

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MARCH 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:05 hours on March 11, 2020, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests:** New Lancaster County Commissioner Ray D'Agositino was introduced to the membership and he gave thanks to all emergency services providers, spoke about his background in public service and stated that he has a desire to visit every community and meet with residents. Members asked the Commissioner to support capital improvements to the Training Center and to take care of County employees, especially those at the Training Center, LEMA and LCWC, so that we can retain quality staff supporting emergency services.

Will Wilhelm, the Disaster Program Manager, from the American Red Cross was the next speaker. He reminded everyone to go through LCWC for Red Cross notification, and to do it as early as possible. Even if residents aren't sure if they need Red Cross assistance, please notify them. Once they meet with the residents, many find out that they can provide services they never considered, such as replacement medication and replacement of durable equipment, such as c-pap machines. Please provide as much information about the situation as possible, specifically the number of residents, so that they can come prepared. Their goal is to arrive on scene within two hours of the call out. The Red Cross also has a smoke alarm program and they are willing to participate in local trainings if requested. Will's contact info: [will.wilhelm@redcross.org](mailto:will.wilhelm@redcross.org). (717) 756-6613.

The final guests of the evening were Diane Giglio, Shawn Barney and Mike Bath from BK Radio. They spoke about the recent changes in the leadership at BK (formerly Relm), which includes many key leaders and engineers who came from Motorola, bringing with them patents and radio improvements. The BKR5000 is their newest single band radio and the multi-band BKR9000 portable radio is still in development and should be available next year.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – The December 2019 Minutes were distributed via email; no corrections or additions were needed. They were approved as written.

**Secretary Report** – No report.

**Law / Legislative** - Ernie Rojahn spoke about several bills that the Firemen's Association of State PA (FASP) advocated for. The full Senate passed SB94 and sent it to the House for consideration. This bill would ensure workers compensation coverage for all active members and integral members of volunteer fire companies. The Senate Finance Committee voted out HB732, which would exempt volunteer service providers from the PA realty transfer tax. Legislation that was proposed to eliminate the Office of the State Fire Commissioner was pulled, due its filing being a "mistake". HB1236 is being proposed to require all rental properties to install 10-year, tamper-resistant smoke alarms when a new occupant takes residence, when a new smoke alarm is being installed or when one is being replaced. This bill is set on the House calendar for consideration. Ernie encouraged everyone to hold membership with FASP and PFESI.

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**Fire Marshal** – PSP Fire Marshal Ryan Gehman provided a presentation to the members about the procedure for notifying the PSP Fire Marshal, training that they receive, pointers about how to protect the area of origin to improve the investigation efforts, the importance about chain of custody for evidence, and prevention of contaminating the incident scene, which could have adverse effects on the investigation. Trooper Gehman's presentation will be sent the Chief Assn. email group soon.

**LCWC / Communications** – Ann Weller reported that the dispatchers now have EMD instructions for Coronavirus. The new questions ensure appropriate questions are asked of patients calling 9-1-1. This information will be placed in the WebCAD notes. She also announced that LCWC supports the radio call signs of UTV and TAC. They are waiting on the Chiefs Association to approve the checklists for each unit.

Jeff Garner reported that there is now a feature in the CAD to highlight critical incident data of an address, learned from previous incidents, such as hoarding. This may only be viewed by the home company, not mutual aid. He also shared that all incidents now show a recap of times for all fire, police and EMS units on the call. All previous incidents at the address will be shown as well, and if it was a fire incident, we will be able to click on the incident number and open the previous incident. If it was an EMS or police incident, we will not be able to open it. Jeff pointed out the WebCAD has been sluggish recently – they know it and are working to improve it. They have also been testing new text paging methods to assure they work being going live.

Matt Shenk reported a series of upgrades to the radio system installed in 2013 Console upgrades began Feb. 6th. He admits that it has not been going well, including some alert tones, such as the loss of the pre-alert tones, and some other paging issues, including the new sound of the EVAC tone. These upgrades needed to be done before the main radio system upgrades began on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, more software upgrades occurred, bringing it up to the next version. The next upgrade will be March 17<sup>th</sup>. A lot of the upgrade problems has its roots in trying to ensure 1970's analog, low-band features work with the 2020 digital radio system upgrades. Once we vacate the low-band system, the upgrades should be smoother.

**Lancaster County Emergency Management** – Phil Colvin gave an update on the Coronavirus situation. LEMA is having weekly coordination meetings with multiple agencies. The biggest concern is about community spread of the virus, which is why there is a need to reduce the number of large group gatherings. Phil encouraged everyone to get their information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or Department of Health (DOH) only. LEMA will provide coordinated communication with fire, police, EMS and EMA leaders. The DOH website has information that can be downloaded and shared. [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov).

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Todd Kirkpatrick stated that the new vaporizer is installed and is scheduled to be turned on soon. The outside props will be turned on soon also, so if you want to schedule training, contact Ken Weber. Todd spoke about the recent South Central Task Force Safety Seminar that was held, in which highway traffic crashes were highlighted. The Training Center is in the process to become a site for Traffic Incident Management System certification. The Fire Commissioner's Office is supporting Suicide and Cancer Prevention / Risk Reduction Exposure trainings.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Randy Gockley shared that invitations have been sent for an April 25<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting, beginning at 8:30am. They are looking for fire companies with successful programs to share their success stories and for those who are lacking a program to attend. Fire Expo is May 15-17 and if

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you can help, please contact Audrey Noll or John Alexander. LCFA is funding a 4-hour event on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Training Center on firefighter suicide prevention.

**Standards Committee** – Brett Fassnacht reported that the following units were reviewed recently: Engine 71-1, Rescue 55 and Engine 903. He thanked Eric Bachman, Cory Imler and Troy Weaver for their continued help with apparatus reviews. He also thanked James Herr, Troy Weaver, Stefan Kuenzli, Chris Slaymaker, Cory Imler and Eric Bachman for reviewing and updating the checklists for apparatus types. Additional help is always welcomed. If any other member of the Chiefs Assn. would like to help, please email Brett at [fass44@comcast.net](mailto:fass44@comcast.net) or the Standards Committee at [standards@lancofirechiefs.org](mailto:standards@lancofirechiefs.org).

Craig Rhineer Jr. then gave an update on the progress with TAC radio call sign and other Standard apparatus checklists. Instead of voting at this meeting, they will send an email to the membership and provide opportunity for feedback from everyone until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Email the Standards Committee at the email above. The committee has been trying to just follow NFPA guidelines but have changed some features to meet local needs, and to update some verbiage. They have decided the best way to move forward right now is with the new TAC and UTV checklists is with an online ballot, to take place before the June meeting, with the results being read at the June meeting. The existing apparatus standards checklists will be reviewed and possibly voted upon at the September Chiefs Assn. meeting. More information about the review and voting process will be sent to the members via email.

Bill Hall made a motion to allow an online ballot (such as a Survey Monkey) for the UTV and TAC checklists. Motion was seconded by Mason Brandt and approved.

A question was asked about more new apparatus call signs in the future and it was stated that they would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Golf Committee** – Kurt Gehman reported that this year's golf tournament is July 17<sup>th</sup> at Foxchase. All sponsorship levels are open – please help recruit sponsors and help fill the tournament with foursomes. The tournament always fills quickly, so don't delay. Flyers will be emailed to the membership and posted on Facebook.

**EAST Committee** – The committee purchased polo shirts for its members.

**Radio Advisory Committee** - Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee was approached about hosting a radio scanning program, like the typical online radio scanners. This program would allow the listener to choose which dispatch or operations channel to listen to, instead of scanning all channels at once. There is a \$30 part to purchase, and the computer and hosting site can be set up at the Training Center. This will be discussed under New Business.

**SAFER Grant** – Duane Hagelgans reported that the SAFER grant has now ended. Overall, it was not very successful; we had about 130 applicants, but the number of applicants still actively involved is unknown due to the lack of communication between fire companies, applicants and our committee.

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**Training** – Scott Little reported that they are looking at Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for a one-day class, with multiple instructors.

**Unfinished Business** – We have not made our PFESI donation and dues payment yet. President Gribble asked for interested members who wish to serve as the Delegate or Alternate delegate to contact him or Duane Ober.

**New Business** – Rick Harrison made a motion to support the LCWC Fire Dispatcher of the Year award and \$100 gift; seconded by Todd Kirkpatrick and approved.

Jason Greer made a motion to support the two CTC Student Awards and financial gifts; seconded by Nelson Dagen and approved.

Dean Gantz Jr. made a motion to purchase the needed part for the online scanning program for approximately \$30; seconded by Bill Hall and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rick Harrison read the financial reports: There is a balance in the Checking account of \$36,307.78, following payments of \$405 for Treasurer bonding, \$80 for food at September meeting, \$375 for EAST Committee shirts, and \$1,500 for grant administration costs. The Money Market account has a balance of \$63,751.29, for a total amount of \$100,059.07 in both accounts.

**Open Discussion** – Assistant Chief Mason Brandt spoke about his visit with Senator Aument in Harrisburg on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They had discussions about recruitment and retention and recommendations for fire service support. Mason stressed that the fire service must come together to advocate or we will begin to lose support in Harrisburg. SR6 topics should be closely reviewed and ideas shared with your local elected officials.

**Good of the Order** – Bill Koch had questions about the SAFER Grant and its impact in our County, which were answered by Duane Hagelgans.

**Roll Call** - Roll call showed (77) in attendance with (24) Fire Chiefs, (9) Deputy Chiefs, (16) Assistant Chiefs, (14) Past Chiefs and (14) Guests, representing 50 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on June 10, 2020, beginning at 7:00pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
March 15, 2020