

# FORM 4

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

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

[ ] 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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|   |         |          |   |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|---------|----------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * |         |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol       |  |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)   |  |  |
| TALLETT ELIZEBETH E                       |         |          | PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC<br>[ PFG ]          |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |  |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)      |  |  |   |  |  |
| 711 HIGH STREET                           |         |          | 11/30/2012  |  |  |   |  |  |
| (Street)                                  |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) |  |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)   |  |  |
| DES MOINES, IA 50392                      |         |          |   |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person                                       |  |  |
| (City)                                    |         |          | (State)   |  |  | (Zip)   |  |  |

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. 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) |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                |                                   | Code                      | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price |   |  |   |

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

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. 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 |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |                            | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-----|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                |                                   | Code                      | V | (A)  | (D) | Date Exercisable                        | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |  |   |  |  |
| Phantom Stock Units                      | (1)  | 11/30/2012     |                                   | A                         |   | 18.4   |     | (2)                                     | (2)             | Common Stock  | 18.4                       | \$27.15                                    | 4662.3  | D  |  |

#### Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The units convert to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- (2) The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors and will be settled on the reporting person's retirement.

#### Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| TALLETT ELIZEBETH E<br>711 HIGH STREET<br>DES MOINES, IA 50392 | X             |           |         |       |

#### Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney

12/3/2012

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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 control number.