						(8)	(8)	Common Stock	597
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(4)</u>						<u>(9)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	447
2017 Performance Based Restricted	<u>(4)</u>						(10)	(10)	Common Stock	547

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Stock (1-year performance)								
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>				<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	439
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(4)</u>				(12)	(12)	Common Stock	1,453
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	<u>(4)</u>				(13)	(13)	Common Stock	698
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>				(14)	(14)	Common Stock	1,167
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>				<u>(15)</u>	<u>(15)</u>	Common Stock	980
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(4)</u>	03/11/2018	F	490	<u>(15)</u>	<u>(15)</u>	Common Stock	490

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
.r. g	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
FOX BRIAN							
1398 CENTRAL AVE			EVP, Operations				
DUBUQUE, IA 52001							

Signatures

/s/ Brian Fox	03/16/2018		
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date		

Reporting Owners 3

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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) These shares are held in an IRA.
- (2) These shares participate in a Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (3) These shares held by Fox Revocable Trust dated 11/19/2001, Brian J Fox and Brenda J Fox, Trustees
- (4) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Issuer's common stock.
- (5) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 3-6-2019, 1/3 vest on 3-6-2020, and 1/3 vest on 3-6-2021.
- (6) These restricted stock units vest in 2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (7) These restricted stock units vest on 3-6-2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (8) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest in 01-2018, 1/3 vest in 01-2019 and 1/3 vest in 01-2020.
- (9) These restricted stock units vest in 2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (10) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (11) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2017, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2018, and 1/3 vest on 1-19-2019.
- (12) These restricted stock units vest in 2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (13) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (14) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2018, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2019, and 1/3 vest on 1-20-2020.
- (15) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2017, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2018, and 1/3 vest on 3-11-2019.

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.