

FORM 5

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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| OMB Number: | 3235-0362 |
| Estimated average burden hours per response: | 1.0 |

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

- Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
- Form 3 Holdings Reported.
- Form 4 Transactions Reported.

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* <u>LINDNER S CRAIG</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>301 EAST FOURTH STREET</u> (Street) <u>CINCINNATI OH 45202</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC [AFG]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Co-CEO & Co-President</u> |
| | 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/31/2017</u> | |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | |

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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|------------|--------|--|--|---|
| | | | | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/20/2017 | | G | 2,962 | D | \$0.00 | 2,525,959 | I | #1 ⁽¹⁾ |
| Common Stock | 12/21/2017 | | G | 74,287 | D | \$0.00 | 2,451,672 | I | #1 ⁽¹⁾ |
| Common stock | | | | | | | 113,229 | I | #3 ⁽²⁾ |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 32,819.69 | I | #12 ⁽³⁾ |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 2,311,386 | I | #27 ⁽⁴⁾ |

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 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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |
| Phantom Stock | (5) | | | | | | (5) | (5) | Common | (5) | 15,646.1235 ⁽⁵⁾ | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- Indirect #1: SCL TTEE of the SCL Living Trust DTD 03/30/83.
- Indirect #3: By Frances R. Lindner, Trustee for the Frances R. Lindner Living Trust dated 9/13/93.
- Indirect #12: Held in the Company's Retirement and Savings Plan. The number of shares of Common Stock is based on a statement dated as of 12/31/17.
- Indirect #27: Shares voting and dispositive power and holds a remainder interest in shares held by charitable lead annuity trust. The reporting person disclaims beneficial interest of the shares held by the trust except to the extent of his pecuniary interest in such shares.
- Represents amounts held by Reporting Person in a retirement plan of the Issuer based on a statement dated 12/31/17. Each share is the economic equivalent of one share of common stock. The Reporting Person's account balance is distributed in cash following termination of employment.

Remarks:

S. Craig Lindner By: Karl J. Grafe, as Attorney-in-Fact 02/13/2018

** 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 Number.