KROGER CO Form 4 March 02, 2017

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

3235-0287 Number: January 31,

OMB APPROVAL

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5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

1(b).

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 may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

SARGENT RONALD Issuer Symbol KROGER CO [KR] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) _X__ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify C/O THE KROGER CO... 1014 03/01/2017 below) VINE STREET 4. If Amendment, Date Original (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City)	(State) (Z	Zip) Table	I - Non-Do	erivative Secu	rities Ac	quired, Disposed	of, or Beneficial	lly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities on Acquired (A) Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and Or Amount (D)	D) d 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)
Common Stock						71,240	D	

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)

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1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5. Number of	6. Date Exer	cisable and	7. Title and A	Amount of	8. P
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transact	orDerivative	Expiration Date		Underlying Securities		Der
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	Securities	(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)		Secu
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A)					(Ins
	Derivative				or Disposed of					
	Security				(D)					
					(Instr. 3, 4,					
					and 5)					
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number	
				Code V	(A) (D)	<u> </u>	24.0		of Shares	
					, , , ,					
Phantom										
Stock -	\$ 0 (1)	03/01/2017		A	58.952	(3)	(3)	Common	58.952	\$ 3
Incentive	ψ U <u>~</u>	03/01/2017		А	(2)	<u> </u>	<u>()</u>	Stock	30.932	ψ.
Shares										

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
SARGENT RONALD C/O THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	X					

Signatures

/s/ Ronald L. Sargent, by Christine S. Wheatley, Attorney-in-Fact

**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).

03/02/2017

- (1) Each phantom share represents the right to receive one common share upon distribution from the deferred compensation account.
- (2) Represents phantom stock acquired in dividend reinvestment transactions under a deferred compensation plan of The Kroger Co.
- (3) Shares of phantom stock will be distributed following termination of the reporting person's services as an Independent Director of The Kroger Co.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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