

**Minutes of the September 8, 2010  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.  
Quarterly Meeting at  
Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center**

Vice-President Rick Harrison called the meeting to order at 19:45 hours. Following the pledge of allegiance, Vice-President Harrison appointed Bill Steele (5-5) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Guests / Presentation** – The first guest for the evening was Lonnie Martin, brother of Larry Martin (Chief 3-9), owner of MainStreet IT Solutions. Lonnie spoke about his business and background in computer IT, including networking, Windows and Linux servers, business applications, security, contract support options and server and website hosting. He can be reached at 717-327-9477 or [sales@mainstreetsolutions.com](mailto:sales@mainstreetsolutions.com) or you can visit his website at [www.MainStreetITSolutions.com](http://www.MainStreetITSolutions.com).

The second guest of the meeting was Assistant Forest Manager Rick Deppen from DCNR. He spoke about wildfires in the current time and of the extreme fire danger that we are currently in. He advised of the red flag warning in effect. Rick spoke about the need for his crews (from the William Penn District) to rely on the local volunteer firefighters because they do not have enough manpower for all the calls. One issue that he did stress is that firefighters should not be wearing PPE. Long sleeves, cotton clothes, leather boots, hard hats, eye protection, leather gloves and jeans are adequate protection for the personnel. The local volunteer wildfire crew is Keystone (Station 5-14). Rick can be reached at 610-582-9665 (office), 610-476-7089 (cell) or at [rdeppen@state.pa.us](mailto:rdeppen@state.pa.us).

**Previous Minutes** – Tim Hoerner (4-1) made a motion to accept the June 2010 minutes as written, seconded by Bill Gross (2-11); motion passed.

**Secretary Report** – No report.

**Treasurers Report** - Treasurer Miller was not present; no report.

**Law and Legislative Report** - Ernie Rojahn spoke about the PA State Grant Program application period which will continue through October 22. He also spoke about the funds being cut from the State Fire Commissioner's Office and the possibility of the grant program going to alternating years.

The Cancer Presumption Act will require the defense to prove that firefighting did NOT give you cancer.

There is still opposition to the residential sprinkler legislation. The LCFA is partnering on a project to install sprinklers in two houses in the city for less than \$500 in supplies.

Pennsylvania has received over \$1 million in SAFER Grants so far.

York County is accepting applications for their County Fire School Director.

**Fire Marshal** – FM Brian Herr was present, but had no report.

**Communications** - Director Mike Weaver advised us that Congressman Pitts has contacted the FCC about our situation with trying to obtain UHF – they are expecting to have answers by the end of September.

Early retirement at the end of the year at LCWC will see the departure of many long-time employees known by many throughout the county.

Ron Oettel spoke about the ability to have text messaging through iamresponding.com linked through LCWC.

**EMA** – Randy Gockley reported on the NIMS information requests that were sent to municipalities – they have not received many returns yet.

Randy also advised that Eric Bachman’s survey on training levels and equipment lists are still needed from many fire departments.

Randy met with the Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, which received \$500,000 for emergency preparedness and will be using the money towards school safety, including table-top and real exercises. School evacuation drills are now part of state requirements.

Randy also spoke about the possibility of a County-wide Burn Ban. Ten Fire Chiefs are needed to take the request to the County Commissioners. Their next Public Meeting is Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and there would be a 48 hour waiting period before it could be enacted. Local municipalities can adopt a burn ban on their own at any time.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Jim Kimes reported that the 2011 catalog is now available. There are new classes listed in the catalog and they are still working to fill classes in 2010.

Craig Elmer spoke about the September 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the Training Center that will include the unveiling of the Memorial Stones.

**LCFA** – The new Class A burn building is still being worked on; they are hoping to have it completed by Spring.

**South Central Task Force** – Craig Elmer reported that the SCTF pays for all of the ICS 300 & 400 classes that are held. LCPSTC is working to schedule these classes in the Fall and Winter and need a minimum of 15 students to have the class.

**Apparatus Report** – The following units were recently inspected: Rescue 2-6 (Rescue and Engine), Engine 4-10-2 (Engine and Tanker), Tanker 3-13 (Tanker and Engine) and Brush 5-8.

**Standards Committee** – The committee met September 1<sup>st</sup> and working to do a final review of the Chiefs Handbook. They are also reviewing the Apparatus Checklists.

**Golf Tournament** – Rick Harrison reported that the tournament was held July 16<sup>th</sup> and was very successful. We had 132 golfers this year. The final report is not completed yet, but the profit should be in the range of \$9,000.

**Rescue Task Force** – No report from Keith Eshleman.

**Unfinished Business** – Craig Elmer advised that Chief Mike Elliott of Neffsville Fire Company will be assisting with the Line of Duty Death supplies committee. They should have an update for the next Chiefs meeting.

President Oettel reported on the Mutual Aid Agreement rough draft that he asked Chief Timothy Gregg of Lancaster City to prepare for us. We are looking for a standard, county-wide agreement that will be satisfactory to all of us.

### **New Business**

President Oettel addressed the Nominations for Officers of the Chiefs Association for 2011-2012. He formed a Nomination Committee that will still take nominations from members who wish to serve as an elected officer; the committee is Secretary Ober, Vice-President Harrison and Deputy Chief Sue Warchola (6-4). If anyone wishes to be nominated prior to the December meeting, please contact one of the members of the Nomination Committee. The members nominated at the meeting for 2011-2012 Officers are as follows:

President: Duane Ober (2-6)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Larry Martin (3-9)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Scott Ryno (8-1)  
Secretary: Dave Gribble (4-8)  
Treasurer: Rick Harrison (2-4)  
Directors (2): Timothy Gregg (6-4) and Troy Weaver (3-12)

President Oettel reported on the vacancy on the Standards Committee for a Zone 2 representative. Bill Gross (2-11) volunteered to serve and was appointed to the committee.

The Association received a check from Nuclear Energy Institute for \$1,200 as a thank you for the assistance and inconvenience while the generators for TMI were moved through the county. Rick Harrison made a motion to keep \$600 and give \$200 each to the following fire companies, since they were impacted the most: Robert Fulton, Highville and Columbia # 1. Nelson Dagen (3-11) seconded the motion and it passed.

### **Good of the order**

President Oettel advised that Chief Sam Young of Rothsville Fire Company underwent double-knee replacement surgery and had some complications from infection, but is improving.

**Roll Call** - 26 departments were represented with 39 people in attendance.

17 Fire Chiefs, 5 Deputy Chiefs, 5 Assistant Chiefs, 6 Past Chiefs and 6 Guests

Officers present – President Oettel, First VP Harrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Martin, Secretary Ober and Director 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 December 8, 2010 at 19:30 hours.

Bill Gross (2-11) made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick Harrison (2-4); motion passed. Meeting ended at 21:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober  
Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.