

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MARCH 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on March 13, 2019, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests / Presentations** – Many local and state elected officials were present for the meeting and were introduced by Secretary Ober: State Representatives Steven Mentzer, Mike Sturla, David Zimmerman, Keith Greiner, and Brett Miller; State Senator Scott Martin and his Chief of Staff, Terry Trego; Nicholas Good from Senator Aument’s staff; and Lancaster County Commissioners Dennis Stuckey, Josh Parsons, and Craig Lehman.

State Representative Keith Greiner spoke to the members first and highlighted some important issues being discussed at the state level right now, most notably the workers compensation issue of determining the eligibility of your members of your fire company for coverage. Senator Martin also spoke about the importance of supporting our emergency services and referenced the objectives outlined in the SR6 report. They will be holding hearings on SR6 topics beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He also spoke about the need to eliminate the requirements for fire companies to pay sales tax on food that is served at fund raisers (Senate Bill 83). Senator Martin also addressed the need to improve workers compensation coverages through SWIF (SB 94), and lastly, he spoke about a Senate Bill 146 that addresses more online training classes for firefighters.

The featured presenter of the night was Jerry Ozog, the new Executive Director from Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute. Jerry explained that PFESI is a 501(c)3 organization that is funded by many fire service organizations in the state. Jerry spoke about the three topics affecting all volunteer fire companies: funding (both Capital and Operational), internal conflict, and responses times (due to lack of members or inconsistent staffing levels). He also shared the importance of fire companies building strong relationships with their elected officials and discussing the expectations of both sides to one another. He encouraged all fire companies to be solid, non-profit organizations, ones that are well run and led by the right people. In order for the fire companies to define their future, it must start in-house. Lastly, Jerry recommended everyone to “Like” the PFESI Facebook page and to feel free to communicate with him on any topic.

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

**Secretary Report** – Secretary Ober reported that our current membership is over 260 chief officers and only a handful of fire companies have not paid their dues yet.

**Law / Legislative** - Ernie Rojahn stated that Jerry and the elected officials were able to present the current topics taking place in the legislature for him.

**Fire Marshal** – No report.

**LCWC / Communications** – Matt Shenk advised that BMoyer Radio is now an authorized BK/Relm radio dealer.

There have been some recent issues with some low-band base stations that they believe have been taken care of. Matt asked if anyone is continuing to have voice or tone issues to let them know.

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LCWC is hosting a Radio Expo at the Training Center on May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1-9pm. All the radio vendors on our system will be present to showcase their equipment, including paging devices (tone and alpha), and alpha paging decoder boxes.

Matt explained they are working with the CAD vendor to improve the alpha-paging to send alerts for cancellations of units. They are also working to add a second alert if additional units from your station are added later to the incident (can't do that right now), and to avoid the second alert for your units, when units from another station have not responded yet and have been redispached.

Harris mobile radios are allowed on the system now. Accepted models are the XL185 (single band) and XL200 (Multi-band). The testing results were positive.

Single-band radios will soon be available.

Kenwood radios are still be tested. They have not been approved yet, but the anticipated date of acceptance is within the next 30 days.

The Tait model 9400 radios are good for our system.

Relm is coming out with a multi-band radio in the near future, however, LCWC has not received a test radio yet.

Mike Weaver addressed an issue with Active911 users, concerning the difficulty in properly mapping the incidents. Phil Colvin is helping to find a solution to the problem. Active911 has received a Lancaster County address layer to use with three test agencies (Rohrerstown, FDMJ and Lancaster City) to determine if this move will solve the incorrect plot issue. Once testing is complete, agencies will have to contact their Active911 representative and state that they need the Lancaster County map layer for their application. LCWC will also be contacting lamresponding to attempt the same resolution.

Mike stated that after using various first responders as testers and based on the feedback, a decision has been made to move forward with Unication for P25 tone and voice paging. Because of this, the end of low-band paging will be the end of 2020. It might not be turned off until the following week due to the holiday, or could possibly be kept on if there are still fire companies that have a need for it.

Mike introduced Kirk Alland, Vice-President from Unication USA. Kirk gave a brief history of paging and his past experience while working with Motorola. Kirk explained how P25 paging has had 1.5 years of testing in Michigan and they have had success with it there. Several questions from members were addressed to Kirk. He stated that voice and text can be in the same pager, but it would require compatibility with the server in our CAD. He said that he anticipates that the pager could diminish in size in the future as technology improves. Since the pager is software defined, it can do a lot more than previous pagers. There will not be any charges for firmware updates to the pagers, because it can be done online. He stated the cost of the pagers will be honored through the end of April at \$595 for single-band and \$695 for dual-band pagers. Salesmen may also offer discounts of up to 10% to fire companies. The price includes a free 3-year extended warranty or a drop-in charger. He was asked if Unication would consider extending the locked-in price longer to allow fire companies to discuss the purchases and to secure funding. He said he would consider that and speak with his sales staff. Discussion was held on potential grants being available to help with bulk purchasing of the pagers, such as an AFG grant. Since we will be switching from low-band to P25 paging, the success rate under AFG grants would be higher. When questioned about turn-around times for repairs, Kirk felt most repairs would be less than one week.

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**Lancaster County Emergency Management** – Phil Colvin reported the CAD will start showing Duty Officer 87 more often under the incidents when the LEMA Duty Officer is notified of the incident. This is just for tracking purposes.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Todd Kirkpatrick reminded everyone of the Haz Mat Ops Refresher training that is being funded through a grant received by LEMA. Classes can be set up by the Training Center. He also reminded the membership that certification applications must be filled out electronically, in a fillable PDF.

Firefighter 1 certification has been dropped as a pre-requisite for Pumper Driver/Operator Pro Board Certification.

Online scheduling is going well, please continue to use it.

The live fire props will start up soon. There have been many upgrades to the fire props.

The forcible entry trailer is available for reservations.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Randy Gockley reported that nearly \$85,000 was spent on a new fill station at Pequea Lane. The facilitators for Pequea Lane will be trained and scheduled through the Training Center.

**SAFER Grant** – Duane Hagelgans reported that we have ceased our advertising due to the federal government shut-down, since we have been unable to get reimbursed for several months of our spending. Once we get reimbursed, we start advertising again. He shared that the LCFA did offer to loan us money to continue advertising, but we want to make sure we get our current expenses settled first. We had 75 people submit to the website in 2018, but only 5 so far in 2019. Our grant period ends this October. He also reminded all fire stations to make sure their point of contact for new applicants is current with either him or Duane Ober, and to make sure the contact is being made to the applicants once their information is shared with you. A student at Millersville University is helping to track the applicants. Lastly, we are no longer using Communication Solutions for our marketing, and Phil Colvin has helped us gain control and ownership of the website.

**Standards Committee** – No report.

**Golf Committee** – Kurt Gehman reported that the golf tournament will be July 19, 2019 at Fox Chase Golf Course. We are still in need of a Commissioner's Club Sponsor (top sponsor). He is also asking every fire company to help find at least one hole sponsor this year to bring in additional funding. Kurt is handling the sponsorships and Rick Kane is handling the registrations. Information on both will be sent soon.

**EAST Committee** – The flags need to be cleaned. A recommendation was made to check with Paul Davis.

**Radio Advisory Committee** - Dean Gantz Jr. reported that they are looking at forming a Public Safety Committee, made up of fire, EMS, police and EMA, to work with LCWC on radio system issues. The committee would also like to hear feedback on the P25 paging system and whether there is interest to seek financial support for purchasing the pagers.

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**Training** – Chief Scott Little is heading up the new Training Committee, along with Keith Eshleman, Craig Elmer, Jason Topper, and David King. They have a training weekend planned for Saturday and Sunday, September 28-29, with the topic of “Aggressive Incident Command”, taught by Nick Martin. It will be the same class both days, with Chiefs Assn. members on Saturday and open to all others on Sunday.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Bill Hall made a motion to have the EAST Committee flags cleaned, seconded by Tim Hoerner and approved. Chief Neff from Quarryville stated that they would take care of getting it done.

President Gribble reported on the survey that was completed late in 2018. We had 60 responses and received a lot of beneficial comments and ideas. He explained that our goal is to change the meeting format, by allowing the Board of Directors to handle more of the day-to-day business, so that our meetings can focus on more important topics, including presentations and possibly break-out sessions. He also shared the reason for changing the Standards committee name to a Chiefs Association Guidelines committee. The inspections of new apparatus will go away, but the apparatus will still need to meet NFPA Standards to receive the approved call sign. Paperwork will still need to be submitted to complete the process.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Secretary Ober provided the following report for Treasurer Harrison: \$8,520.10 in the checking account and \$63,635.75 in the Money Market account. Income was \$1,510 from dues and expenses totaled \$12,872.16, including \$7,651.16 towards the SAFER Grant; \$50 to Homeland Hospice in memory of Jim Musser; \$405 to Charis Insurance for Treasurer Bonding; \$4,496 to the LCPSTC Foundation for our share of the forcible entry trailer and Craig Elmer’s brick; and \$270 to the Training Center for the September meal.

**Good of the Order** – No report.

**Roll Call** - Roll call showed (92) in attendance with (32) Fire Chiefs, (13) Deputy Chiefs, (8) Assistant Chiefs, (15) Past Chiefs and (24) Guests, representing 47 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on June 12, 2019, beginning at 7:00pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:42.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
March 19, 2019