

Payne James Parker
 Form 4
 December 16, 2011

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 *
 Payne James Parker

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NATIONAL WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE CO [NWLJ]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 850 E ANDERSON LANE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/14/2011

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Sr VP - Secretary

AUSTIN, TX 78752
 (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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Appreciation Rights	\$ 132.56	12/14/2011		A		1,000		12/14/2014 ⁽¹⁾	12/14/2021	Class A Common Stock	1,000
Stock Appreciation Rights	\$ 114.64							02/19/2012 ⁽¹⁾	02/19/2019	Class A Common Stock	1,000
Non Qualified Stock Options	\$ 255.13							04/18/2011 ⁽²⁾	04/18/2018	Class A Common Stock	1,000
Non Qualified Stock Options	\$ 150							04/23/2009 ⁽³⁾	04/23/2014	Class A Common Stock	1,200

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Payne James Parker 850 E ANDERSON LANE AUSTIN, TX 78752			Sr VP - Secretary	

Signatures

James P. Payne 12/16/2011
 **Signature of Date
 Reporting Person

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).
- (1) The SARs are exercisable as they vest. The SARs vest in five equal annual installments beginning on the Date Exercisable.
- (2) The options are exercisable as they vest. The options vest in five equal annual installments beginning on the Date Exercisable.
- (3) The options are exercisable as they vest. The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the Date Exercisable.

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.