

STROPKI JOHN M  
Form 4  
December 17, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
STROPKI JOHN M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
LINCOLN ELECTRIC HOLDINGS INC [LECO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
22801 ST. CLAIR AVENUE  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/13/2012

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

CLEVELAND, OH 44117-1199  
(City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Shares                   | 12/13/2012                           |  | A                              | V Amount (A) or (D) Price \$ 0 (1)                                | 180,832   | D  |                                   |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   | 5,000   | I  | by Spouse                         |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   | 224.682 (2)   | I  | by Trust                          |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   | 12,509.301 (3)  | I  | 401(k) Plan                       |
| Common Shares                   |                                      |  |                                |   | 81,839.629  | I  | SPP                               |

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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. Transaction 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 (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                              |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 47.91   | 12/13/2012                           |  | A                              | 59,350  | <u>(4)</u> 12/13/2022                                    | Common Shares 59,350  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                       | Relationships |           |                                   |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                           | Other |
| STROPKI JOHN M<br>22801 ST. CLAIR AVENUE<br>CLEVELAND, OH 44117-1199 | X             |           | Chairman,<br>President and<br>CEO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Jennifer I. Ansberry, Jennifer I. Ansberry as Attorney-in-Fact for John M. Stropki, Jr.

12/17/2012

\_\_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).
- (1) Pursuant to restricted stock unit award.
- (2) Shares held by Elizabeth A. Stropki Trust.
- (3) Held by trustee pursuant to The Lincoln Electric Company 401(k) plan. Holdings are reported on a unitized basis, which amount represents approximately 10,516.552 shares.
- (4) The options become exercisable in three annual installments on December 13, 2013, December 13, 2014 and December 13 2015.

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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