Townsend Andrew E Form 4 August 20, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB 3235-0287

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Townsend Andrew E			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
				HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA INC [HTLF]				(Check all applicable)			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)					DirectorX Officer (give below)		Owner er (specify	
1398 CENT	RAL AVE		08/20/2	08/20/2018				EVP, Chief Credit Officer			
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original					6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
			Filed(Mor	Filed(Month/Day/Year)				Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person			
DUBUQUE	c, IA 52001							Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tabl	e I - Non-D	erivative	Secur	ities Acq	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date (Instr. 3) 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 2A.		n Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			d of (D)	5. Amount of Securities Form: Direct Indirect Beneficially (D) or Benefici. Owned Indirect (I) Ownersh Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)					
				Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock								26,155	D (1)		
Common Stock	08/20/2018			S	1,500	D	\$ 60.65	24,655	D (1)		
Common Stock								1,163	I	401(k)	

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

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	of	Number Expiration Date of (Month/Day/Year) Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Pri Deriv Secu (Insti
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
2018 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					(3)	(3)	Common Stock	785	
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>					<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	1,047	
2018 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>					<u>(5)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	Common Stock	785	
2017 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)					<u>(6)</u>	<u>(6)</u>	Common Stock	689	
2017 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	<u>(2)</u>					<u>(7)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	Common Stock	516	
2017 Performance Based	(2)					(8)	(8)	Common Stock	631	

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Restricted Stock (1-year performance)					
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	667 (10)
2016 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	<u>(9)</u>	<u>(9)</u>	Common Stock	413
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (3-year performance)	(2)	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>	Common Stock	657
2016 Performance Based Restricted Stock (1-year performance)	(2)	(11)	(11)	Common Stock	1,379
2015 Time-Based Restricted Stock	<u>(2)</u>	(12)	(12)	Common Stock	833
2014 Time-Based Restricted Stock	(2)	<u>(13)</u>	<u>(13)</u>	Common Stock	417

Reporting Owners

**Signature of Reporting

Person

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships ss							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
Townsend Andrew E 1398 CENTRAL AVE DUBUQUE, IA 52001			EVP, Chief Credit Officer					
Signatures								
/s/ Andrew E Townsend	08/20/2018	3						

Date

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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 in Jt. Ten.
- (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 were granted outside of the annual awarding of restricted stock units due to employment change.
- (11) These restricted stock units vest in 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.
- (13) 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.