Lee Bruce K Form 4 January 24, 2019

FORM 4

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

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, 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 *

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0287

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January 31, 2005

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response...

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5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Lee Bruce K 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) 1398 CENTRAL AVE 01/22/2019 **PRESIDENT** (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	e I - Non-D	erivative	Secur	ities Acq	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired ior(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)					7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	D	
Stock							10,231	ע	
Common Stock	01/22/2019			467 <u>(1)</u>			10,698	D	
Common Stock	01/22/2019		M	4,148	A	\$ 47.54	14,846	D	
Common Stock	01/22/2019		M	1,334	A	\$ 47.54	16,180	D	
Common Stock	01/22/2019		M	1,091	A	\$ 47.54	17,271	D	

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Common Stock 01/22/2019 M 1,242 A \$ 18,513 D

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 (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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number coof 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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
2018 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(2)</u>						(3)	(3)	Common Stock	2,284
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>						<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	3,045
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>						<u>(5)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	Common Stock	2,284
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)						<u>(6)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	Common Stock	2,181
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	01/22/2019		F		1,091	<u>(6)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	Common Stock	1,090

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2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)				<u>(7)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	Common Stock	1,635
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)				(8)	(8)	Common Stock	1,995
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)				(9)	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	1,242
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	01/22/2019	F	1,242	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	0
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)				(10)	<u>(10)</u>	Common Stock	1,976
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)				(11)	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	4,148
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)	01/22/2019	F	4,148	(11)	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	0
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)				(12)	(12)	Common Stock	2,667
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	01/22/2019	F	1,334	(12)	(12)	Common Stock	1,333

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Lee Bruce K

1398 CENTRAL AVE PRESIDENT

DUBUQUE, IA 52001

Signatures

/s/ Bruce K. Lee 01/24/2019

**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) Includes shares purchased through the Employee Stock Purchase Program
- (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 on 3-6-2019, 1/3 vest on 3-6-2020, and 1/3 vest on 3-6-2021.
- (4) These restricted stock units vest in 2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (5) These restricted stock units vest on 3-6-2021 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (6) Of these restricted stock units, 1/3 vest in 01-2018, 1/3 vest in 01-2019 and 1/3 vest in 01-2020.
- (7) These restricted stock units vest in 2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (8) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2020 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (9) 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.
- (10) These restricted stock units vest in 2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (11) These restricted stock units vest on 1-19-2019 if certain performance measures are achieved by the Issuer.
- (12) 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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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