

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MARCH 2017 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 March 8, 2017, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests / Presentations** - Leza Raffel from The Communication Solutions Group was present to give an update on the SAFER grant. She reviewed the brand / campaign – “Put out the fire, IGNITE the passion”. The website is [www.becomeafirefighter.org](http://www.becomeafirefighter.org), the toll-free phone number is 1-888-914-JOIN and a Facebook page has been created. She also spoke about the Chiefs Brief that they will be providing to the members of the Association frequently. She is looking for help from the members to participate in a commercial and other marketing videos. We are also looking to set up recruitment booths at large public events, such as fairs, mud sales, farm shows, events at your fire station, etc. To make our campaign successful, every fire company must have someone responsible for following up with a potential recruit as soon as possible. Within a few weeks, someone from our committee will reach out to the applicant to make sure they have been contacted. Leza also asked for help with news stories and photos about your fire company so that they can help promote it and also create interest in the fire service. Leza can be reached through the Facebook page.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of the December 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

**Secretary Report** - Secretary Ober reported that there are currently about 250 paid members in the Association. Six fire companies have not paid their dues yet for the 2017-2018 dues period (14, 20, 30, 58, 63 & 69).

**Law / Legislative** - Ernie Rojahn shared that the Congressional Fire Service group is meeting with elected federal officials to discuss current topics in the fire service. The SR60 program is also being reviewed again and is now known as SR6. PA State Fireman’s Association has scholarships available for high school seniors, got to [www.pafirefighters.org/scholarships](http://www.pafirefighters.org/scholarships) for more information. Firehouse Subs will be giving away \$1 million in scholarships and equipment later this year – [www.firehousesubsfoundation.org](http://www.firehousesubsfoundation.org). Senate Bill 413 has been introduced, which is a change to the PA Constitution, giving any volunteer firefighter or EMT an exemption from payment of 15% of any real property taxes imposed by the municipality in which he resides.

**Fire Marshal** - No report; none present.

**LCWC / Communications** - Jeff Garner spoke about issues with the text alerts from LCWC to the firefighters. Most issues were with Verizon, so if anyone is still having issues, they should contact their phone carrier. Explain to them that you are having issues with emails to SMS texts from Everbridge. Any delays or lack of texts is out of the control of LCWC once the text is sent. Jeff also reported that the P25 text / alert pager is still being researched.

Matt Shenk reported that code plugs are being built for Touch 2. Relm is touching all of their own radios – maintenance, code plugs, inspection, etc. Capital Area Communications will be handling the Motorola radios and Bob Moyer is programming the Tait radios. The cost is being absorbed by the County and is a little behind schedule, but it is progressing.

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Matt emphasized to make sure he has contact information for each fire company for the radio system. The AVL for the Motorola radio will not happen – it can't be done. There is no way to do GPS on Motorola radios on our radio system.

**Lancaster County Emergency Management** - No report.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** - Todd Kirkpatrick shared that the VRT program changed January 1<sup>st</sup> and it is now Awareness and Operations only. It is now a total of 44 hours. Once completed, you can test for DOH certification at LCPSTC. This will prep the student to take Pro-Board for New Vehicle Rescue Technician Level I. A new technician program is in the development stages at PASFA to replace specialty vehicle rescue and will prep students to take Pro-Board for Vehicle Rescue Technician Level II. If interested, this program is currently offered at HACC.

Any certification class registrations must be typed, they cannot be turned in handwritten. Only the original can be turned in, not a copy.

Haz Mat Ops refreshers are filling up quickly. LEMA is using grant money to fund the tuition costs of the class.

Craig Elmer spoke about the new Burn Policy that will go in effect at LCPSTC. The Lancaster County Solicitor got involved to take a look at the burn policy at the Training Center. Since 2007, live burns in the state, except company level burns, have had burn policies strictly enforced.

The site lease agreement will be in effect for the entire calendar year. The firefighter waiver form is still being worked on right now. A certificate of insurance will be required from all fire companies in order to use the facility. This will be required for any use on the site. The type of use (classroom, props, description of training, etc.) will need to be included in the site agreement.

The policy is only new to live burns for company level burns. All certified classes and other burn classes have been following this policy for years.

Todd shared that the policy was adapted from speaking with other facilities and getting feedback from them on their policies. LCPSTC will be following NFPA 1403, Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, 2012 Edition.

A sample training session plan will be made available on the Training Center's website for fire companies to use as a point of reference. Turnout gear inspection can be done a week or so prior to the burn session, it doesn't need to be done on the day of the burn. The EMS stand-by can be served by at least one EMT – it doesn't have to be an ambulance crew. Baseline vitals can be done within the week prior to the burn to save time. To participate in live-fire training, the firefighter must have completed an interior firefighting class, which included live fire.

All requirements will be posted to the Training Center's website shortly. The new policy is not designed to limit training, but to make sure it is being done safely and according to recognized standards. Additional information will also be emailed to the LCFCFA email group.

Craig reminded everyone that a risk analysis is being done throughout the entire facility.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** - Ernie advised of the Strasburg Fire Company golf tournament on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The PA Fireman helped to print safety coloring books for Kay Moyer. The Fire Expo is May 19-21 in Harrisburg.

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Jere Buchter stated that Pequea Lane is also rewriting their Burn Policy right now as well. They are working with LCPSTC to create a combined safety policy.

**Apparatus Reviews** – No report

**Standards Committee** – No report.

**Golf Committee** – Kurt Gehman shared that the tournament will be July 21<sup>st</sup> at Fox Chase Golf Course. He encouraged everyone to help try to find more sponsors for the tournament. Forms will be sent out soon.

**EAST Committee** – Additional ropes and rigging equipment has not been purchased yet.

**SAFER Grant** – Bill Hall requested contact information from several fire companies that he hasn't heard from yet. If you haven't provided him with a point of contact for your fire company, please contact him – whall75@comcast.net.

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business** – President Gribble Dave shared with the Association that the Board decided to donate \$500 to the Benefit held to support Cory Imler and his family during his illness.

President Gribble is appointing a committee for Training to help with scheduling our training events. Please contact Duane or Dave if you are interested in serving.

Tim Hoerner made a motion for the Chiefs Association to support the Dispatcher of the Year Award. Motion was seconded by Ron Oettel and passed.

Ron Oettel made a motion for the Chiefs Association to support the two awards for the CTC program. Motion was seconded by Ben Herskowitz and passed.

Ann Weller stated that Telecommunicator Week is April 9 – 15 and LCWC is looking for donations from the fire companies for the dispatchers. If you have anything to donate, please drop it off at LCWC by the first week in April.

Compleat Restorations will be sponsoring a scholarship program again this year. There will be two scholarships awarded for \$500 each. Applications have been emailed to Chiefs Assn. members and will be sent to each high school as well.

**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Rick Harrison was not present, so Secretary Ober read his report:

Approx. \$63,456 in Savings and \$6,706 in the Checking for a total of approx.. \$70,162. Checks written included: \$19.99 for new checks, \$8,265.25 to Communications Solutions Group for SAFER grant project (waiting on reimbursement from FEMA), \$406 to Ruhl Insurance for bonding of Treasurer, \$350 for food at December Chiefs meeting, \$98 to Duane Ober for stamps, and \$500 donation to Cory Imler benefit.

**Good of the Order** – No report

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**Roll Call** - Roll call showed (63) in attendance with (23) Fire Chiefs, (10) Deputy Chiefs, (9) Assistant Chiefs, (13) Past Chiefs and (8) Guests, representing 39 fire departments.

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

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn., Inc.  
March 10, 2017