

WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION  
 Form 4  
 January 10, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 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, 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 \*  
 Sarver Robert Gary

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION [WAL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/07/2011

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Chairman and CEO

C/O WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION, ONE E WASHINGTON STREET

(Street)

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

PHOENIX, AZ 85004

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 01/07/2010                           |  | A                              | V<br>1,815<br>(1)   | A \$ 0 2,554,462  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 3,159 (2)   | I  | By 401(k) Plan  |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 30,000  | I  | By Robert G. Sarver Trust dtd 09/29/1997              |
| Common                          |                                      |  |                                |   | 189,758   | I  | By Sarver   |

|                 |  |  |  |        |   |   |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--------|---|---|
| Stock           |  |  |  |        |   | Family Trust<br>Dated<br>09/29/1997                     |
| Common<br>Stock |  |  |  | 30,000 | I | By Spouse <sup>(3)</sup>                                |
| Common<br>Stock |  |  |  | 16,022 | I | By SF III Ltd<br>Partnership                            |
| Common<br>Stock |  |  |  | 33,105 | I | By Vulture II<br>Corporation                            |
| Common<br>Stock |  |  |  | 4,000  | I | By The<br>Harrison H.<br>Hilton Trust<br><sup>(3)</sup> |

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<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Nu<br>Deriv<br>Secur<br>Bene<br>Own<br>Follo<br>Repo<br>Trans<br>(Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
|   |  |   |   |                                      |  | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date  | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                     |
|   |  |   |   |                                      |  | Code   | V (A) (D)   |   |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                     |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer             | Other |
| Sarver Robert Gary<br>C/O WESTERN ALLIANCE BANCORPORATION<br>ONE E WASHINGTON STREET<br>PHOENIX, AZ 85004 | X             |           | Chairman<br>and CEO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Dale Gibbons  
(Attorney-in-Fact)

01/10/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## 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).

- These shares are issuable in respect of common stock that represent a portion of the reporting person's salary, net of withholdings and deductions, that fully vest on the date of the grant. Once vested the common stock will become transferrable to the reporting person on a pro rata basis as the Company repays TARP Funds, in increments of no less than 25%. TARP Funds include any funds received pursuant to the United States Government's Troubled Asset Relief Program.
- (1) Reflects current shares held in the 401(k) Plan to include Employer match.
  - (2) The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of these securities, and this report shall not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of the securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.

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.