

Saylor Kurt
 Form 4
 December 11, 2018

FORM 4 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).

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 *
 Saylor Kurt

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA
 INC [HTLF]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1398 CENTRAL AVE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/10/2018

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

DUBUQUE, IA 52001
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | | | | | 0 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 118,120 | I | Trust ⁽¹⁾ |
| Common Stock | 12/10/2018 | | S | 1,800 ⁽²⁾ D \$ 50.2745 | 116,320 | I | Trust ⁽¹⁾ |
| Common Stock | | | | | 47,025 | I | Wife's Trust ⁽³⁾ |
| Common Stock | 12/10/2018 | | S | 714 ⁽²⁾ D \$ 50.2745 | 46,311 | I | Wife's Trust ⁽³⁾ |

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

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(9-02)

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) | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| 2018 Director Restricted Stock Units (retainer) | (4) | | | | | (5) | (5) | Common Stock | 460 (6) |
| 2018 Director Restricted Stock Units | (4) | | | | | (5) | (5) | Common Stock | 1,235 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Saylor Kurt 1398 CENTRAL AVE DUBUQUE, IA 52001 | X | | | |

Signatures

/s/ Kurt Saylor 12/11/2018

__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).

(1) These shares are held by Kurt M. Saylor Trust dated 1-6-1998 for which Reporting Person acts as trustee.

(2) Shares sold pursuant to 10b5-1 Plan effective November 12, 2018

(3) These shares are held by Melissa J. Saylor Trust dated 1-6-1998 for which Reporting Person's wife acts as trustee.

(4) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Issuer's common stock.

(5) These restricted stock units are granted under the 2012 Long-term Incentive Plan and are subject to a one (1) year vesting schedule.

(6) HTLF Directors may elect RSUs or cash for the retainer portion of their Director Compensation

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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