

Northwest Bancshares, Inc.  
Form 4  
May 22, 2015

# FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**SMELKO MICHAEL G**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

100 LIBERTY STREET

(Street)

WARREN, PA 16365

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Northwest Bancshares, Inc. [NWBI]

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

05/20/2015

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

Exec. V.P., Chief Credit Off.

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |              |   |            |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------------|---|------------|
|   |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount or Price   |  |   |              |   |            |
| Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock | 05/20/2015                           | 05/20/2015   | A                              |   | 5,850<br>(1)  | A  | \$ 12.31  | 55,414       | D |            |
| Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 1,019        | I | Wife's IRA |
| Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |   | 6,450.36 (3) | I | 401-K      |

Northwest Bancshares, Inc. Common Stock

7,549.03 <sup>(4)</sup> I ESOP

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

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**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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Stock Options (Right to Buy)               | \$ 12.37   | 05/20/2015                           | 05/20/2015   | A                              | 12,480 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 05/20/2015 05/20/2025                                    | Common Stock  | 12,480                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                             | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| SMELKO MICHAEL G<br>100 LIBERTY STREET<br>WARREN, PA 16365 |               |           | Exec. V.P., Chief Credit Off. |       |

## Signatures

Michael G. Smelko 05/22/2015

\*\*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)

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One tenth of this grant of RRP shares will vest each year beginning May 20, 2015 and on each May 20th thereafter through May 20, 2024.

- (2) One tenth of this grant of stock options will vest each year beginning May 20, 2015 and on each May 20th thereafter through May 20, 2024.
- (3) Reflects transaction that are not reportable pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (4) Reflects transaction that are not reportable pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

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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