

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on September 12, 2018, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for recently departed Willow Street Fire Chief Mike Reese and former Lititz Assistant Fire Chief Eric Weaver.

Guests / Presentations – The guest presenter for the evening was Ryan Gardill of Mount Joy, who served five years in the United States Marine Corps including a tour in Sangin, Afghanistan as a machine gunner. Ryan has been an advocate for veterans with post traumatic distress syndrome (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries. He spoke to the members about PTSD and suicide prevention and how both can affect first responders. If any fire department would like to have Ryan speak with their members, he can be reached at (717) 449-9433 or gardillrj@gmail.com.

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

Secretary Report – Thank you letters were received from Raymond Wizotsky and Isaiah Stoner, the two CTC students who received awards from the Chiefs Association at the June meeting.

Flowers were sent on behalf of the Chiefs Association to Fire Chief Mike Reese's funeral and to LCWC to encourage his fellow dispatchers after his passing.

Dues notices for the 2019-2020 dues period will be sent prior to the December meeting.

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn reported on the proposal to have the State Fire Commissioners Office become independent from PEMA, reporting directly to the Governor.

There is current legislation to define a volunteer firefighter, due to recent issues with workers compensation claims being denied due to technicalities. If any fire company has experienced any workers compensation claims being denied for any of their members, please contact Duane Hagelgans (dhagelgans@comcast.net) as soon as possible, as he will be testifying on October 1st against the State Workers Insurance Fund at a State hearing.

Ernie spoke about the Firemen's Association of Pennsylvania's recruitment and retention programs that are available, including information that was sent to all fire companies on a CD to download for local use.

Fire Marshal – PSP FM's Ryan Gehman and Jeff Purcell were present but had no report.

LCWC / Communications – Director Mike Weaver spoke about the current testing of paging on the P25 radio system. They have been testing the dispatching capabilities with the Unication G5 pager on the P25 Dispatch channel, using EMS stations as testers, with no issues. The Unication pagers would be able to have all talk groups programmed in them, as programming is open and not under control of LCWC. LCWC will continue to keep adding and testing all fire company tones. Cost of the pagers should be close to \$600 each. The dispatchers can load tones and make announcement over both the low-band paging and the P25 paging at the same time. Paging on low-band will continue until 2020, even if the switch to

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P25 is able to be made. Mike hopes to have a more definitive answer about the paging testing at the December meeting.

Mike also shared that fire companies should start preparing now for how they plan to activate their sirens once low band paging goes away. There are systems available that will be able to use the P25 pager or an alpha-numeric pager to activate the siren.

Ann Weller shared that Brett Fassnacht has been promoted to the role of Fire Communications Support Specialist, replacing Troy Hatfield, who has retired.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Phil Colvin reported that he was appointed as the County EMA Coordinator in July. Coincidentally, he and his staff have been dealing with rain events ever since. His office needs help collecting data from the storms, so please encourage residents or businesses to submit individual assistance damage reports. FEMA is treating each rain storm as a separate event, so getting financial assistance will be extremely tough.

Phil also reported that he has hired a new Deputy Coordinator, Dan Scully. Dan comes from Dauphin County with many years of experience in emergency management. He will begin his job in late October and Phil plans to have him attend the December Chiefs Assn. meeting for introduction.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick thanked those who attended the 9/11 event this past week, including Manheim Township Fire Rescue and Fire Department Mount Joy for providing their Trucks for the ladder arch for the American flag. Todd stated that the ceremony was lightly attended since it was during the day time, but they will continue to host it at their facility. The CTC students also played an important role in assisting the Commissioners, who read the names of each of Lancaster County's Line of Duty Deaths.

Todd reported that 2018 continues to be busy at the Training Center and Ken Weber already has many classes scheduled in 2019, which are on the website now. There is now an online registration, which doesn't take the place of emails or faxing, but will give you immediate confirmation of the registration. They would like to each fire company to provide a main point of contact for the online registration.

New gas props have been added on site and the burn building has had electronic components updated as well.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Randy Gockley has been named one of the LCFA Board Members. Randy reported that they know they have been having some issues with the website and scheduling of the Pequea Lane facility. He encouraged everyone to contact Audrey Noll at the LCFA office to confirm the reservation. He also shared that over \$1 million has been spent in recent years to update the burn building and to fix a lot of damage from the burns. Randy reported that new policies are being created to help reduce the amount of damage that has been occurring. John Sweigart has been named the head of the LCFA Training Committee, responsible for Pequea Lane.

SAFER Grant – Duane Hagelgans reported that there were 13 applicants to the website (www.becomeafirefighter.org) in 2017 and 38 in 2018, for a total of 51 potential new volunteers

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countywide. A total of 23 fire companies have had applicants sent to them for membership applications. We recently increased our advertising to include movie theatre ads, cable television ads and now radio station ads. We have had a big increase in interest in recent weeks. Duane asked everyone to help reach out to the applicants immediately upon receipt of their contact information from him and to help our committee by providing feedback when asked about the status of the applicants.

The grant award was \$367,000 and we have spent just under \$70,000. We will be spending an average of \$10,000 - \$12,000 per month from now until October 2019 on radio ads to saturate the market with our message. We have also purchased a booth space at the I105 County Music Fall Fest on October 7th at Overlook Park and will be searching for members to help staff the booth to recruit new applicants at the event.

We will also be placing graphics on an enclosed trailer, courtesy of LEMA, to be towed in local parades, to help promote our message. This trailer will be available for any community event or even just to strategically park it to help advertise our website. Please contact Secretary Ober if you have an event in which you can use the trailer to help us.

Lastly, we had 10,000 brochures printed for our campaign. We are asking every fire company to take a pack of 100 flyers to help distribute in your local communities. We need everyone's assistance to make this project a success.

Standards Committee – President Gribble reported that Engine 17-2 from Smokestown was recently inspected.

Golf Committee – Secretary Ober reported the following on behalf of the golf committee: The tournament sold out again, with several teams on the waiting list this year. Overall, revenues were up 5% and the net income up 11% from the 2017 figures. Net income for the year was \$19,020.21, over \$2,000 more than last year. Major sponsors included VFIS, Provident Insurance, Compleat Restorations, Lancaster County Firemen's Association, 10-8 Emergency Vehicle Service, Glick Fire Equipment Co., Relm/BK Technologies, Active 911, K&C Communications/Motorola, The Fire Store, ServPro, Fire Line Equipment, Goodville Mutual, Horst Insurance, Walz Group, Lititz Fire Company, Local 319 – Lancaster Professional Firefighters, Belfor Property Restoration, and Hondru Ford (*Hole-in-One prizes).

VFIS has been our Commissioner's Club sponsor the past two years, which is a \$5,000 sponsor. They have already decided not to continue at this level next year, so we will need to find a replacement for our only Commissioner Club member.

Lastly, next year's tournament has already been set for Friday, July 19th, at Foxchase again.

EAST Committee – Chairman Jim Herr reported that the committee was fully utilized for Willow Street Fire Chief Mike Reese's viewing and funeral. He thanked all committee members for their assistance, as well as the fire companies who provided aid. In addition to the flags in the ladder arches and other EAST resources, they also secured a bag piper, bugler, Life Lion helicopter, an interpreter, a caisson loading platform, porta-potties, and dumpsters for the funeral. Jimmy Fannin and Station 43 did an excellent job with the cooling stations and providing drinks at the viewing and funeral, as did the Lancaster City Bureau of Fire for providing Honor Guard duties for Chief Reese. They estimated there were 850 people

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at the Viewing. Jim also thanked Troy Weaver for his assistance in securing standby companies for throughout the week, and the fire companies who provided staffing and resources. Resources from the EAST Committee were also just used earlier this week for past Lititz Assistant Chief Eric Weaver's viewing and service.

Radio Advisory Committee - Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the letter for the County Commissioners in support of a voice paging system is still missing about 12 signatures before they can send it. The committee also met with a representative from Kenwood to find ways to get their radios on our radio system. There has also been discussion with the police chiefs to find ways to better utilize the radios together at major incidents.

Unfinished Business – Todd Kirkpatrick brought up again for discussion about the construction of a forcible entry trailer to replace the blue door forcible entry prop that is no longer being permitted to be disassembled to travel to fire stations for use. The custom trailer would take about 6-8 weeks to construct and would cost about \$12,000. He would like to see the Chiefs Assn., LCFA and the Training Center Foundation share the cost of the project. The LCFA has stated that they will put funds in the 2019 budget for it. After discussion, Troy Wenger made a motion for the Chiefs Assn. to take the lead on the project by purchasing the trailer and then having the other two partners reimburse us for their share of the project. The motion was seconded by Ron Oettel and approved.

New Business – President Gribble called for Secretary to announce the nominations for officers for the 2019-2020 term. Secretary Ober nominated Dave Gribble for President; Duane Hagelgans for 1st Vice-President; Dean Gantz Jr. for 2nd Vice-President; Rick Harrison for Treasurer; Duane Ober for Secretary, and Tony Groff and Craig Rhineer Jr. for Directors. No additional nominations were provided from the floor.

Ron Oettel pointed out that the Chiefs Assn. is no longer a current member of the PA Fire Emergency Services Institute (PFESI). He would like to see us join again so we may have a delegate and a voice. Bill Hall made a motion for the Chiefs Assn. to join PFESI, with a cost not to exceed \$250; seconded by Ron Oettel and approved.

President Gribble named Ron Oettel as our delegate to the PFESI and Duane Hagelgans as our alternate delegate.

Treasurer's Report – Secretary Ober provided the following report for Treasurer Harrison: \$19,007.00 in Deposits in the checking account; from golf tournament income, LCFA payment for Chiefs Training Weekend, and FEMA reimbursement for the SAFER grant. Payments were made for a total of \$21,709.50; mostly for the golf tournament and SAFER grant. The balance in the checking account is \$38,172.83, with \$63,578.04 in the Money Market account, for a total of \$101,750.87. Ron Oettel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Nelson Dagen and approved.

Good of the Order – Earlier in the meeting, Mike Weaver spoke about a recent pet CPR and First Aid course he recently attended at the Training Center. He spoke to the instructor who has invited any fire chief to attend his next class on Saturday, October 13th at the Training Center for free to learn more

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about this skill. Secretary Ober will send information about the upcoming class to the Chiefs' email group.

Roll Call - Roll call showed (52) in attendance with (17) Fire Chiefs, (7) Deputy Chiefs, (10) Assistant Chiefs, (11) Past Chiefs and (7) Guests, representing 28 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on December 12, 2018 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:02

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
September 14, 2018