

REIMER TERRY A
Form 4
December 20, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
REIMER TERRY A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Executive Vice President

(Last) (First) (Middle)
6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/18/2012

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | | M | | 47,250 | A | \$ 10.24 | 205,757 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | | M | | 27,750 | A | \$ 9.27 | 233,507 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | | F | | 22,875 | D | \$ 12.02 | 210,632 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | | F | | 200 | D | \$ 12.024 | 210,432 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | | F | | 600 | D | \$ 12.025 | 209,832 | D |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|--------|---|------------|---------|---|
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 11,766 | D | \$ 12.03 | 198,066 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 200 | D | \$ 12.0325 | 197,866 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 100 | D | \$ 12.033 | 197,766 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 100 | D | \$ 12.034 | 197,666 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 2,050 | D | \$ 12.035 | 195,616 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 1,500 | D | \$ 12.037 | 194,116 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 6,432 | D | \$ 12.04 | 187,684 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 3,900 | D | \$ 12.05 | 183,784 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 900 | D | \$ 12.06 | 182,884 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 3,900 | D | \$ 12.07 | 178,984 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 100 | D | \$ 12.075 | 178,884 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 600 | D | \$ 12.08 | 178,284 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 2,759 | D | \$ 12.085 | 175,525 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 4,618 | D | \$ 12.1 | 170,907 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 500 | D | \$ 12.11 | 170,407 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 200 | D | \$ 12.1125 | 170,207 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 3,700 | D | \$ 12.115 | 166,507 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 275 | D | \$ 12.01 | 166,232 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/18/2012 | F | 100 | D | \$ 12.03 | 166,132 | D |

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

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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) | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Options - Right to Buy | \$ 10.24 | 12/18/2012 | | M | 47,250 | 03/15/2013 | 03/15/2016 | Common Stock | 47,250 |
| Options - Right to Buy | \$ 9.27 | 12/18/2012 | | M | 27,750 | 06/11/2013 | 06/11/2020 | Common Stock | 27,750 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| REIMER TERRY A 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | | | Executive Vice President | |

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney
12/20/2012

__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. 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.