



SIGNAL FIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UNION MEMBERS VOTE OVERWHELMINGLY TO RATIFY FACT FINDING REPORT

(Ratification Favored By Over Ninety Three Percent of Voting Membership)

OSTA President, Trooper Larry Phillips, formally notified the State Employment Relations Board that the membership of OSTA has voted to ratify the Fact Finding Report issued by Dr. Harry Graham. Dr. Graham's Report and Recommendations followed weeks of negotiation; days of formal hearings and voluminous presentation of written evidence by both the Employer and the OSTA Negotiating Committee.

"There is no secret about the fact that our Negotiating Team was very pleased with the success of our negotiations this year, and it sure looks like the membership shared that sense of accomplishment", said President Phillips. Using both interactive access provided by the internet and hand balloting conducted at all major facilities of the OSHP, one thousand thirty-three (1,033) of a total OSTA membership of one thousand seven hundred fifty (1,750) cast ballots either to ratify or reject the proposed contract. Fully ninety three percent (93%) of members that cast ballots voted in favor of ratification. Copies of the official SERB Certification are available on Memberclicks.

"The huge vote for ratification was justified", said President Phillips. "This year we were able to bring back to the membership a fine contract that provides improvements in wages, hours and working conditions. We also cracked the practice of pattern bargaining that has for years chained all unions to the contract negotiated by the OCSEA", said Phillips. The only remaining act prior to the terms of the new Contract going into effect is approval by the State Controlling Board. The Union is hopeful that the Controlling Board will approve the Fact Finding Report on Monday, April 9, 2007.

"Last October 76% of Troopers and UCO's and 63% of Sergeants voted in support of OSTA remaining their sole and exclusive collective bargaining agent. The overwhelming vote for ratification is simply an additional vote of confidence for this Union", said Phillips.