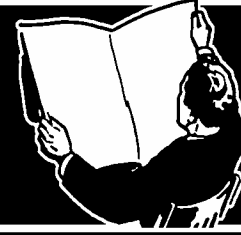


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June 26, 2007

The Money

Members of the Guild bargaining committee signed the new contract on Thursday, the deadline for receiving the \$750 bonus — or what's left of it after the tax bite. It will show up in your paycheck this week.

As for the contractual raise, management says that it will attempt to get pay for performance decisions made quickly. The earliest the raise will show up would be the July 13 paycheck. If it is later than that, it will still be the amount you earn from June 23, the day the raise takes effect.

Several of our members asked if the signing bonus could be put directly into 401(k) accounts. It can't, under the 401(k) rules. However, for those who want to take the bonus tax-free, you can increase your 401(k) contribution by \$30 a week for the rest of the year, then return to normal. That's roughly equivalent to having the bonus put into your 401(k).

On another topic, still related to your paycheck, many of us have received a notice that Tribune is increasing the deductions for dental and vision insurance. We don't believe the company has this right.

Moreover, we think the contract language management is citing only gives them the right to charge higher rates at time of hire, not later. The Guild plans to take this disagreement over contract interpretation to a neutral arbitrator. If the Guild wins its case, you'll get a refund for the extra charge. If the Guild loses, you won't be any worse off.

Michael Hill and Bill Salganik

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