

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2016 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Ryno called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on June 8, 2016, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations

Andrea Martin from Lancaster Catholic was recognized for being named the Outstanding Student of the CTC Protective Services program. Joshua Eberly from Ephrata School District was recognized for receiving the Award of Merit in the CTC program. Both received awards and checks from the Chiefs Assn.

Ryan Ellis from Compleat Restorations was at the meeting to announce and recognize the two students who received the Compleat Restorations and Chiefs Assn. scholarships this year. Benjamin Eidemiller from Lampeter Strasburg High School and also a member of Willow Street Fire Company and Cheyanne Ditzler from Penn Manor, whose dad is a member of Blue Rock Fire Rescue, were both present and recognized.

Chief Michael Surabian from the PA Canine and Search and Rescue Team and his crew had a display set up outside of the building prior to the meeting. For more information about his team, go to www.pacsar.org.

D. Skip George from the Never Forget 5K run presented a check for \$1,000 to the LCPSTC Foundation from the proceeds from the race. He also mentioned that Farmersville Fire Company won \$1,000 and a trophy for winning the 2-person ½ mile relay.

Chief Rodney Gossert from White Horse Fire Company gave a presentation about the emergency services response to the tornado in Salisbury Township on February 24, 2016. The tornado was labeled as an F2 tornado, with winds of 125 mph, causing damage over 5-6 miles. 50-60 buildings were destroyed or damaged. There were no injuries reported. In addition to the tornado, there was 2.5" of rain, so his members and mutual aid also had to deal with water rescues at the time. The County's Rescue Task Force, the regional Fire Police Task Force and Field Comm were all requested and utilized. Chief Gossert stated that the new radio system worked very well; a total of seven people in the Command Staff used six radio channels. The PSP had ten officers who assisted at the response. Within two weeks, all of the debris from the storm was cleared, in which over 1,000 dumpsters were used.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report

No report.

Law / Legislative

Ernie Rojahn gave some information about the number of fires, injuries and damage resulting from fireworks each year and spoke about Senate Bill 1055, which would deals with sales, storage and use of fireworks. The bill would increase the ability to purchase consumer fireworks in Pennsylvania, which would greatly impact the emergency services and the safety of the residents and properties.

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Ernie also spoke about the State Fire Grant program and the requirement of submitting incident reports to be eligible for funding. He also mentioned that 30 fire companies in Lancaster County are still using Firehouse Software.

Ernie shared information about efforts to increase Relief Funds to a minimum of \$10,000 per fire company, Cancer Presumption legislation and tracking earnings of over \$600 at BINGO fund raisers.

Fire Marshal

No report; none present.

LCWC / Communications

Mike Weaver spoke about recent staff changes at LCWC: Chris Heisler is now a Communications Supervisor and Shelley Stillwagner is a new Assistant Supervisor.

Mike said they are still working to minimize the interference issues. He also encouraged everyone to be using either an Ops Channel or your Private Channel when at an incident in order to free up the Dispatch Channel.

Mike pointed out that the new radio system is not open to other brands yet (besides Relm and Motorola) but he is still checking with other vendors.

Ann Weller stated that they are working with EMS to reduce communication on the radios.

Ron Oettel and Keith Eshleman gave a presentation on behalf of the radio sub-committee. They reviewed the current fleet mapping and showed proposed changes to the mapping. They are asking for input from the fire chiefs. If you have comments to share with them about the proposal to change the fleet mapping or other issues related to the radio system, please contact either Keith (bkeith.eshleman@verizon.net) or Ron (chief@lititzfire.org).

Lancaster County Emergency Management

Randy Gockley reported that the 2016 Emergency Response Guidebooks are available and that Eric Bachman will be hosting opportunities to pick them up at different distribution sites throughout the county in the near future.

The County's Haz Mat Team has successfully recertified for another four years and he anticipates that the County Commissioners will be signing another contract with them soon.

Randy spoke briefly about the Traffic Incident Management committee meeting that recently took place. A total of 21 disciplines were represented, including Chief Jeff Kinsey from Elizabethtown Fire Company representing the Fire Chiefs.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Todd Kirkpatrick shared that the LCFA bought a new fill station for the Training Center which will be installed in July.

Haz Mat classes will begin using the Bartlett and Jones text manuals.

Haz Mat refresher courses are eligible for reimbursement. He will also be listing the dates and locations of the refresher courses in case individual members are searching for classes.

The new Basic Vehicle Rescue classes are on the schedule. The cost of the class is higher due to the price of the text book.

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Applications for certification courses must be filled out electronically in the fillable PDF's; they will not be accepted if they are handwritten.

The Training Center will be hosting three driver / operator certification programs: Aerial, Pumper and Rural Water.

Another Firefighter 2 class was cancelled. They have not hosted a Firefighter 2 class yet due to low enrollment.

They are updating their burn facility use policy.

Commissioner Parsons is now the liaison for emergency services.

Efforts are being made already to plan the 2017 Chiefs Training Weekend.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association

The LCFA is in the process of reorganizing their investment plan, which requires By-Law changes. They are asking for the fire companies to support the changes. Jere Buchter also encouraged use of the Pequea Lane facility.

Apparatus Reviews

No apparatus has been reviewed lately. Chris Slaymaker from Gap Fire Company is the new Chairman of this committee, assisted by Brett Fassnacht.

Standards Committee

President Ryno advised that Craig Rhineer Jr. is the new Chairman of the Standards Committee and will be forming a committee who will focus on updating current standards. Also serving on the Committee will be Brett Fassnacht, Ron Comfort, Drew Wenger, Cory Imler, Dave Gribble and Kyle Hackman.

Golf Committee

This year's tournament will be Friday, July 22, 2016. Kurt Gehman advised that as of June 6th, only 24 spots remain open (*they have since been filled*) and that anyone wishing to sponsor the tournament should see him as soon as possible.

EAST Committee

Jim Herr has replaced Chad Graybill as the co-chair of the committee. Duane is creating flyers that will be sent to all fire companies explaining our mission, our resources available and our committee.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

New Business

Ernie Rojahn made a motion for the Chiefs Association to send a letter to state Senators to oppose Senate Bill 1055 about fireworks; seconded by Randy Gockley and passed.

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Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Harrison was not present, so Secretary Ober read his report:

\$63,379.66 in Savings and \$10,862.97 in the Checking. Checks written included:

Duane Ober - \$169.90 (CTC Awards); Andrea Martin - \$200 (CTC Award); Joshua Eberly - \$100 (CTC Award); Shelley Stillwagner - \$100 (Dispatcher Award); LCPSTC - \$180 (Food for March LCFCA Meeting); LCPSTC - \$1,747.80 (Food for Chiefs Training in March) and John Sly (SAFER Grant) for \$6,700. Ending balance for the Checking Account shows \$1,665.27 for a total of \$65,044.93. No deposits from the Golf Tournament have been made yet, but will be done soon.

Good of the Order

Secretary Ober reported that Claude Young Sr., past Fire Chief at Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company is in bad health and to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Roll Call

Roll call showed (75) in attendance with (33) Fire Chiefs, (13) Deputy Chiefs, (13) Assistant Chiefs, (8) Past Chiefs and (8) Guests, representing 42 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn., Inc.