

Minutes of the June 10, 2009
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting at
Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

President Oettel called the meeting to order at 19:35 hours. Following the pledge of allegiance, President Oettel appointed Tony Groff (3-10) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Guests / Presentation – Elizabeth Ruscitto from www.iamresponding.com was present to show the packages and options that they have to offer to fire departments to assist with tracking responding personnel. She gave an interactive presentation of their web-based product to us and shared pricing options with us. Several fire departments in the county are already using this product and more information can be found on their website. Also, Lititz Fire Department is using this product and Chief Oettel has invited anyone who may be interested in using it to come and visit his station and see it in person.

Joe Barrett from ServPro fire and water damage and restoration was present to speak about his company. They are individually owned and operated franchises and currently, there are two within Lancaster County. To contact his ServPro, call 519-0767 in areas east of Lancaster and 464-5500 for areas in southern Lancaster County. They do not provide services to areas in the northern and western areas of the county yet.

Lastly, Gretchen Newcomer was present to talk about products and services offered by Verizon Wireless. She spoke about local government accounts that can provide discounted prices to fire departments for wireless phones and data plans. She can be contacted at 717-512-6308 or at Gretchen.Newcomer@VerizonWireless.com.

Previous Minutes - Tim Gregg (6-4) made a motion to accept the March 2009 minutes as written, seconded by Larry Martin (3-9). Motion passed.

Secretary Report – The Secretary will be mailing out all dues notices for the membership period of 2010 – 2012 by late summer. The mailings will be sent to the fire station addresses. Dues can also be paid at the quarterly meetings, beginning in September. Also, by the end of the year, the Chiefs' Google Group email information will be updated and will only include current members.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Miller reported a beginning balance in the Penn Vest account of \$37,007.33, \$5,308.48 in the checking account and \$3,511.12 in the Money Market account. He received a deposit of \$2,093.25 from the Chiefs Training Weekend from LCFA for their share. He paid bills for \$600 for Chiefs Awards (CTC and Dispatcher), \$88 for postage, \$595.89 to Kay Moyer for carbon monoxide detectors, \$1,537.50 for food at the Chiefs Training Weekend and \$2,650 to Billy Goldfeder for the Chiefs Training Weekend. Ending balances show just under \$42,000 in the three accounts. A motion was made by Nelson Dagen (3-11) and seconded by Bill Steele (5-5) to accept the Treasurer's

Law and Legislative Report - Ernie Rojahn discussed the possibility of the federal grant money being cut to \$170 million in 2010 in order to transfer some of the funds to the SAFER grants and

grants to assist fire departments with fire station renovations and / or construction. The House budget calls for a 30% reduction to \$380 million for the Assistance to Firefighter grants, but Obama's proposed budget cuts it nearly 70% to \$170 million.

Ernie also spoke about a new hybrid vehicle safety book that is available for reference for fire departments.

There are some new IRS laws that will affect non-profit organizations, including fire companies. There is an article in July's PA Fireman that gives more detail.

Fire Marshal - No report

Communications - Director Mike Weaver discussed that progress on the T-Band (UHF) frequencies. He advised that there are two television stations that could be affected if we are able to secure the channels we are seeking. One is from Texas and they are working with our county to make it work, the other is from Wilmington, Delaware and they are not as easy to work with just yet. There is a meeting with the FCC planned in Washington D.C. soon in order to try to obtain a public notice to grant us a waiver for use. More information will be shared once it is known. There was also an article in the Sunday News on July 12th, providing an update of the County radio system.

Director Weaver also stated that there has been no decision on what type of paging system will be used once the radio system is changed. The two options are alpha-numeric or voice. York, Dauphin and Lebanon counties are using alpha-numeric and Director Weaver encouraged all chiefs to speak to firefighters from those counties to get their feedback on their systems.

In regards to the WebCAD, he advised that there are two police departments currently using mobile data transmitters to respond, arrive and clear incidents. It is being used as a test and to gather information.

There will be a decision by November 2009 whether or not Reverse 9-1-1 will work or not in our county. A Task Force is researching the possibilities right now.

Rick Harrison advised that there are three new Technical Rescue nature codes – High Angle Rescue, Trench Rescue and Building Collapse. Until your Fire Chief determines your recommended resource response, these codes will default to your Industrial Rescue nature code.

EMA – No report.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center - Jim Kimes reported that classes are going well. The Training Center is booked every Monday night through the end of the year.

In Jim's first year, there has been over 635 fire department training events, totaling over 8,900 students.

Jim reminded everyone of the Firefighter 1 class being held September 26th. He also pointed out that some certification classes have been cancelled due to a lack of interest.

LCFA - Ernie Rojahn reported that the Pequea Lane burn building is still not ready to be used for live burns yet. The State Firemen's Convention is in King of Prussia in September. Mark Fritz from Susquehanna Fire Company (8-4) is the new President of the LCFA. There was 30 fire

departments represented in the LCFA Convention Parade in Quarryville.

SCTF - No report

Apparatus Report – Steve Gribble reported that in the past year, there have been 10 inspections, including 5 engines, 2 rescues, 2 tankers and 1 truck. Some departments who will have inspections in the near future include Rothsville, Reamstown, Rheems, Blue Ball, Brunnerville and Farmersville.

He also reported that the Standards Committee is seeking input to create a standard for boats – there is no current standard in place for boats. Please contact Chief Gribble with your comments at sgribble@dejazzd.com.

Standards Committee – Rick Harrison reported that the committee met on May 21st and reviewed the Evacuation and Accountability standards. They are also still working to get the SOG's on the Chiefs' website (www.lancofirechiefs.org).

Golf Tournament - Rick Harrison reported that the tournament is scheduled for Friday, July 17th at Foxchase. By meeting time, there had been 72 golfers registered to play with 4 Chiefs Club sponsors, 1 Deputy Chiefs Club sponsor and 3 Captains Club sponsors. One more Chiefs Club sponsor is anticipated.

NIMS working group – No report.

Rescue Task Force - No report

Unfinished Business

Bill Hall was present to introduce the two students who received the Chiefs Awards in the Fire Service Program at the CTC. EJ Hillard from Liberty Fire Company, New Holland, received the Student of the Year Award. Kaila Ojeda-Miller from Lancaster Township Fire Department received the Award of Merit. Both were presented their awards at the CTC Awards evening and received their cash prizes at this meeting from President Oettel. Chief Ray Harnish from Liberty and Chief Ron Comfort from Lancaster Township spoke briefly about the two firefighters and their contributions around their fire stations.

Rick Harrison advised that Jamie Welk from Quarryville received the Fire Dispatcher of the Year that was sponsored by the Chiefs Association. He received his award during National Tele-communicator Week in April.

New Business

Chad Graybill (5-1) asked about the status of the Line of Duty Death supplies. President Oettel advised he will speak with Craig Elmer to work on this.

Good of the order

Sue Warchola (City Fire) thanked everyone present who may have been involved with their 5-alarm fire at the Stevens Apartment fire recently.

Rick Harrison advised that we have been able to purchase 100 carbon monoxide detectors to place in Amish Schools in the county. Recently, they contributed to saving many lives in a school because of a carbon monoxide leak. The Kay Moyer will be coming to our meeting in September to speak more on the subject.

Roll Call - 24 departments were represented with 48 people in attendance.

13 Fire Chiefs, 10 Deputy Chiefs, 5 Assistant Chiefs, 7 Past Chiefs and 13 Guests

Officers present - President Oettel, 1st VP Harrison, 2nd VP Martin, Treasurer Miller, Secretary Ober and Directors Gregg and Weaver.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. will be held at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center on Wednesday September 9, 2009 at 19:30 hours.

Bill Gross (2-11) made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nelson Dagen (3-11); motion passed. Meeting ended at 21:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.