

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0287
Estimated average burden
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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 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * SCHOLTEN GARY P (Last) (First) (Middle) 711 HIGH STREET (Street) DES MOINES, IA 50392 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) EVP & Ch Info Officer
3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) <p align="center">12/7/2016</p>		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. 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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	12/7/2016		M (1)		17725	A	\$22.21	88375 (2)	D	
Common Stock	12/7/2016		S (1)		17725	D	\$60.00	70650 (2)	D	
Common Stock	12/7/2016		M (3)		6755	A	\$56.42	77405 (2)	D	
Common Stock	12/7/2016		S (3)		6755	D	\$60.00	70650 (2)	D	
Common Stock								647	I	By 401(k) Plan
Common Stock								192	I	By Spouse

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

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$22.21	12/7/2016		M (1)		17725		2/23/2013	2/23/2020	Common Stock	17725	\$0	0	D	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$56.42	12/7/2016		M (3)		6755		5/19/2011	5/19/2018	Common Stock	6755	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on November 12, 2015.
- (2) Includes 11,642 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on May 10, 2016.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SCHOLTEN GARY P 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392			EVP & Ch Info Officer	

Signatures

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

* 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).

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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