Iafrate Geno M
Form 4
May 23, 2012

FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

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

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 * Iafrate Geno M	2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol PINNACLE ENTERTAINMENT INC. [PNK]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) _____ Director _____ 10% Owner __X__ Officer (give title _____ Other (specify below) below) EVP, Regional Operations
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/22/2012	
C/O PINNACLE ENTERTAINMENT, INC., 8918 SPANISH RIDGE AVENUE		
(Street)	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
LAS VEGAS, NV 89148		
(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	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	05/22/2012		A		5,000	A	$ 0	41,215	D	
Common Stock								4,000	I	By Iafrate Family Trust
Common Stock								649	I	By 401k Plan

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

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)		8. D. S. (
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	$ 9.66	05/22/2012		A		42,000		(1)	05/22/2019	Common Stock	42,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Iafrate Geno M C/O PINNACLE ENTERTAINMENT, INC. 8918 SPANISH RIDGE AVENUE LAS VEGAS, NV 89148			EVP, Regional Operations	

Signatures

/s/ Elliot D. Hoops, Attorney-In-Fact for Geno M. Iafrate	05/23/2012
**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) The stock options vest in four equal annual installments beginning on May 22, 2013.

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.