

The PSTA Arbitration Update



P e n n s y l v a n i a S t a t e T r o o p e r s A s s o c i a t i o n

DAY ONE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

The Act 111 proceedings began on September 8, 2008 at 12:00 P.M. Opening remarks by Commonwealth Arbitrator Ken Jarrin were made regarding the late Thomas Felix, esq. Mr Felix represented the Commonwealth during several prior arbitrations.

An opening statement was made by Ian Blynn, esq. Blynn advised the arbitration panel that there would be a theme to the PSTA presentation that “Troopers are different”.

Brian Pedrow, esq. made an opening statement, advising the panel that the nation is facing hard economic times. Pedrow added that PSP is funded, in large part, by the Motor License Fund. Reductions in gasoline consumption has had a negative affect on the fund. Pedrow also added that 80,000 state employees contribute a percentage of their salaries for health insurance.

The panel watched a 22 minute video, *Excellence in Law Enforcement*. The PSTA produced video featured introductory and closing remarks by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge. The video contained clips of various duties of troopers and news clips of various commendable police actions.

David LaTorre, PSTA public relations consultant, commented on a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation showed a month of news clips of various duties, actions and accomplishments, which were reported in various Pennsylvania newspaper media during the month of July 2008.

PSTA President Bruce Edwards provided testimony regarding the history of the Pennsylvania State Police. President Edwards also provided testimony regarding the 91 members of the Pennsylvania State Police who made the Ultimate Sacrifice. He testified about CALEA certification, essential job functions of a trooper, cadet selection procedures, cadet training, chain of command and organization of PSP, jurisdiction and areas of coverage, specialized positions. President Edwards also provided testimony explaining to the panel why state troopers are different than all other state employees, and testified about the legend of “One Statie One Riot”.