

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 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 March 9, 2016, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations

The first guest was John Barrett from Servpro Lancaster East who presented information about the First Responders Charity Softball Tournament at Clipper Magazine Stadium on September 3rd and 4th. More information about the tournament will be sent to each fire company in the mail and through the Chiefs' email group in the near future. He also spoke about their upcoming 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for emergency services.

The next speaker was Rodney Sonderman from the SCTF who presented information about the National Fire Service Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS). Information is being collected from each fire company to support a statewide mutual aid response system throughout the nation. Mutual Aid Net is a fire based resource inventory program that is being managed by the PA Fire Commissioner's Office.

The last speaker was Mike Hall of the Keystone Wildfire Crew who spoke about a large scale exercise that will take place June 17-18 in State Game Lands at Middle Creek in Clay Township. It will start Friday afternoon and will continue straight through Saturday evening. Help is needed countywide to participate in the exercise. Units and personnel from neighboring counties will also be involved. Information about this event and an upcoming Wildland Firefighting class will be sent to all fire companies soon.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report

No report.

Law / Legislative

Ernie Rojahn stated that the SAFER grant period is now open. Funds for the State grant program are currently being distributed. Ernie encouraged everyone to reach out to your elected officials to ask them to continue to support the State grant program, as next year's program is being reviewed now. Ernie spoke about the State Firemen's Assn. scholarship program for high school seniors. National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has launched an International Seatbelt Pledge at www.seatbeltpledge.com.

Fire Marshal

No report; none present.

LCWC / Communications

New Operations Manager Ann Weller introduced recently appointed Operations Manager Jeff Garner. Ann pointed out that incidents involving a child locked in a vehicle does not require an automatic fire company dispatch. Fire companies are only dispatched based on the distress of the child or the temperature or if the Supervisor determines a need to send them.

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Cell phone plotting no longer supports 2G service, which is a cell phone carrier issue. This could lead to some incidents not being at the exact location as dispatched when plotting was used to determine the location.

Only Traffic Units or the Fire Police Captain should speak on the Dispatch Channel – all other fire police officers should not speak on the Dispatch Channels.

They are beginning a pilot program to use the WebCAD for Response / On-Scene with Blue Rock Fire Rescue.

Mike Weaver reported that the first rebanding of the radio system this past week appears to have fixed the interference problem in the Northeast. No problems have been reported. The other rebanding is set to be completed in all other areas by March 17th. Upon completion, they will wait at least 30 days before doing anything else. There is no date set for the second touch date yet. It is very important to continue to fill out the reports if you experience any issues. In mid-April, they anticipate doing a radio system optimization. As more information is learned, the Radio Committee will continue to send out updates. A new sub-committee, also chaired by Keith Eshelman and Ron Oettel, and including several other fire chiefs in the county, are meeting to review and discuss functionality issues of the radio system.

Mike also stated that nothing is planned for paging until at least 2020.

Lancaster County Emergency Management

Randy Gockley reported that the emergency response to the tornado activity in White Horse went very well. Randy reported that there is a Traffic Incident Management committee formed of all emergency services and support services in the County that will work to unify practices and standards. Elizabethtown Fire Department Fire Chief Jeff Kinsey is representing the fire service on this committee. Randy spoke briefly of the recent incidents on Route 78 and the PA Turnpike during severe weather and the need for all agencies to work together to guarantee success of the incident.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Todd Kirkpatrick spoke about the Chiefs training weekend and how successful it was.

He mentioned that there will be numerous certification classes at LCPSTC this year, including 3 Firefighter 1 and 2 Firefighter 2 classes. There will be a link on the LCPSTC website to schedule a make-up test for any of the certification tests – they will be held on Wednesday mornings and evenings.

The new VRT program is most likely going to be in place by 2017. There will also be a big loss in the number of VRT instructors in the future as well.

Todd stated that in order for a Haz Mat class to be reimbursed by LEMA, it must be scheduled through LCPSTC.

There is new online registration software being built right now.

Todd reminded everyone that it is extremely tough to find instructors for in-station training classes due to the low number of instructors. Class minimum is still 10 students. It is very important to fill classes and to avoid cancelling classes; this is frustrating for the instructors who have committed their schedule to the class as well as the students who were planning to take the class.

It is very hard to find instructors for entry-level firefighting classes.

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Prop use at the Training Center is filling up quickly for this year's schedule. If you are interested in sending some officers to a burn tech program, email Todd those names.

There will possibly be new safety procedures in place for the burn building in the near future.

There is a lot of alternative energy training available right now.

There is an Inspector 1 certification class at the end of April at the Training Center.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association

Fire Expo is May 20-22 at the Harrisburg Farm Show Arena. There are repairs being made to the burn building on Pequea Lane.

Apparatus Reviews

Eric Bachman has resigned as Chairman of the Apparatus Review Committee. Chris Slaymaker from Gap Fire Company will be the new Chairman and will be assisted by Brett Fassnacht and Craig Rhineer Jr.

Standards Committee

President Ryno asked for volunteers to come forward to serve on the Standards Committee. Anyone interested in serving, please contact President Ryno at sryno@comcast.net.

Golf Committee

This year's tournament will be Friday, July 22, 2016. Rick Kane and Kurt Gehman are co-chairing this committee now. Tournament flyers will be sent soon.

EAST Committee

One American flag was used this past week for a local funeral.

Unfinished Business

President Ryno stated that there were 5 no-shows at the Chiefs Training Weekend. The respective fire companies will be getting bills from the Chiefs Association for \$25 for each member who did not attend. Eric Bachman is no longer organizing the Chiefs Training Weekend.

New Business

President Ryno stated that Compleat Restorations will again be offering the Scholarship Program with the Chiefs Assn., however, they will only be offering up to two scholarships this year. Rick Kane is assisting Compleat Restorations on behalf of the Chiefs Association.

Secretary Ober reported that we will be sponsoring the Fire Dispatcher of the Year award again this year, as well as the two awards for the CTC program. He also stated that he will be purchasing two perpetual plaques to be displayed at LCPSTC listing all of the previous CTC award winners. We have been sponsoring this program since 2005.

LCFCA Board Member Bill Hall spoke about an opportunity for the Chiefs Association to apply for a SAFER grant for Recruitment and Retention of members countywide. The intent of the application is to receive funding to assist with a marketing campaign for three years, including television ads, creation of a website, public relations, social media targeting, recruiting materials, newsletter updates, etc. The

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grant application will cost the Chiefs Association \$6,700 – a figure of \$100 per fire company, since we will be using John Sly to write the grant on our behalf. The grant funding request will be approximately \$400,000. After a short discussion, Tracy Tomlinson (Robert Fulton) made a motion to hire John Sly to write our grant request; seconded by Ron Oettel (Lititz) and passed. Each fire company will need to provide data about staffing levels to assist in the writing of the grant and can do so through a survey that will be emailed to all fire chiefs shortly. Bill Hall will lead this project for the Chiefs Association.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Harrison reported \$63,379.66 in the savings account and \$10,862.97 in the checking account, for a total of \$74,242.63. Two bills were paid, \$180 to LCPSTC for food for the last meeting and \$4,200 to Response Solutions for the Chiefs Training Weekend.

Good of the Order

Secretary Ober reported that he spoke with Chief 49 who has agreed to come to the Chiefs meeting in June to speak about lessons learned from their response to the tornado on February 24 in White Horse. This will be a casual interactive discussion about the actions of the fire company and community during and after the incident.

Ann Weller reminded everyone that National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 10-16 and asked fire companies to consider bringing snacks, food or other treats to LCWC during that week to show appreciation to the employees. She will also be sending an email to all Chiefs asking for shirts, patches, etc. that can be gifted to the employees as well.

Roll Call

Roll call showed (66) in attendance with (24) Fire Chiefs, (13) Deputy Chiefs, (16) Assistant Chiefs, (10) Past Chiefs and (3) Guests, representing 42 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:26 hours.

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