

State Auto Financial CORP  
 Form 4  
 August 22, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**MEUSE DAVID R**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

2200 NORTH COLUMBUS ST.

(Street)

LANCASTER, OH 43130

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

State Auto Financial CORP [STFC]

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

08/18/2006

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount (A) or Price (D)   |  |                                   |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006                           |  | A                              |   | 100 \$ 30.02  | 5,100  | D                                 |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006                           |  | A                              |   | 201 \$ 30.03  | 5,301  | D                                 |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006                           |  | A                              |   | 301 \$ 30.04  | 5,602  | D                                 |

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|                                 |            |   |       |   |          |       |   |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|-------|---|
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.05 | 5,702 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 200   | A | \$ 30.06 | 5,902 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 201   | A | \$ 30.07 | 6,103 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 198   | A | \$ 30.08 | 6,301 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 200   | A | \$ 30.09 | 6,501 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 1,227 | A | \$ 30.1  | 7,728 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 403   | A | \$ 30.12 | 8,131 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 2     | A | \$ 30.13 | 8,133 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.14 | 8,233 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.15 | 8,333 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.17 | 8,433 | D |
|                                 | 08/18/2006 | A | 700   | A |          | 9,133 | D |

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|                                 |            |   |       |   |          |        |   |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|--------|---|
| Common Shares without par value |            |   |       |   | \$ 30.18 |        |   |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 401   | A | \$ 30.19 | 9,534  | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 1,466 | A | \$ 30.2  | 11,000 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 1,699 | A | \$ 30.24 | 12,699 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.25 | 12,799 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 605   | A | \$ 30.26 | 13,404 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 100   | A | \$ 30.29 | 13,504 | D |
| Common Shares without par value | 08/18/2006 | A | 1,195 | A | \$ 30.3  | 14,699 | D |

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

**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.**

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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 | 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. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|

(A) or  
 Disposed  
 of (D)  
 (Instr. 3,  
 4, and 5)

Repo  
 Trans  
 (Instr

| Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MEUSE DAVID R<br>2200 NORTH COLUMBUS ST.<br>LANCASTER, OH 43130 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

David R. Meuse by John R. Lowther, attorney in fact pursuant to a POA filed with the Commission on 4-4-06.

08/22/2006

\_\_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).

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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