| SEC Form 4 |  |
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### FORM 4

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to<br>Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5<br>obligations may continue. See<br>Instruction 1(b). |
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## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL OMB Number: 3235-0287 Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <sup>*</sup><br>LAMALE ELLEN Z |                 |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC FFG |                        | ationship of Reporting Pe<br>( all applicable)<br>Director<br>Officer (give title   | 10% Owner<br>Other (specify |  |
|--|-----------------|----------|---|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| (Last)<br>711 HIGH STR   | (First)<br>EET  | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>03/28/2005                |                        | below)<br>Sr. VP & Chief  | below)<br>f Actuary         |  |
| (Street)<br>DES MOINES   | IOINES IA 50392 |          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                      | 6. Indiv<br>Line)<br>X | vidual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicab<br>Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting |                             |  |
| (City)   | (State)         | (Zip)    | erivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Benef                          | icially                | Person Owned  |                             |  |

#### Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| Title of Security (Instr. 3) | Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Transaction<br>Code (Instr. |   |        |               |       | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported | (D) or Indirect | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------|---------------|-------|---|-----------------|---|
|                              |                          |                            | Code                        | v | Amount | (A) or<br>(D) | Price | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |                 | (1150.4)  |

#### Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

|   | (   |  |   |                              |   |   |     |  |                    |   |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|-----|--|--------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4<br>and 5) |     | Ind 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                    | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |   |  |
|   |   |  |   | Code                         | v | (A)   | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares   |  |  |   |  |
| Phantom<br>Stock<br>Units                           | (1)   | 03/28/2005                                 |   | A <sup>(2)</sup>             |   | 14.7  |     | (3)  | (3)                | Common<br>Stock                                     | 14.7   | \$38.2   | 1,014.4  | D |  |

**Explanation of Responses:** 

1. Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.

2. Pursuant to 10b5-1 plan adopted February 21, 2002.

3. The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time into another investment alternative under the Plan. Interests under the plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

**Remarks:** 

### Karen E. Shaff, by Power of

Attorney

03/30/2005

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

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

\* 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.

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 Number.

Date