

WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION

Form 4

January 22, 2009

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
THORSON JOHN A

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
WESTAMERICA
BANCORPORATION [WABC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
WESTAMERICA
BANCORPORATION, 4550
MANGELS BLVD

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
01/21/2009

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
X Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
SVP/Chief Financial Officer

(Street)
94534

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
X Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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	(D)	Price

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)

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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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
Non-qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 43.015	01/21/2009		A	21,600	01/21/2010 ⁽¹⁾ 01/21/2019	Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
THORSON JOHN A WESTAMERICA BANCORPORATION 4550 MANGELS BLVD 94534	Director 10% Owner Officer Other SVP/Chief Financial Officer

Signatures

/s/John "Robert" A.
Thorson 01/22/2009

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) Options vest ratably over three years beginning one year from date of grant.

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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