FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| l | OMB APPRO | VAL |
|---|------------------------|-----------|
| | OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
| l | Estimated average burd | en |
| l | hours per response: | 0.5 |

| | Check this box if no longer subject to |
|---|--|
|) | Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 |
| J | obligations may continue. See |
| | Instruction 1(b). |

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* RUNK FRED J (Last) (First) (Middle) ONE EAST FOURTH STREET (Street) CINCINNATI OH 45202 | | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC AFG 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 09/05/2003 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | | S. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------------|--|-------|---|--------|---|---------------|---------------------|---|--|---------|---------------------------|----------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| | | Tab | le I - Noi | n-Deriv | ative | Se | curitie | s Acc | quired, | Dis | posed o | f, o | r Ber | efici | ally C | wne | ed | | | | | |
| Da | | | | | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | Code (Instr. | | | | | | 4 and Secu Bend Own | | icially d Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | |
| | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | | (A) or (D) | Price | . - | Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | (Instr. 4) | | | | | |
| Common | 09/05 | 5/2003 | | | | P | | 77 | | A | \$21 | .49 | 242,029 | |] | D | | | | | | |
| Common | | | | | | | | | | 6,3 | | 88.55(1) | | I | ESPP | | | | | | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1,356(1) | | | I | DRIP | | |
| | | Ta | able II - I (| | | | | | | | sed of, onvertib | | | | | ned | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deem Execution if any (Month/Da | n Date, Transact Code (In | | nstr. | on of of securities securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Date Expiration Expiration Date Expiration | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4) Amount or Number of | | nstr. 3 | int er | | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | Ow For Dir or I (I) (| nership m: ect (D) ndirect Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Total as of 12/31/2002.

Fred J. Runk

09/05/2003

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.