

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Ryno called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on December 14, 2016, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations

Leza Raffel from The Communication Solutions Group introduced herself to the members as our lead person with our SAFER Grant. She highlighted other similar projects that her team has worked on or is currently working on. We have created a URL for our branding – www.becomeafirefighter.org that is currently not active yet, but will be in the near future. She stressed the importance to each fire company of following up on the leads and calling the applicants. She gave examples of a variety of ways that we can advertise and promote the need for volunteers effectively in the county, such as yard signs, billboards, movie theater ads, Facebook links, etc. Lastly, she spoke about future training events that will be held to engage our current members to help them recruit and retain new members. Frequent updates about the campaign will be emailed or relayed to our membership through print and through our Facebook page.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report

Secretary Ober presented a card for everyone to sign to encourage Deputy Chief Cory Imler of the Upper Leacock Fire Company during his time of health issues. Dues notices were also mailed to each fire company for the 2017-2018 membership period.

Law / Legislative

Ernie Rojahn introduced Donald Kunkle – PSFEI.org. Two bills of most interest: the amount of interior warning lights in fire chief vehicle. State Police in another county were misinterpreting the law and citing fire chiefs. The law does allow interior lights inside of fire chief vehicles. The other bill concerns the 20% tax reduction for property taxes for active volunteers or 20% relief from personal income tax. SR60 is in the process of being rewritten / updated. Big issues are the desire for online fire training – the wish to do up to 40% of the class online and only come to the training location for the hands-on sessions. The fireworks legislation is most likely going to pass. Another possible law is college-loan forgiveness over a ten-year period. A proposal is being looked at to create a state-wide insurance pool for workers compensation. The proposal for an increased rate to the foreign fire tax was denied because of its impact on domestic insurance companies and their penalties in other states. Other options are being considered, possibly on the individual policy holders.

Fire Marshal

No report; none present.

LCWC / Communications

Matt Shenk gave an update on the radio system and the radios. If you have Relm radios, email Craig Price and Matt about your problem. Craig or Matt will reply with a solution and can also provide

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

loaner portable radios. If it is a mobile, they will tell you what vendor to go to. Motorola – you will need to go to your Motorola dealer. Tait – can go to any vendor that can repair it since they are out of warranty. Matt will send an email out to all fire chiefs soon with greater detail (*sent December 20th*).

Touch 2 for the radios will eliminate interference issues and do software / firmware updates. It will be paid for by the County. Some minor changes will be made to the radio profiles. It won't take place until March/April to allow time for more testing and due to weather concerns.

Fleet maps – if you have anything that you have added, changed or deleted, please contact Matt by February 1st so that they can make sure during Touch 2 that your channels aren't eliminated.

LCWC has a policy in place for bi-directional antennas if businesses or low-coverage areas want to install antennas to improve radio signal strength.

After Touch 2, for Relm portables with GPS mic, will be able to be updated to include AVL. The radio must be able to see a satellite for the AVL to work.

Matt needs contact information from each fire company for the main person responsible for the radios. Please contact him ASAP with your fire company's information so he knows who to contact to schedule Touch 2 and other radio issues.

Paging – P25 pager is in development and being tested. Once LCWC gets one, they will test it on our system and most likely it will not be available until at least 2018. Text paging is still working. Low band is still working but finding parts and someone to work on low band paging stations is becoming rare.

Matt reminded everyone that private channels are not encrypted and can be heard throughout the scanner world. If you want yours encrypted, contact Matt.

Part of Touch 2 will be an increase to the time needed to activate the emergency button.

Lancaster County Emergency Management

Randy Gockley has paperwork for Assistant Fire Marshall for new or current chiefs to fill out. SCTF has appointed regional drone working groups. Randy would like to know of any fire companies that have and operate a drone. LEMA will be starting an Intern program through the Emergency Management program at Millersville University. He also spoke about discussion about possible changes or closings at TMI in the near future. SCTF received another \$1.7 million grant from the Dept. of Homeland Security. They have formed a faith-based organization work group and are looking for churches or contacts to get involved. Randy is also attempting to form a work group to review the tax reduction law for volunteers in order to give feedback to elected officials from the county fire service.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Todd Kirkpatrick shared that the 2017 schedule is online and very full, but still adding more classes when needed. Two offerings of the Introduction to Fire Service will take place in January and the fire academy begins in April. Todd encouraged the Chiefs to help their members complete the online NIMS courses (100, 200 & 700) prior to the start of classes.

Class size minimum is 10 students and no shows continue to be a problem which could impact the minimum number requirements.

Todd thanked everyone for their support during his first year.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The new VRT program is only Awareness and Operations and four hours less than the previous three modules. The cost is higher mainly due to the cost of the book.

He spoke about LEMA's grant to once again fund the Haz Mat Operations refresher classes. If you have an instructor, let Todd know, otherwise, he can help find one for you. Refresher classes throughout the County are also being listed on the Training Center's website to highlight where local classes are being held in case individual students are in need of the class. New alternative energy classes are also listed on the website.

The roof prop project is still being worked on – the Chiefs Assn. will be one of the sponsors of this purchase.

Certification classes now require typed applications – no more handwritten applications.

Chiefs Training Weekend is March 4th 2017 with a possible Friday evening training related to the SAFER grant. Floyd Wise and Mike Horst will be the instructors, each providing a 3-hour class.

Please email or call Todd to schedule your fire company training events at the Training Center as soon as you can – the dates are filling up.

Off-site classes are more difficult to schedule due to the availability of instructors.

A new 5-year deal has been signed with the CTC program.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association

Jere Buchter advised that the Fire Safety Trailer reservation form is not on their website yet and you should contact them as soon as possible to make reservations for use in 2017. The same should be done with using the Pequea Lane training center. LCFA will provide medical staff for the live burns. They also have done some recent upgrades at the site.

PA Fireman is printing 15,000 copies of the safety packets for \$3,000 for Kay Moyer and her needs, as well as using them with the fire safety trailer.

Apparatus Reviews – No report.

Standards Committee – No report.

Golf Committee – No report.

EAST Committee

Duane Ober reported that he and Jim are updating the resource books for the committee members, which can also be provided to the Fire Chiefs when needed. A video will be made in the Spring showing how to properly raise and lower the flag in the ladder arch. The Broadcast team at Warwick High School will assist on the project and once completed, it will be uploaded to YouTube and linked to the Chiefs Assn. website. A new flag was purchased to replace a damaged recently. The cost was covered by Hempfield Fire Department and some additional fees to include wind slits in the flag. Duane explained that each flag is still lacking ropes and rigging in each case so that the ladder companies can hoist and lower the flag into place instead of using the aerials to move the flag, which was what caused the damage. Duane asked for permission to buy the needed items in the near future at an approximate cost of \$500.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

SAFER Grant – Bill Hall gave an update on the status of the grant, our selection of The Communication Solutions Group as our partner, the future training for our members and more. Leza Raffel was our guest this evening and provided a detailed progress report.

Unfinished Business

President Ryno reported that the Association's 501(c)3 status has been reinstated as of September 16, 2016. We approved last month to pay the bill and we just received the bill this week, which is \$2,255.50. The work was performed by InSite CPAs in Lititz and we will now become an annual customer of theirs so that they will file on our behalf so that this shouldn't happen again.

New Business

President Ryno reported that Eric Bachman has been appointed to the LCPSTC Foundation Advisory Board as the Chiefs Assn. representative. Rick Kane was appointed as the Alternate.

Bill Hall made a motion to fund our portion of the costs for the Chiefs Training weekend, seconded by Lonnie Kauffman and passed.

Bill Hall made a motion to purchase ropes and rigging supplies for the EAST Committee, seconded by Nelson Dagen and passed.

The dates for the 2017 meetings will be March 8th, June 14th, September 13th and December 13th. All meetings will begin at 7:30pm.

The election for the 2017-2018 officers took place with Secretary Ober casting the ballot since all offices were unopposed. The new officers are: President: Dave Gribble; 1st Vice-President: Bill Hall; 2nd Vice-President: Dean Gantz Jr.; Treasurer: Rick Harrison; Secretary: Duane Ober; and Directors: Craig Rhineer Jr. and Anthony Groff. A motion was made by Duane Hagelgans and seconded by Nelson Dagen and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Harrison was not present, so President Ryno read his report:

Approx. \$63,420 in Savings and \$17,427.94 in the Checking for a total of approx.. \$80,850. Checks written included: \$280 for LCPSTC for food from September meeting, \$1,233 to Embassy Flag for new Garrison Flag for EAST Committee. Deposits include \$1,088.55 from Hempfield Fire Department towards cost of flag and a \$25 donation from the Young family for helping at Claude Young Sr.'s funeral.

Good of the Order

Secretary Ober highlighted the out-going officers of the Association, President Scott Ryno, Vice-President Larry Martin and Director Troy Weaver and thanked them for their service, in which they received a round of applause from the membership present.

Roll Call

Roll call showed (57) in attendance with (20) Fire Chiefs, (10) Deputy Chiefs, (9) Assistant Chiefs, (11) Past Chiefs and (7) Guests, representing 38 fire departments.

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn., Inc.
December 27, 2016