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Airlines

**Pinnacle Airlines, USW Tentatively Agree
On Five-Year Contract for Ground Workers**

A tentative agreement between Pinnacle Airlines and the United Steelworkers on a five-year contract includes annual wage increases for 950 ramp workers, baggage handlers, and gate agents, union officials said April 5.

The proposed contract also would provide improvements to health care and employees' 401(k) savings plan, Carol Landry, USW international vice president at large, said April 5 in a statement.

"It's a good contract," Landry said, noting that the airline industry has been facing "trying times."

Specific details were withheld pending completion of the ratification vote in about a week.

The current contract became amendable March 19, and the tentative agreement was announced April 2 in a joint statement by the Memphis-based carrier and the union.

"The USW has a history of fair representation of employees, and understands that the mutual interest of employees and companies is for both to grow and prosper," said Philip H. Trenary, president and chief executive officer of parent company Pinnacle Airlines Corp.

Local union officials were "pleased by the efforts Pinnacle showed toward its commitment to a great relationship with the USW," Keith Dandridge, president of USW Local 736, said.

The carrier operates regional flights for Delta Air Lines as Delta Connection, with major hubs in Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Memphis.

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