

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on June 14, 2017, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations – Compleat Restorations provided the meal prior to the meeting and Ryan Ellis spoke to the group of their commitment to our association, our golf tournament and the scholarship program. Ryan also took the time to recognize the two recipients of this year’s scholarships, both receiving \$500. Benjamin Bryce from Manheim Township High School was present and his thank you letter was read to the group by Aaron Jacobs, also from Compleat. Benjamin is a volunteer firefighter with Manheim Township Fire Rescue / Neffsville. The other winner, Hanna Welk, from Solanco High School was not present. Her father, Jeremy, is an Assistant Fire Chief at Quarryville Fire Company.

Also receiving recognition during the meeting were the two CTC Students in the Fire Services Program who received the two awards in their class. Tim Crouse, from Cocalico High School, received the Outstanding Student award and Claire Fisher, from Manheim Township High School, earned the Award of Merit. Both students received a firefighter trophy at their school’s awards ceremony and Tim was presented with a \$200 check and Claire was given a \$100 check.

Previous Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the March 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report - Secretary Ober reported that there are currently about 270 paid members in the Association. Four fire companies have not paid their dues yet for the 2017-2018 dues period (14, 58, 63 & 69).

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn shared that the Penn State farm safety booklet was printed by the LCFA, with the major sponsor being PNC Bank. The Chiefs Association also committed to supporting the printing of the booklet.

Tonya Hoover was named the new Superintendent of the U.S. Fire Administration in May 2017.

During the weekend of September 8-10th there will be several events at Clipper Stadium with the Lancaster Barnstormers relating to remembering 9-11, including the Stair Climb on Sunday from 7:30am-11:30am.

The National Volunteer Fire Council has initiated a program called “Share the Load”, aimed at providing resources and information for firefighters and EMS workers who are suffering from mental health disorders, stress, etc., including online reference materials and a 24-hour assistance Help-line. More information can be found at www.nvfc.org.

Legislation to bring Pennsylvania into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act passed the House and is headed to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

Title 67 of the PA Transportation Code, Chapter 173a has been updated to provide better guidance for the installation and use of emergency lights, when mounted inside the vehicles of the fire department, fire chief or assistant fire chief. The Chapter update can be found at <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol47/47-22/930.html>.

Senate Resolution 6, an update from the former SR60 program, has been drafted with a package of initiatives identified as priorities for the 2016-2017 legislative session.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Fire Marshal – We have learned that the fire marshals that all of us have become familiar with (Troopers Shireman, Harper, Cornetta, etc.) have either been promoted, reassigned or have retired. The current fire marshals are all new to this area. If you had personal contact numbers for any of these guys for FM duties, please do not call them anymore. Contact the PSP Barracks directly at 299-7650 to reach a fire marshal. We will try to get the new leader of the fire marshals to attend one of our future meetings.

LCWC / Communications - Jeff Garner spoke about the texting issues through Everbridge that has occurred in recent months. They found the biggest issue has been happening to Sprint customers. If you continue to have problems, contact your cell carrier and request that they unblock the “Short code” or “Short texts” for your texting features.

LCWC is working on creating an online, fillable PDF for reporting issues with the P25 radio system. You may also email your forms to radiusupport@lcwc911.us.

If you are experiencing radio system problems, contact the on-duty radio room Supervisor who will contact a radio tech to investigate your problem. Do not contact the radio techs directly.

Matt Shenk reported that York County emergency services are converting to a new 700 MHz system. If you have York County frequencies in your radios, they will need to be updated. They are also working with Relm to provide radios for our companies, if they choose, on the new system.

Touch 2 has been delayed due to the Police Chiefs petitioning the County Commissioners for encryption on their radios. They are waiting on the decision and if approved, they will have to build code plugs and then work towards starting Touch 2.

Ann Weller reminded everyone of the past issues with misuse of the WebCAD, specifically “copying and pasting” of incident data to social media sites. Doing such may result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension of WebCAD access privileges.

Tim Baldwin reported that progress is being made on creating a new LCWC website, with hopes of going live by the Fall.

Mike Weaver discussed the new state radio system, including the possible benefit of reduced end-user equipment price points.

Mike also reported that a letter will be sent to all fire companies, ambulances, police departments, and municipal leaders that end-user radios will not be locked. However, Zones 1 through 7 and 9 through 16 will be required to remain untouched. The letter will also detail the relationship between end-users conducting any programming and LCWC.

A new radio system committee will be formed soon, with representation from Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and municipalities. Meeting topics would be wide-ranging and may include operational and technical issues, as well as bad-day planning.

Lastly, Mike spoke about paging and future plans. With paging, Mike pointed out that in 2003 there were no frequencies available to use for paging. Currently, we may have the option to use our current VHF law enforcement frequencies (such as old Police Channel A). This would require FCC approval. This matter is further complicated by the need to re-broadcast ongoing transmissions and not simply the initial call announcement.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Current Unication programming is problematic, as reception is confined to the P-25 radio zones countywide. In other words, if you run with a northeast department and happen to be in Quarryville, your pager will not activate because you are not in your home zone. In addition to Unication, both the P-25 radio system manufacturer and installation integrator are seeing if they might be able to help solve this limitation.

Unication may offer a solution around the Spring of 2018. Best case, this would provide a P-25 pager that would alert on the initial call announcement, plus monitor ongoing transmissions.

Swissphone is another manufacturer with a paging product. Their device will verbally read incoming pages to the user. LCWC experimented with a Swissphone pager, but returned it to the vendor after just a short time. The device was very hard to understand despite the vendor's assurance that a user could "train" the pager to speak more clearly.

Some of the low band paging transmitters are over 45 years old. Since 33 MHz low band frequencies are rarely used in emergency services any longer, manufacturers simply don't make the equipment. Efforts have been made to find a vendor who would build custom-made low band paging equipment. Two vendors have declined. LCWC has one lead via a multi-party contact who might consider building equipment for us. They are awaiting more information.

One of the problem paging transmitters is housed within the Lititz Fire Station. In this instance, LCWC knows the general components that are causing the transmitter to fail, but replacement parts aren't available.

The ultimate goal for changing paging systems is still 2020.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Randy Gockley advised everyone that there will be a Congregational Safety Seminar on August 12th at the Training Center.

The Haz Mat team is researching the dangerous effects of fentanyl and other opioid and drug issues on the first responders.

The Haz Mat team has also purchased a new Drone, which will be placed into service once pilots can be trained. Randy also asked if there are any emergency services agencies that have drones as a resource to contact him.

Randy gave an update on Act 172, Tax Credits for Volunteers. He said they are taking input from the volunteers and elected officials right now to help decide on a clear solution of how to enact it. He reminded everyone that it is still up to the local municipal leaders to approve it.

Lastly, Randy reported that there are new Federal regulations going into effect for facilities with Medicaid patients. They will be required to have and report facility emergency plans, which will begin in November. This will require support of the local fire chiefs and/or emergency management coordinators.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center - Craig Elmer reported that the signed site agreements and student waiver forms have been coming in. Some questions about the waiver and site agreements have been referred to the County Solicitor for interpretation.

Todd Kirkpatrick advised that past invoices are being mailed, so please review prior to paying to make sure it is still a current bill. There have been questions too about the responsibility of the fire company to pay the bill if the student has failed the certification or dropped out of a class, due to Relief

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Association audits requiring the certificate for proof to pay. Todd reminded everyone that the Training Center has fulfilled their obligation to provide the training to the registered student; the payment needs to be made and reimbursement from the member should be an internal fire company issue.

The new vehicle rescue program is going well, but they have noticed lower enrollment numbers as compared to the previous programs. Another program will start in the Fall.

No alternative energy programs have been held yet; they have all been cancelled due to low enrollment.

Todd reminded everyone that certification applications must be done electronically; they cannot be handwritten.

Todd warned the fire companies that some students have been denied credit for their CPR certification because it did not meet the requirements contained within the Firefighter 1 certification. Please make sure the classes you are holding provide the same level of certification so that your members won't be required to do the class again.

The facial hair requirement applies for all classes that require the donning of SCBA, including Hazardous Materials Operations and other "non-interior" classes.

Todd is working with Eric Bachman to again receive grant funds in 2018 for the funding of the Haz Mat refresher classes.

There is also funding available to hold ICS 300 & ICS 400 classes, but there have been cancellations of the classes recently due to low enrollment. Todd pointed out that there are a lot of new chief officers in the county and these classes are a federal requirement for this level of responsibility, so please make sure your chief officers are completing these courses.

For the 2018 Officer Training, our survey revealed very good feedback. Todd reached out to Chief Rick Lasky to find out his availability. He has two weekends available in February, as well as the normal weekend in March. After discussion with those in attendance, it was agreed upon that moving the training to February would be better and going with a two-day weekend, with the same class presented each day, would provide more officers an opportunity to attend, since some companies expressed concern about taking too many officers out of the district at once. Tentatively, plans will include a Friday night training, based around current, local topics and the presenter providing the training on Saturday and Sunday.

Lastly, Todd and Craig reported on the damage that has been done to the blue forcible entry door that the Chiefs Association purchased few years ago. It is damaged beyond repair; the two doors will need to be completely replaced and the builder of the door recommended that the door is no longer taken apart and transported. Todd reported that the Training Center will fund the repair of the doors and then keep the prop on site for training use.

In addition, Todd presented a proposal to the members for the creation of a forcible entry trailer, that would be built with two inward-swinging doors, two outward-swinging doors, rebar prop and through-the-lock prop, all contained on the trailer. Nothing would need to be removed from the trailer to set up and use it; the trailer would arrive on site, stabilizers would be set and then it would be ready to use. Also, there wouldn't be a need for the wood blocks to be provided for the doors anymore; these door props would not require any consumables. Todd suggested the price of the forcible entry

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

trailer could be shared between the LCFCA, LCFA and the Training Center Foundation. More discussion will take place under New Business.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Jere Buchter reported that the overall attendance at Expo was down but the profits are comparable to last year due to pre-sold ticket sales.

He also mentioned that they are working on creating similar policies to be used at Pequea Lane just like those in place at LCPSTC. There are fourteen burn classes scheduled at Pequea Lane through October.

Apparatus Reviews – No report

Standards Committee – No report.

Golf Committee – Kurt Gehman reminded everyone that the Tournament is Friday, July 21st and the field is full already with 144 golfers. This year, they created a new category for the Founders Club, which includes the only three remaining businesses from the first year – LCFA, Compleat Restorations and Provident. They also sold a Commissioners Club sponsorship this year to VFIS for \$5,000. Kurt asked everyone to continue to get business sponsors for the tournament to increase our profit.

EAST Committee – Jim Herr advised that he is now the Committee Chairman and will be reaching out to all the committee members in the near future to set a date for a meeting. He also asked if anyone else is interested in serving on the committee to contact him jherr@lcwc911.us.

SAFER Grant – Duane Hagelgans reported that he and Bill Hall will be meeting with the vendor and contacting our FEMA account rep to resolve invoices that need to be reimbursed. The bills from the vendor must perfectly match the grant approval or the reimbursement will be denied.

Rick Harrison pointed out that we have paid a bill to the vendor for \$8,265 at the beginning of the year that we have still not been reimbursed for. We also have bills for nearly \$6,500 from February and \$3,900 in March that have not been paid, nor submitted yet. The vendor has stopped providing any work for us until these bills have been paid and we want to make sure we will get reimbursed before any other work is completed.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business – After further discussion on bringing in Chief Rick Lasky to speak at our 2018 Officer Training Weekend, Ron Oettel made a motion, seconded by Kevin Kretzing, to contact Chief Lasky and reserve February 10 & 11, 2018 on his schedule. Todd was not sure yet when our payment or deposit would be required. The motion passed.

President Gribble advised everyone that he will be reestablishing the Fire Services Radio Advisory Committee. He stated he will send an email to the membership seeking those interested in serving on the committee.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Discussion was held about the construction of the forcible entry trailer and the financial support from the Chiefs Association. Treasurer Harrison spoke about the outstanding bills we still have from the SAFER grant, the golf tournament, the roof simulator prop and the printing of the farm safety material. He recommended that we do not commit to this project until we get these bills taken care of first. There was consensus among those in attendance and it was tabled for now.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Rick Harrison reported the following:

Approx. \$63,475 in Money Market account and \$15,110 in the Checking for a total of approx.. \$78,585. Checks written included: \$29.35 to Duane Ober for CTC and Dispatcher Awards; \$100 to Jennifer Russell (Dispatcher of the Year award); \$160 for food at March meeting; \$454 to Floyd Wise for Officer Training Weekend; \$200 to Tim Crouse for CTC Award; \$100 to Claire Fisher for CTC Award; and \$1,600 for food at Officer Training Weekend. Deposits included \$10,840 from golf tournament and \$405 from membership dues and training fees.

Motion was made by Nelson Dagen to pay the bills and accept Treasurer's Report; seconded by Ron Oettel and passed.

Good of the Order – No report

Roll Call - Roll call showed (66) in attendance with (23) Fire Chiefs, (9) Deputy Chiefs, (10) Assistant Chiefs, (13) Past Chiefs and (11) Guests, representing 35 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13th at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:20 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn., Inc.
June 18, 2017