

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 2015 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Ryno called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on March 11, 2015, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Guests / Presentations

The first guest for the evening was John Roussis from JeffSTAT, the aeromedical program based at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. They have expanded and placed a helicopter base at Brandywine Hospital in Chester County. They will have first due in 26 municipalities in Lancaster County, formerly those that were served by Sky Care. They are willing to come to fire companies to do helicopter training or other outreach programs. They can be contacted through their website.

The second guest for the evening was Troy Withers from the PA Dept. of Forestry. He warned everyone that this spring could see a high number of brush fires because of the cold, dry winter. He also explained that if fire companies participate in two basic wild land firefighting classes and the Forest Fire Warden and other resources are called to assist at a brush or woods fire, your fire company could be reimbursed for expenses as well.

The final guest for the evening was Dr. Skip George from America's 9-11 Foundation. He spoke about the 5K run / walk and 1 mile fun run / walk to be held at the Worship Center on Saturday, May 9th. Last year they were able to donate 20% of the profits made from the day to the Training Center and it is their hope to do the same again this year. There is also a 2-person relay race in which the winning team could win \$500 for their fire company. For more information, go to www.neverforget5k.org.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report

Membership for the 2015-2016 membership period is currently over 270 members, which includes over 60 fire companies. The remaining companies are reminded to renew their dues membership.

Law / Legislative

Ernie Rojahn reported that attempts are being made to secure an additional ½% more for the Foreign Fire Tax funding. He also reported that the State Fireman's Association has a Recruitment and Retention grant, in which they are allowing all fire companies to use their program and ideas. Lancaster County is hosting the April 11th Spring meeting of the State Fireman's Association. Tim Solobay is the new State Fire Commissioner, who is the Fire Chief at Canonsburg Volunteer Fire Department and is also former State Representative and State Senator.

Fire Marshal

No fire marshals were present but Duane presented a report to those in attendance about filling out the Assistant to the Fire Marshal paperwork. He will send the form to everyone in an email.

LCWC / Communications

Mike Weaver reported that the Southern police departments went live on the new radio system on March 3rd and as of the time of our meeting, have had no complaints. Metro police will go live on

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March 23 and City Police will go live on April 13. A pilot test for fire will be performed near the end of March; all Fire and EMS radios should be prepared to go live by May 4th. LCWC sent an email to everyone listing those who can program the mobile and portable radios – start making the appointments now. The system is live and ready to be used for training by fire and EMS units. DO NOT call county on the hailing channels; test and train on your radios using your private channels or the county public safety channels (training). The MAYDAY button does work, so it is not to be experimented with. There will be an online form to submit for any issues or complaints about the radio system.

Alpha Paging – the alpha paging system is fast, but LCWC is also working to change some internal methods to speed up the process even more. The low-band paging could be going away sooner than anticipated because of the lack of spare parts available. The options will then be alpha-numeric paging or a switch to high-band paging. Mike recommends that each department start trying the alpha-numeric pagers now. They are still seeing what can be done to send incident updates through the pages, but have not had much chance to experiment yet. Paging over 33:60 will continue as well in order to activate the sirens.

Lastly, Mike advised that there are now three full-time radio technicians and Matt Shenk has been promoted to Radio System Supervisor.

Lancaster County Emergency Management

Eric Bachman reminded everyone that in order to be eligible for the haz mat training reimbursement, the training must be scheduled through LEMA or LCPSTC. The reimbursement period is halfway done, so please schedule your classes ASAP. Pro-Board certifications can also be paid through the grant. There is a compressed natural gas training being held at the Training Center on May 28th during the day and in the evening. The four-hour class is free to the first 30 students. The deadline to sign-up is May 19th.

Eric gave a review of the Chiefs Training Weekend that was held on March 6-7. Chief Mike Terpak greatly appreciated our attendance at his classes. Eric pointed out that next year might have a registration fee to avoid the high number of no-shows; 120 pre-registered for both classes and 25% did not show up at both classes. There was also a waiting list which wasn't used because Eric was not aware that these students would not show up. This also impacts our food costs.

Next year's training is already scheduled – March 5, 2016 – and the instructor will be Dave Dodson, teaching the "Art of Reading Smoke." There is also a possibility that next year's class would have additional classes on Sunday and Monday. More information on this will be known later.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Dave Gribble reported that most classes are full and that waiting lists have been started. Dave pointed out that the fax machine at the Training Center is shared by many and if you do send a fax, please send an email to him to advise about it. Also, since Dave knows most of the chiefs in the county, an email from the chief with the student's name and class is sufficient to register the student.

Craig Elmer reported that the County's legal team is reviewing usage forms. This could lead to annual hold-harmless clause paperwork being required for all facility usage, including meetings, company level training, etc.

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Lancaster County Fireman's Association

Jere Buchter reported that there will be a Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony this year, but no Convention parade. Kinzers Fire Company has offered to host the book this year since they will be hosting the Convention in 2016. Progress is being made with Expo; contracts are coming in. Expo is May 16-18 this year. The LCFA will be holding an Open House at Pequea Lane on April 12; all props will be in use that day. Larry Miller introduced the new LCFA Chaplain, Jimmy Fannin, who is also the Chaplain at Upper Leacock Fire Company, a Pastor at the Worship Center and a member of the Chiefs Assn.'s EAST Committee.

South Central Terrorism Task Force

No Report

Apparatus Reviews

Eric Bachman reported that Engine 34-1 was reviewed and Traffic 23 will occur soon. Fire Chiefs should contact Eric to arrange dates to review the new apparatus before being placed into service.

Standards Committee

No Report

Golf Committee

The 2015 golf tournament will be held on July 24 at the Foxchase Golf Course. The flyers will be mailed soon.

EAST Committee

No Report.

Unfinished Business

Rich Harrison reported that he paid the premium for the bonding, but our premium for our liability insurance nearly doubled. He's attempting to find a better deal.

New Business

President Ryno asked for the support of the membership to award the Fire Dispatcher of the Year Award and two CTC Student Awards. A motion was made by Tim Hoerner to support these awards, seconded by Larry Miller and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Harrison reported that there is \$21,667.26 in the checking account and \$48,345.72 is the savings account. Rick reported checks written since last meeting to Ruhls Insurance (\$365) for the bonding insurance, Duane Ober (\$98) for stamps, Mike Terpak (\$3,900) for Chiefs Weekend Training and LCPSTC (\$270) for the meal at the December Chiefs Assn. meeting. He also made two deposits from dues collected - \$420 and \$905. The Treasurer's report was approved as reported.

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Good of the Order

No Report.

Roll Call

Roll call showed (59) in attendance with (19) Fire Chiefs, (10) Deputy Chiefs, (10) Assistant Chiefs, (11) Past Chiefs and (9) Guests, representing 34 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober

Secretary

Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association, Inc.