

Minutes of the December 9, 2009
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting at
Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Vice-President Rick Harrison called the meeting to order at 19:30 hours. Following the pledge of allegiance, Vice-President Harrison appointed James Welk (5-7) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Guests / Presentation – Lisa Breneman was our first guest and she was here to present the program Heroes to Zero. It is a program created by the Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators and is a blend of Power Point slides and videos. The course discusses firefighter arson problems, motives of fire-setting firefighters, knowing why firefighters commit arson, the effect of firefighter arson on the community and the fire service, understanding the PA arson statute, basic profile of the firefighter arsonist, knowing the fire services' responsibility in preventing firefighter arson and the assistance with background checks of applicants. The Chiefs Association would like to support this class and aid in bringing this class throughout the county, possibly one in each of the seven zones, in order reach as many leaders in the fire service as possible. Craig Elmer has offered to host the class at LCPSTC and we are interested in finding fire departments who would serve as a host to hold this class locally. To schedule this three-hour class, contact Regional Coordinator Lisa Breneman at maytownfiregirl@yahoo.com or at 717-875-5165. You may also visit their website at www.paai.org.

Also present was Steve Roy from the LCFA to discuss the status of LCFA's Pequea Lane Burn Building. The LCFA will be having a Class A Facility constructed adjacent to the existing burn building. It will be a 2.5 story residential structure with a one-story addition. It will only be used for company level training; no certified classes will be held here. They plan to start the project in the Spring and it will be three phases – building; roads, water and hydrant system; and an all-purpose building in 2011.

Previous Minutes – Nelson Dagen (3-11) made a motion to accept the September 2009 minutes as written, seconded by Chad Graybill (5-1); motion passed.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober advised that information for membership dues for the 2010-2012 membership period has been mailed to all fire departments. Dues can be sent to Secretary Ober's address as listed in the letter or can be paid at the Chief Association meetings. Also, the Google Group email list is being updated with new members and former members are being removed from the list.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Miller was not present; there was no Treasurer's report.

Law and Legislative Report - Ernie Rojahn discussed the Safer Grants that would allow for hiring of firefighters and recruit and retention. He also spoke of the ongoing Legislation for residential sprinklers.

Ernie also reminded everyone that fire police officers must be members of the fire department in order to receive Line of Duty Death benefits and should be referred to as fire

department members to avoid technical issues.

Work is being done to create state-wide mutual aid agreements.

In reference to the Chester County arson fires of last year, the review of Incident Command issues has gone well.

The state's Relief money allocation is down \$6 million dollars from last year.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Brian Herr introduced new Fire Marshal Dustin Shireman to the Association. Trooper Herr also reminded all fire chiefs to submit the Assistant Fire Marshal forms to the State PSP Headquarters. They must be signed by Randy Gockley and the Asst. FM does not have to be the Fire Chief, but it is preferred that it is a line officer.

Communications - Director Mike Weaver discussed the future of paging in the county. We could continue to use voice / tone or we could switch to Alpha-numeric. LCWC has the ability to do either and it will be a county-based system, which means it will be instant paging, no delay from going through a network system. The Alpha-numeric system has a lot of capabilities to it, such as sending group pages to your members and is much cheaper than today's pagers. A pager costs approx. \$100 and an amplifier charger costs \$50.

The RFP is on schedule for early 2010; still waiting on the FCC in regards to the T-Band use. LCWC has done everything it can do so far. If a fire department is using a pyramid radio system, they will be able to continue using that system. Mike also spoke about the multi-county Interoperability System and the microwave system in place for the Regional Task Force.

The CAD will be experimenting with using BETA status reports, utilizing buttons to report "en-route", "on-scene" and "available". The WebCAD has some behind-the-scenes work being done to the system.

Beginning January 1, 2010, pre-alerts will now be announced on the fire-ground frequency for reported structure fires. There will be an announcement of the municipality, address and nature on the working frequency of the home company only. During Storm Alerts or if another large scale incident is taking place, the pre-alert may be suspended. Fire companies should not "key up" until AFTER the regular dispatch is announced on that channel.

Lastly, Mike added that at this time, there are no plans for data network for computer connections between fire apparatus and LCWC.

EMA – Rick Harrison provided the following report for LEMA:

LEMA thanked the Chiefs Association for sponsoring the breakfast for the Amtrak program that was held on November 14th. LEMA will be working with Amtrak to host the event again. A side note on this class was that 84 people pre-registered, but only 63 attended. Please honor your registrations; others were turned away because the enrollment was full.

The December 4th and 5th Rail Car Emergency Response programs were successful. Pre-registration maxed out early and over 30 students were turned away. Again, several registrants did not show up either day.

An Operational Security Awareness class, conducted by the South Central Task Force, was held at Neffsville Fire Co. on January 25th. The target audience for this event was members of the SCTF affiliated organizations such as Decon Strike Teams, Foam Task Force and Rescue Task Force companies.

Lastly, a reminder of the Special Hazards programs coming in early 2010. Pre-registration

is required and is to be done through LCPSTC.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center - Jim Kimes reported that the catalog for 2010 is now available. There will be H1N1 clinics at LCPSTC in January and fire police will be needed. It is highly recommended for first responders to get an H1N1 shot.

LCFA – No report.

South Central Regional Terrorism Task Force – Craig Elmer reported that the ICS 300 & 400 classes are going well. They are being offered free from the SCTTF. A full week offering will be held this year.

Apparatus Report – Rick Harrison reported that Engines 2-5-1, 2-2-1, 6-3-1, 5-12-2, 7-11-1, 7-11-2 and Air 3-9 have been inspected and approved.

Standards Committee – Dave Wiker reported that we will be voting for the two SOG's under Old Business. The committee last met in November and will be working on updating the Rehab SOG and the Mass Casualty SOG. They are also updating the Chiefs Handbook. The committee is also working to create a Water Rescue / Boat SOG, as well as updating the Apparatus Standards checklist / terminology. The apparatus inspection program is going well.

Rescue Task Force – A tone has been added for individual members of the Rescue Task Force whose home departments are not affiliated with the team.

Unfinished Business

Standard 500-003 for Emergency Evacuation SOG and Standard 500-004 for Accountability and PAR SOG were both approved by the Association.

The International Fire Museum in Columbia contacted the Chiefs Association and requested \$5,000 in support from us to help fund a feasibility study for the museum. The Board of Directors met prior to the Association's meeting and voted to deny the request from the Museum – we are not in favor of spending \$5,000 to support the study.

Chad Graybill (5-1) gave a short presentation on the work that the Line of Duty Death Supplies Committee has done. Chad will serve as the Chairman and Rick Kane, Craig Elmer and Ernie Rojahn will be assisting on the committee. Chad reviewed the supplies the committee has determined as being necessary to have in possession – a 30 ft. by 60 ft. American Flag, bunting for apparatus, gold axes, white gloves and badge covers and a bell. They are also working on creating guidelines and procedures, as well as considering the need to purchase a Class A uniform for the deceased. The committee will bring back costs to the Association at the next meeting.

New Business

Vice-President Harrison reported for this year's Chiefs Weekend on March 6th, there will only be a one-day training class. There will be no Friday evening training and the Saturday class will be an ISO Seminar to be held at LCPSTC from 8am – 5pm. This will be the first class that is held in the nation from ISO; only four will be held nationwide. The class registration form will

be emailed through the Chiefs Google Group email. Rick also asked for permission for the Chiefs Association to pay for the cost of the meal, which will keep the registration cost lower. Jason Wingenroth (2-9) made a motion to do so; seconded by Lonnie Kauffman (4-1) and passed.

Vice-President Harrison also reported that Cliff Ellis from Compleat Restoration has contacted the Fire Chiefs Association of their desire to start a scholarship program for the children of emergency services personnel and / or members themselves. They wish to provide \$5,000 for this program. The Board of Directors decided that we will use that money to provide 5 - \$1,000 scholarships. We will be working on determining how to create application, who will review the application and how to select the scholarship winners.

Good of the order

No report.

Roll Call - 34 departments were represented with 55 people in attendance.

21 Fire Chiefs, 12 Deputy Chiefs, 9 Assistant Chiefs, 5 Past Chiefs and 5 Guests

Officers present - 1st VP Harrison, 2nd VP Martin, Secretary Ober and Director Weaver.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. will be held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center on Wednesday March 10, 2010 at 19:30 hours.

Chad Graybill (5-1) made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nelson Dagen (3-11); motion passed. Meeting ended at 21:10 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.