

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**JUNE 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on June 13, 2018, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests / Presentations** – Ryan Ellis from Compleat Restorations was the first guest and presented the names of this year’s scholarship winners, Juelina Hildebrand from Ephrata Area School District and Makeala Smith from Garden Spot High School. Both students earned a \$500 scholarship from Compleat Restorations. Next, the winners of the CTC Protective Services Program were recognized. Isaiah Stoner received the Outstanding Student Award and Raymark Wisotzkey earned the Award of Merit. Both students received a firefighter statue award and a cash award. The third presenter was Deputy Chief Mason Brandt from Fire Department Mount Joy who spoke about a recent house fire on Union School Road in which Assistant Chief Bill Kanoff became trapped for a brief time, resulting in burns that required medical attention. Deputy Brandt reviewed the incident, tactics that took place and the lessons learned. If anyone is seeking more information about the incident, they may contact Deputy Chief Mason at [mbrandt@fdmj.com](mailto:mbrandt@fdmj.com). Lastly, Haz Mat 2 Chief Ben Herskowitz presented a program about the team’s unmanned aircraft (drone). He spoke about the requirements that they must follow under FAA rules, the process for requesting their services, the benefits that the Regional Task Force provides them with, and more. Additional information will be available soon and will be sent by email to the membership.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – The March 2018 Minutes were distributed via email; no corrections or additions were needed. They were approved as written.

**Secretary Report** – No report.

**Law / Legislative** - Ernie Rojahn reported on the changes to the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit Regulations that will take effect on June 14<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found in the PA Fireman. He also spoke about two motions made to amend NFPA 1001 to add more training requirements to this standard. The National Volunteer Fire Council opposes these motions due to the added time and added expense to basic firefighter training. More information can be found at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org). The PA Office of the State Fire Commissioner is accepting grant applications until July 13, 2018 to cover the cost of a gas meter auto calibration package.

**Fire Marshal** – PSP FM Jeff Purcell was present but had no report.

**LCWC / Communications** – Radio Systems Supervisor Matt Shenk reported that the Relm radio warranty period ends 12-31-18. Craig Price, the Senior VP of Sales and Marketing for BK Technologies is developing a warranty procedure for post 12-31-18. Matt will also distribute an email detailing vendor sales and service information for radio equipment that is authorized on the County’s P-25 radio system. Testing of P-25 Harris radio equipment will begin soon.

Operations Manager Jeff Garner reported on his email from March 27<sup>th</sup> that LCWC will no longer upload data from Firehouse® Software to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner after 6-30-18. LCWC assumed this role prior to the increased role of the Internet. Now that the State has made Emergency

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Reporting (a free application) available to the fire service, there's no need for LCWC's involvement. Please contact Jeff at [jgarner@lcwc911.us](mailto:jgarner@lcwc911.us) if you have any questions regarding this change.

Director Mike Weaver discussed Harris and Motorola radio equipment price points, as well as possible future vendor lease programs for equipment maintenance and replacement. FirstNet is currently running on AT&T's system, not on a separate, dedicated platform. Mike encouraged those that might be interested to visit the Pennsylvania FirstNet website, <http://pafirstnet.com>, to become an informed consumer. To show the benefits of FirstNet, AT&T has offered to equip LCWC vehicles with FirstNet equipment, to be used when they get deployed to large incidents that stress the current wireless connectivity. In the week prior to the Chief's meeting, Unication® USA revealed a possible solution to paging over the county's P-25 radio system. As a result, several pagers are being shipped to LCWC so that testing can occur.

**Lancaster County Emergency Management** – Phil Colvin reported that Eric Bachman secured the Haz Mat grant again for this year, that can be used to cover costs of the annual Awareness or Operations refresher classes. To have the class covered by this grant, coordinate the scheduling of the class through Todd or Ken at the Training Center.

Phil also highlighted Randy Gockley's retirement as the County's EMA Coordinator. Randy was thanked for his 30 years of service to Lancaster County, including the past 28 as the Coordinator. Phil stated that the process has started to appoint Randy's successor. The process will most likely go through July. Randy was present and took the time to thank everyone for their support and assistance through the years.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Todd Kirkpatrick reported that Ken Weber was appointed the new Fire Training Coordinator. This Spring has been very busy at the Training Center, including five certification classes being held. The 2019 schedule will be posted soon. There will be an Ammonia Safety Seminar on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Training Center's Foundation will be hosting John Norman in December – Eric Bachman has sent out course and registration information to all Chiefs. Todd also reported that the Burn Building will be getting PLC upgrades, which will result in limited downtime. The car fire prop is being tested and repaired. The propane tank is offline right now due to a minor accident. They recently were awarded grant money to add 3 outdoor props, all gas-fed props. The memorial stones in front of the building will be getting corrected soon, at a cost of over \$20,000. The LCFA and Lancaster County are paying \$10,000 each, with the Foundation picking up the balance.

Lastly, Todd brought up again the concept of a mobile forcible entry trailer that can be used throughout the county, with built-in forcible entry props attached to the trailer. Total cost would be approximately \$12,000 and the suggestion is for the Chiefs Assn., LCFA and the Foundation to share the cost of the project. He is asking for one of the organizations to take the lead in the project and for the other two to reimburse them for the cost.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Ernie reported that Randy Gockley and John Sweigart were named to the LCFA's Board of Directors. He also mentioned that the LCFA still has fire safety-themed placemats available at no cost.

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**SAFER Grant** – Duane Ober reported that since March 31<sup>st</sup>, we have had 16 potential applicants apply through the website ([www.becomeafirefighter.org](http://www.becomeafirefighter.org)). Applicants have been spread throughout the county. If there are new points of contacts at the fire stations, please contact Duane H. with the updates ([dhagelgans@comcast.net](mailto:dhagelgans@comcast.net)). We are working with FEMA to make some amendments to the grant, including adding radio advertisements and securing funds to create a mobile billboard that can be used at parades and other events. Facebook ads have been working. We are advertising in movie theaters using a video that Quarryville Fire Company helped us create (this has produced several new applicants already). We have started television ads in both Comcast and Blue Ridge viewing areas. We were fortunate in that FEMA fronted us the funds for 6 months of television ads (nearly \$30,000) so that we could sign a contract and get started. We plan to create another recruitment video. All reports with FEMA are caught up.

**Standards Committee** – Craig Rhineer Jr. reported that the committee is working to update the terminology and specifications to today's features. He would prefer that the Apparatus Reviews go through the Standards Committee. He also asked that any fire company that needs to have an apparatus reviewed to please contact him or anyone on the committee; their contact information can be found on the Chiefs' website – [www.lancofirechiefs.org](http://www.lancofirechiefs.org).

**Apparatus Reviews** – No report.

**Golf Committee** – Rick Harrison reported that golf tournament is full, but if anyone is still looking for an open spot, please contact Rick Kane or Kurt Gehman to be placed on the standby list. The tournament is Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at Foxchase.

**EAST Committee** – Secretary Ober reported that Chairman Jim Herr advised him that the committee has bought binders with all necessary documents for all members. Station 53 also used supplies from the committee during the funeral for Past Chief Fred Warfel.

**Radio Advisory Committee** – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the letter for the County Commissioners in support of a voice paging system is currently being emailed to the Fire Chief at each fire company to electronically sign. Ron Oettel spoke about the importance of each fire chief signing the document to keep the process moving along. So far, only about 40 of the 90 signatures have been received (also includes EMS leaders).

**Unfinished Business** – This year's LCWC Fire Dispatcher of the Year is Michael Zimmerman.

**New Business** – President Gribble reported that the elections will occur at the December meeting this year, so Nominations will take place at our September meeting. Secretary Ober will lead the Nomination Committee and two members are asked to assist.

Membership dues will be renewed at the end of this year for the 2019-2020 years.

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**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Rick Harrison reported the following: \$70,293 in income since March, including \$30,009 from FEMA and golf tournament income. Bills included \$300 for Trident (training); \$1,000 to John Sly for SAFER Grant assistance; three checks to Communication Solution Group (\$13,784, \$4,800 and \$30,009) for SAFER grant projects; \$406 to Charis for annual bonding insurance; two checks for awards for CTC students and Dispatcher of the Year (\$137.44 and \$73.25); and three checks for awards winners (\$100, \$100 and \$200). Total expenses were \$50,909.69. Ending balance is \$38,275.03 in the Checking account and \$63,551.19 in the Money Market account, for a total balance of \$101,826.22. Ron Oettel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Ben Herskowitz and approved.

**Good of the Order** – Deron Gue, a former school teacher, introduced himself as one of the drone operators for the Haz Mat team.

**Roll Call** - Roll call showed (58) in attendance with (18) Fire Chiefs, (8) Deputy Chiefs, (11) Assistant Chiefs, (11) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 35 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on September 12, 2018 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:24 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
June 28, 2018