

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**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<b>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</b> <u>Grensteiner Ronald James</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY</u> _____ (Street) <u>WEST DES MOINES IA 50266</u> _____ (City) (State) (Zip)	<b>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</b> <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [ AEL ]</u>	<b>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</b> (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u>
	<b>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</b> <u>03/23/2018</u>	
<b>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b> _____		

**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	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	03/23/2018		M		27,750	A	\$9.27	122,792	D	
Common Stock	03/23/2018		M		270	A	\$7	123,062	D	
Common Stock	03/23/2018		S		28,020	D	\$30.6114 <sup>(1)</sup>	95,042	D	
Common Stock	03/26/2018		M		19,730	A	\$7	114,772	D	
Common Stock	03/26/2018		S		19,730	D	\$29.6081 <sup>(2)</sup>	95,042	D	
Common Stock								11,324	I	By ESOP

**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 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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Options - Right to Buy	\$9.27	03/23/2018		M			27,750	06/11/2013	06/11/2020	Common Stock	27,750	\$0	0	D	
Options - Right to Buy	\$7	03/23/2018		M			270	05/08/2012	05/08/2019	Common Stock	270	\$0	19,730	D	
Options - Right to Buy	\$7	03/26/2018		M			19,730	05/08/2012	05/08/2019	Common Stock	19,730	\$0	0	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$30.50 to \$31.105. The price reported in column 4 is an average price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares sold and the prices at which the transactions were settled.
- This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$29.50 to \$29.73. The price reported in column 4 is an average price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares sold and the prices at which the transactions were settled.

**Remarks:**

Renee D. Montz, by Power of Attorney 03/26/2018

\*\* 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.**