

**Minutes of the September 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 19:35 hours. Following the pledge of allegiance, Vice-President Harrison appointed Joe Mohr (7-1) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Guests / Presentation** – Kay Moyer from Penn State Cooperation Extension was present to speak to us about the impact of the carbon monoxide detectors that we purchased for her has made in the Amish community. In March, a school was affected with carbon monoxide poisoning because of a malfunction in their gas furnace. It was because of the detector that the young teacher was able to recognize the problem, ventilate the room and protect the 24 students in the classroom. Kay also spoke about upcoming Farm Safety Days in the Penryn and Robert Fulton areas.

Also present was Carol Prangley from District 17 Forestry Bureau and several members of her crew. She introduced the members and they had their apparatus on display prior to and after the meeting. They are based out of Berks County, as well as southern Lancaster County. District 17 covers nine counties. They are required to investigate any wildland fire that involves brush, woods or fields. Someone from the crew will automatically respond after the third dispatch or anything above a first alarm for any of these types of calls or they may be contacted by LCWC or requested by the Incident Commander to respond. She also advised that 10 fire chiefs are needed to request a county-wide burn ban.

**Previous Minutes** – John Latschar (4-10) made a motion to accept the June 2009 minutes as written, seconded by Bill Gross (2-11). 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 gave the following report:

Beginning Balance of the Checking Account as of July 1, 2009 was \$5,008.35. There were deposits of \$8,875.00 and debits of \$12,250.11 in July; deposits of \$4,660.00 and debits of \$160.00 in August for a September 1<sup>st</sup> balance of \$6,133.24. The Money Market account has a balance of \$5,634.21; The Penn Vest account has a balance of \$37,147.67; there were deposits of \$2,9055.00 at the meeting (golf tournament and dues) for a total overall balance of \$51,870.12. Larry Martin (3-9) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read, seconded by Nelson Dagen (3-11); motion passed. Treasurer Miller also asked for permission from the Association to transfer \$30,000 to a Janus bonds account that has recently performed between 11-14%, compared to the less than ½% that the Penn Vest account has been earning. There is no penalty for withdrawing the money. Treasurer Miller made the motion to transfer \$30,000 to a Janus Fund account, seconded by Bill Gross (2-11); motion passed.

**Law and Legislative Report** - Ernie Rojahn discussed the State Grant Program that began on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Fire departments must finalize the 2008-2009 grants before they can become eligible for this year's grants. The State secured \$25 million over the next 5 years for this program from casino income.

There is still plenty of money in the 2% loan program. However, there are fewer employees in the state fire commissioners' office to assist with reviewing the application and it may take longer to get approved. If you wish to use a 2% loan, you should apply as early as soon as you sign a contract or that you know you will be in need of the funds.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is October 2-4 in Emmitsburg, MD.

There will be a meeting hosted by the LCFA on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Eden Resort to review the new non-profit status changes from the IRS. Each fire department will be getting an invitation for their President, Secretary and Treasurer to attend.

Ernie encouraged all fire chiefs to support the National Building Code's standard for Residential Sprinklers for Pennsylvania by contacting your local legislator to support it as well. Go to [www.pesla.org](http://www.pesla.org) for more information.

Tom Savage recently resigned from PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute as its Executive Director. Former Harrisburg City Fire Chief Donald Kunkle has replaced him.

Lastly, Ernie reported that the Federal Dept. of Justice is continuing their attempt to reduce the payments of Federal Line of Duty Deaths to the families of deceased emergency responders. Fire Police officers must be sworn officers of the law and members of the fire department to be covered. It is recommended that they must also have fire suppression training in addition to their Safety and Traffic Control responsibilities.

**Fire Marshal** - No report

**Communications** - Director Mike Weaver was not present but Rick Harrison shared that the comment period on the FCC website for Lancaster County's use of T-Band (400MHz) went well – there were no comments pro or con, there was no one against it. The next step is the FCC awarding the frequency range to us.

Rick advised that LCW is creating a new nature code for Investigation: Inside. This will be for incidents involving small appliance fires such as coffee pots, toasters, microwaves, etc – any small, corded appliances. This is to prevent full structure fire responses to minor incidents inside of the home. Joe Mohr will send out a notice to the Google Group advising everyone of this change and asking each Fire Chief to submit your response resource list for these incidents. You may still choose to have a structure fire response to these incidents, but this will give you the opportunity to change the response if you wish. If you do not submit a resource list, your list will be copied from the Investigation: Outside resources. Any questions on this change, please contact Rick Harrison or Joe Mohr at LCWC.

**EMA** – Randy Gockley commented on the H1N1 flu issue. According to the Dept. of Health, they expect it will worsen as we go into the fall season. There is greater risk to children and teenagers. Randy encouraged prevention such as using hand sanitizers and good overall hygiene. If the condition gets worse, vaccination centers could be established, possibly at fire stations.

LEMA is tracking the TMI generator's movement as it travels from Maryland to TMI.

Eric Bachman has CD's for all fire departments that include Sara Title plans for all facilities in the county. He also has a CD of the NISOH pocket guide for each fire department.

Eric also spoke about upcoming training classes for passenger trains and freight trains. The passenger train class on November 14<sup>th</sup> has the required number of students, but the freight train class on either December 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> is still in need of additional students in order to prevent the class from being cancelled. Contact Eric ASAP to register.

Eric also advised of upcoming classes in 2010 involving special hazards such as Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, Propane Emergencies on March 20<sup>th</sup> and Cryogenic and Hydrogen Emergencies on April 24<sup>th</sup>. All three classes will be on Saturday mornings from 8:30 – 11:30. Pre-registration is required and can be done through LCPSTC's website or by faxing a registration form to LCPSTC.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** - Jim Kimes reported that the catalog for 2010 is nearly completed, however there are budget constraints on printing the book. Some new classes for 2010 include Fire Officer 3, and Ropes and Rigging series, including joint training with HACC for Rope 1 and Rope 2. Also, the Essential Modules 1, 2 and 3 are full and many classes are filling quickly.

Craig Elmer spoke about the impact of the state budget on the training classes. With the cuts in funding, there will be a minimum instructor fee and all classes must have a minimum of 15 students – free classes are starting to fade away. LCPSTC is also dealing with county budget cuts – next year's budget for LCPSTC is \$850,000.

Craig also spoke about the 9/11 Memorial taking place with Greg Noll as the main speaker. They will also recognize the 43 members of Lancaster County emergency services who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Currently, the Memorial Garden is still short about \$35,000 - \$40,000 in funds.

**LCFA** – No report.

**South Central Regional Terrorism Task Force** - No report

**Apparatus Report** – Rick Harrison reported that Tankers 3-2 and 3-5 and Engine 2-10-2 have been inspected recently. The following apparatus will be inspected in the near future - Engines from Rheems, Akron and Brunnerville; Rescue-Engine from Lafayette, Truck from Reamstown and Air from New Holland.

**Standards Committee** – Dave Wikerr reported that there are two standards to be discussed for comments. They are existing standards that are being fine-tuned to be NIMS-compliant. Standard 500-003 is Emergency Evacuation SOG and Standard 500-004 is Accountability and PAR SOG. Please share any comments with Chairman Wiker or your Zone rep as soon as possible. They meet in November and the Standards will be voted upon at the December Chiefs Assn. meeting.

The Table of Contents for the Standards is on the Chiefs' website at [www.lancofirechiefs.org](http://www.lancofirechiefs.org). It shows which standards are able to be opened and read and which ones are under Draft form. The Apparatus Standards are currently on the LCWC website, but will soon be switched to the Chiefs website.

**Golf Tournament** - Rick Harrison reported that the tournament was very successful. We had 5 Chiefs Club sponsors again and one Deputy Chiefs Club sponsor. We had income of \$21,435 with expenses of \$12,250, yielding a profit of approximately \$9,100.

**NIMS working group** – No report.

**Rescue Task Force** – Chief Keith Eshleman of Millersville Fire Company explained to the Chiefs Assn. that the reason for personnel from Stations 8-1 and 2-9 being dispatched to respond with Station 6-5 is because of their training levels and the ability to provide assistance at the incidents. There are currently about 60 members on the Rescue Task Force.

### **Unfinished Business**

Secretary Ober asked for clarification from Rick Harrison on the different levels of Mass Casualty Response. Rick explained that the levels are determined by the information provided by the caller, the incident commander, police officers or anyone else. LCWC will upgrade the level of response automatically depending on the information gathered and whenever it is needed.

The Standards Committee is working with the boat companies in the county to create a standard for Boats.

Chad Graybill of Bart Twp. Fire Co. will be heading a committee to create a cache of Line of Duty Death supplies and information relating to this in order to have it available to all county departments in case it is ever needed. Rick Kane and Craig Elmer are also assisting on the project.

### **New Business**

Vice-President Harrison reported that there will be a Junior Firefighter Weekend in October at LCPSTC and there was a request made to the Chiefs Association to pay for the t-shirts that will be worn by the instructors and students. The request was for a \$1,000 donation to be made on behalf of the Chiefs Association. Joe Mohr (7-1) made a motion for the Chiefs Association to support the request of \$1,000 and was seconded by Buddy Hess (7-5); motion passed.

Ernie Rojahn made a motion for the Chiefs Association to support the National Building Code's Standard for Residential Sprinklers. Motion was seconded by Bill Gross (2-11) and passed.

### **Good of the order**

The Susquehanna Chapter of FOOLS will be hosting a fund raiser for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Your Place Restaurant on Route 30.

**Roll Call** - 23 departments were represented with 43 people in attendance.

19 Fire Chiefs, 6 Deputy Chiefs, 5 Assistant Chiefs, 7 Past Chiefs and 6 Guests

Officers present - 1<sup>st</sup> VP Harrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Martin, Treasurer Miller and Secretary Ober

## **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 December 9, 2009 at 19:30 hours.

Eric Bachman (2-4) made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy Gockley (1-6); motion passed. Meeting ended at 21:15 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.