McKeag Bryan Form 4 January 22, 2018

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or January 31, Expires: 2005

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction See Instruction 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

1(b).

Common

Stock

01/18/2018

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading McKeag Bryan Issuer Symbol HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA (Check all applicable) INC [HTLF] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 1398 CENTRAL AVE. 01/18/2018 Chief Financial Officer (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting DUBUQUE, IA 52001 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) Owned Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 8) Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 9.117 Ι Trust (1) Stock Common 0 D Stock

1,313 A

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

M

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D

1,313

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number.

$\label{thm:convergence} \begin{tabular}{ll} Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned \\ (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) \end{tabular}$

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. 5. Number Transaction Derivative Code Securities (Instr. 8) 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code V	(4	A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)							(3)	(3)	Common Stock	1,620
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>							<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	810
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>							<u>(5)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	Common Stock	989 <u>(6)</u>
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)							<u>(7)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	Common Stock	1,058
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)							<u>(8)</u>	(8)	Common Stock	842
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year	<u>(2)</u>							(9)	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	1,767

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performance)								
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)				(10)	(10)	Common Stock	1,875
2015 Performance Based Restricted Stock	<u>(2)</u>				<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	1,313
2015 Performance Based Restricted Stock	<u>(2)</u>	01/18/2018	F	1,313	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	0
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)				(12)	(12)	Common Stock	1,250

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
reporting owner runner runners	

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

McKeag Bryan

1398 CENTRAL AVE. Chief Financial Officer

DUBUQUE, IA 52001

Signatures

/s/ Bryan 01/20/2018 McKeag

**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) These shares are held by Bryan R and Linda M McKeag Living Trust dated 02-18-2009
- (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Issuer's common stock.
- (3) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest in 01-2018, 1/3 vest in 01-2019 and 1/3 vest in 01-2020.
- (4) These restricted stock units vest in 2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (5) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (6) Reflects the forfeiture of 631 Performance Based Restricted Stock Units granted but not earned in 2017.
- (7) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2017, 1/3 vest on 1-19-2018, and 1/3 vest on 1-19-2019.

Reporting Owners 3

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- (8) These restricted stock units vest in 2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (9) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (10) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2018, 1/3 vest on 1-20-2019, and 1/3 vest on 1-20-2020.
- (11) These restricted stock units vest on 1-18-2018 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (12) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2017, 1/3 vest on 3-11-2018, and 1/3 vest on 3-11-2019.

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.