

WGAW—Pacific Northwest Staff Union Negotiations

This document summarizes the WGAW and Pacific Northwest Staff Union (PNWSU) proposals on core issues as of January 17, 2026, the date of the last bargaining session between the WGAW and PNWSU. For more information, read the WGAW’s full contract proposal or Frequently Asked Questions.

The Guild currently pays employees competitive salaries with a generous benefits package:

- Over the past three years, Guild staff received the same wage increases (5%, 3.5%, and 3%) writers received under the MBA.
- Staff participate in the same health fund and pension plan as WGA members, and the Guild also offers a 401k with a 2.5% employer match in contributions.
- Guild employees have a 7.5 hour workday and a 37.5 hour work week.
- Guild employees receive between 12-25 vacation days per year depending on years of service, 12 sick days per year (which can be banked up to 130 days), 11 paid holidays, and 12 weeks of paid parental leave.
- Currently, Guild staff can work remotely 2 days per week.

Guild staff’s salaries and benefits are paid for by dues paid by WGAW members.

The Guild recognizes that improvements can be made and that a staff union is valuable in giving employees a voice in the workplace. Accordingly, the Guild has offered a number of improvements to wages and working conditions in response to demands raised by the staff union in negotiations for a first contract. There have been 18 bargaining sessions to date over the course of more than four months. The PNWSU represents approximately 115 non-supervisory Guild employees, out of a total of 160 employees.

WGAW Proposals	PNWSU Proposals
WAGES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish minimum salary of \$55,000/year (the current minimum salary is \$43,000/year). • In Year 1, salaries for full-time employees will range between \$55,000-\$171,108.50. • All staff received a 3% wage increase in August 2025; current proposal is for an additional 2% wage increase upon ratification, for a total 5% wage increase in Year 1 of the agreement. • 4% wage increase in August 2026 • 3% wage increase in August 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a minimum salary of \$59,737.60 • In Year 1, salaries in the bargaining unit will range between \$59,737.60-\$195,717.64. • In Year 1, all staff receive a minimum 8% increase retroactive to September 2025 on top of the 3% August 2025 wage increase for a total of at least 11% in Year 1; under PNWSU’s proposal, most staff will receive more than an 11% wage increase in Year 1. • In Year 2: 5% minimum increase, with most staff entitled to increases of at least 10%. Proposed terms would allow eligible staff to receive increases up to 25%. • In Year 3: 5% minimum increase, with most staff entitled to increases of at least 10%. Proposed terms would allow eligible staff to receive increases up to 25%.

WGAW Proposals	PNWSU Proposals
HEALTH, PENSION, AND RETIREMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild staff will continue to participate in the WGA Pension Plan and Health Fund, and thus receive the same pension and health benefits as WGA members. • Guild, as employer, pays the same contribution rate as studios (currently 24.25%), including any increases in pension and health contributions resulting from 2026 MBA negotiations. • Guild will continue to provide staff a 401k—a benefit writers do not have under the MBA—with employer matching contributions up to 2.5%. • Guild will continue to provide staff flexible spending accounts (FSA) for medical and dependent care expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild must pay \$900/year per employee for wellness reimbursements, such as gym memberships or yoga classes (over \$103,500 for staff per year, or \$310,500 over three years). • Each employee entitled to \$500/year paid to a flexible spending account (FSA) (\$57,500 for staff per year, or \$172,500 over three years), and the Guild must match dollar-for-dollar employee contributions to their FSA. • Increase 401k employer match to 5%.
GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild confirms it has no intent to use GAI, but if GAI is ever used, the Guild will bargain over such use with the staff union and provide paid training to any affected employees. • Guild confirms that there will not be any job loss as a result of GAI use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PNWSU appears to agree in concept with Guild's GAI proposal (e.g., the parties will bargain over use of GAI and employees will receive paid training; there will not be any job loss as a result of GAI use.) • PNWSU proposed contract language, however, that could have unintended consequences. For example, the PNWSU's proposal could prohibit the Guild from using any technology that could conceivably be described as AI for purposes of evaluating employee productivity, accuracy of work, or attendance, or for purposes of safeguarding against misuse of confidential information or funds.
HOLIDAYS, VACATIONS, PAID PARENTAL LEAVE, AND OTHER LEAVES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 paid holidays/year, an increase of 2 from current policy. • New employees get 12 vacation days/year, and employees get one additional vacation day per year for each year of service; employees with 5-13 years of service get 20 vacation days/year, and those with 14 years+ of service get 25 days/year. • 12 weeks of paid parental leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 paid holidays/year • New employees get 15 vacation days/year, and employees get one additional vacation day per year for each year of service up to year 5; employees with 10-14+ years of experience get between 21-25 vacation days per year. • Employees with 2+ years of service have right to request 6-month unpaid leave for health, well-being, life experience, productivity and education, with the right to return to their former position, even if

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	that requires the termination of the employee hired to fill the vacancy.
REMOTE WORK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employees can work remotely 2 days per week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNWSU agrees to general policy of 2 remote days/week. PNWSU proposal, however, would permit several exceptions to the general policy.
JUST CAUSE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guild can only discipline employees for just cause, and Guild will follow principles of progressive discipline. Special rules apply in cases involving performance-related issues, ensuring employees are put on notice of performance issues and have a chance to correct them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guild must discipline or investigate within 10 days of becoming aware of employee misconduct or performance issue; if the deadline passes, the Guild cannot discipline the employee.
GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff union can grieve and submit to binding arbitration disputes over the alleged violation of the collective bargaining agreement. Staff union can arbitrate suspensions, demotions, and terminations. The staff union can grieve, but not arbitrate, verbal warnings, written warnings and performance improvement plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff union can arbitrate verbal warnings, written warnings and performance improvement plans. For example, PNWSU could arbitrate a verbal warning given to an employee for reporting to work late.
PROMOTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open positions at the Guild will be posted internally for a period of 5 days before being posted externally. The Guild agrees to interview the most senior internal applicant. The Guild will consider seniority as a factor in granting promotions. Employees who promote internally but don't pass their probationary period have a right to return to their former position. All annual performance evaluations must include a professional development plan tied to bettering employee skills relevant to their jobs; employees have input on their professional development plan. The Guild will pay for all professional development activities that are required by the Guild (e.g., trainings). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotions are based on seniority (years of service at the Guild). The Guild must pay \$25/month per employee into a PNWSU Professional Development Fund (\$34,500/year or \$103,500 over three years). Each employee is entitled to \$800/year for attending workshops, conferences, or classes (\$92,000/year or \$276,000 over three years) All staff are entitled to 1 day per year for PNWSU training (i.e., 115 paid training days per year, or 345 over the three-year contract).

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NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT CLAUSE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff union cannot strike during the term of the CBA (an equivalent no-strike provision is in the MBA), and the Guild will not lockout employees. Individual employees have the right to honor the picket line of another union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff union maintains carve outs to no-strike clause, which would allow the staff union to strike during the term of the CBA.
TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Security/Dues Check-Off: Staff must become members of PNWSU or pay a service fee; Guild will deduct dues from payroll and remit directly to PNWSU. Labor Management Committee: LMC will meet at least quarterly about bargaining issues and contract administration; union representatives are paid to attend LMC meetings. Union Rights (the parties have not TA'd but are in alignment): Union stewards can perform representational activities on paid time; each year of the contract, the Guild will pay for 2 days of union training for 5 union representatives (30 days of paid training over the life of the contract). Management Rights and Full Understanding: The Guild will give the staff union at least 10 days' notice prior to changing any mandatory subject of bargaining not covered by the CBA, and will bargain as required under the NLRA. Bereavement Leave: Staff are entitled to five days of bereavement leave. Immigration Sideletter: The Guild and union have agreed to various protections for employees with immigration-related issues. 	

If you have any questions, please contact info@wga.org.