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## FORM 4

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subjec | t to |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5       |      |
| obligations may continue. See      |      |
| Instruction 1(b).                  |      |

## 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

| HELTON SANDRA L        |                |          | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC</u> [ PFG] |                        | tionship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>all applicable)<br>Director 10% Owner   |                       |  |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| (Last)<br>711 HIGH STR | (First)<br>EET | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>03/27/2015                                 |                        | Officer (give title below)   | Other (specify below) |  |
| (Street)<br>DES MOINES | ,              |          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                                       | 6. Indiv<br>Line)<br>X | ividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable<br>Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting |                       |  |
| (City)                 | (State)        | (Zip)    | erivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Bene  | ficially               | Person   |                       |  |

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   |        |               |                           | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 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)  |   | (iiisti: 4)   |
| Common Stock                    | 03/27/2015                                 |   | Α                            |   | 220    | Α             | <b>\$0</b> <sup>(1)</sup> | 40,359  | D   |   |

## 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) |   | of Ex |     | 6. Date Exerc<br>Expiration Da<br>(Month/Day/Y | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr. 3<br>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              |  |  |  |  |

**Explanation of Responses:** 

1. Grant of restricted stock units.

**Remarks:** 

## Patrick A. Kirchner, by Power of Attorney

03/31/2015

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

 $\ast$  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.