

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**SEPTEMBER 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 September 11, 2019, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests / Presentations** – There were no guests at this meeting.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – The June 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 reported the federal government has passed a bill to provide funding for the families of the 9/11 first responder victims. He also spoke about changes that could be coming to the state's relief association funding, especially since it has been decreasing in recent years. Ernie reminded everyone that the LCFA has fire safety placemats available for all fire companies. He also had 2020 calendar books and NFPA fire safety booklets available for anyone who needs them.

**Fire Marshal** – No report.

**LCWC / Communications** – Mike Weaver reminded everyone of the Unication Meet-and-Greet, to be held at the Training Center on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. Unication will also be unveiling their new Lancaster County special promotion at this event. A question was asked about how the new radio system will handle siren activation after low band paging goes away? Mike explained that the are fire department cap codes that are used, based on the nature code, to either activate or not activate the siren. Mike will have Matt Shenk send an email to clarify the set-up of this. Another question was asked about the ability to add Zone 17 to each fire company's radios – it can still be done, just contact Matt Shenk if you need assistance to do this. Mike also pointed out that the volume on the dispatch channel on the P25 system is high right now due to simulcasting on low band. The audio level will be able to be adjusted once dispatching leaves low band.

**Lancaster County Emergency Management** – Phil Colvin explained that the class that Eric Bachman has been promoting about the compressed natural gas transportation is in jeopardy of being cancelled due to low enrollment.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Todd Kirkpatrick reported that the 2020 training schedule has been posted on their website. Todd thanked everyone who attended the 9/11 ceremony earlier in the day at the Training Center. He also reported that they are still working to get the Memorial Wall Stones corrected and updated. Todd also shared that the forcible entry trailer that the Chiefs Assn. helped to purchase has been getting a lot of use.

Next, Todd presented engraved Memorial Stones to Craig Elmer and Randy Gockley to honor them for their service to the Lancaster County emergency services. Both stones are 24" x 24" and were engraved with their years of service and additional info. Todd gave a short presentation about both men and what they meant to the county emergency services, as well as their impact, commitment, and dedication to the Training Center and its programs. Craig and Randy also took time to thank each other and the emergency services for

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their commitment to making the Training Center a valuable asset to Lancaster County. Pictures of both men with their stones can be found on the County Fire Chiefs Facebook page and website.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Todd reported that they are still working on the process to hold classes at the Pequea Lane facility. The burn classes will be held through Bucks County Community College. Roger Noll reported that the new compressor should be delivered soon.

**Golf Committee** – Kurt Gehman reported that the golf tournament went very well, with a full course once again. The net profit for the event raised just under \$16,400 for the Chiefs Association. Next year's tournament will be July 17, 2020.

**EAST Committee** – No report.

**Radio Advisory Committee** - Dean Gantz Jr. reported that they received feedback that the county commissioners do not intend to help fund the purchase of P25 pagers, so the committee has decided to no longer pursue the topic with them.

**SAFER Grant** – Duane Hagelgans reported that the SAFER grant will close on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We are still running ads on local radio stations and in the movie theaters in the county. The number of responses to the website has slowed down. We have had over 125 county residents submit information to the website to become members of the fire companies, including 22 since our June meeting. We are trying to track the level of success by reaching out to the applicants to discover if they have joined the fire company and what level of contribution they have been making since joining. One issue that we have encountered is that several applicants have reported that they have not been able to communicate with anyone from the fire company. Overall, the highest number of applicants for a fire company has been Lancaster Township, since so many city residents have expressed an interest to join, and Lancaster Township is the nearest station to their homes. We have also recently created 8 new recruitment videos, which were filmed, edited and published by two students at Millersville University, and will be shared through social media and at the movie theaters.

**Training** – Chief Scott Little reminded everyone that the training classes are September 28 & 29. Registrations are still being taken; you can register for one day or both days. Asst. Chief David King from Station 39 is handling the enrollments.

**Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business.

**Open Discussion** – Vice-President Hagelgans led the membership in an open discussion about recruitment and retention within the fire companies. Several chiefs shared the processes they follow when bringing in new members, and the successes or challenges they have encountered in recent years with new recruits. Ideas were shared of ways that fire companies are trying to reach out more, but many agreed that it continues to be a struggle and most focus is now directed towards the retention of existing, trained members.

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**Treasurer's Report** –Treasurer Harrison provided the following report: Deposits in the checking account totaled \$62,992, including \$42,207 from FEMA for grant reimbursements, with the rest being from golf tournament deposits or the upcoming training class. There was a total of \$31,491 in expenses, made up of grant expenses and golf tournament expenses. The balance in the checking account is \$44,247.95 and there is \$63,692.57 in the Money Market account for a total of \$107,940.52. Tim Hoerner made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Nelson Dagen and approved.

**Good of the Order** – President Gribble asked anyone who has a discussion topic for our meetings to contact him prior to the meeting so that it can be added to the Agenda.

**Roll Call** - Roll call showed (41) in attendance with (16) Fire Chiefs, (7) Deputy Chiefs, (3) Assistant Chiefs, (12) Past Chiefs and (3) Guests, representing 28 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on December 11, 2019, beginning at 7:00pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
September 18, 2019