

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on December 13, 2023.

Guests – Daniel Boone and Doug Rice, volunteers from the Lancaster Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) presented information about their group. They have about 15 active volunteers right now and are always looking for more volunteers, as well as events to assist at. They have a radio license to operate, and can be activated by LEMA, PEMA, or FEMA. More information about them can be found at www.lancasterares.net.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Ben Herskowitz made a motion to accept the September 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Mason Brandt and approved.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober announced the 2024 meeting dates, all on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center: March 13th, June 12th, September 11th, and December 11th.

Law / Legislative – Mason Brandt reminded everyone to watch for emails passed on from PFESI about important bills being discussed at the state level. He also encouraged everyone to speak with their local state representative and senator about the bills being presented so they can better understand our viewpoints.

PSP Fire Marshal – President Little reminded everyone about the email that was sent regarding the protocols for requesting tow companies in municipalities served by Pennsylvania State Police.

LCWC / Communications – Mike Weaver announced that Tim Baldwin has retired, and Ann Weller has been promoted to the Deputy Director role. Ann can be reached at 717-664-1102 and aweller@lcwc911.us. Sara Sloat has been promoted to Operations Manager and can be reached at 717-664-1103 and ssloat@lcwc911.us. Sara is the point of contact for responders with an operational question/concern. Mike also reported that the radio system refresh is on track to begin in January.

Matt Shenk reported that LCWC is working on creating in-house fire and police protocols to replace Pro-QA fire and police protocols. The new protocols must be approved by PEMA before being implemented. The goal is to be live by the first week in March. A question was asked about returning to some previous nature codes and Matt advised that it is being researched.

Lancaster County Department of Public Safety – Ben Herskowitz reported that LEMA will begin using a new software package, called “Regroup”, for public mass notification. They are still working on finalizing details and will provide more updates later. LEMA has also been meeting with specialized teams to better coordinate responses. LEMA has also started to look at ways to provide more support for critical incidents. A subcommittee has been formed and Mike Smith is the Chiefs Assn. representative on the committee.

Ken Weber stated that he will be sending an email soon with information about submitting the annual training center documents, as well as the 2024 Hazardous Materials training class requests. Ken also acknowledged the delay in receiving training certificates. It is beyond his control, but he is willing to write a letter to the fire chief acknowledging that a member has completed the training, if it is required.

Lancaster County Fireman’s Association – Randy Gockley reported that the LCFA has paid for the mounting of equipment in the new Engine at the Training Center. The LCFA has signed a contract with a vendor to design a

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renovation of their headquarters. They are budgeting between \$1.5 - \$2 million for the renovation. They are also working with a consultant group to create an organizational chart for the career staff of the LCFA. The LCFA's net worth is between \$18-19 million. They are considering hiring an Executive Director for the organization. The next LCFA meeting is January 3rd at the LCFA headquarters, where they will have the second reading of the proposed Bylaws changes. Lastly, Randy pointed out that there are 750 members of the LCFA from Lancaster County, of which 70% are over the age of 50. They are seeking younger, active members.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – Secretary Ober read an update from Kurt Gehman that the 2024 Golf Tournament will be held at Foxchase Golf Course on Friday, July 19th. The committee did research other locations, but no other course could offer the same benefits as being at Foxchase.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Todd Hutchinson reported that they were unable to secure a date with Ryan Pennington for 2024. They have since signed an agreement with Rick Lasky to be this year's presenter – "Command Operations at Structure Fires". The class will be Saturday, March 9th at the Training Center. Please register as soon as possible; the class is limited to 100 attendees. The class will be free for those attending as it is being sponsored by the Chiefs Association. Chief Hutchinson also asked for ideas for speakers for 2025.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that they have finalized a new training program on the P25 radio system that will be presented soon. The committee continues to work with LCWC on topics that need addressed. The committee recently had a request for a radio call sign for a drone. The committee feels that a call sign is not necessary for this piece of equipment.

Standards Committee – Josh Pfeiffer reported that there hasn't been much action lately from the committee. The committee would like feedback from the fire chiefs on topics that need addressed. They plan to look at the staffing / training standard again. They have also been asked to consider call sign ideas for rescue-pumpers. Their goal is to also finish the pre-arrival instructions for rural incidents.

Sustainment Committee – Nick Good advised that the Lancaster County Commissioners signed the real estate tax credit into ordinance in November. It is a \$150 tax credit for those who have paid county property taxes. The requirements to be eligible are very simple. More information will be sent out soon, including the steps involved and deadlines. The County Commissioners budgeted \$250,000 in 2024, to be paid based upon 2023 activity levels.

Scott Ryno shared information about the property tax credit that Columbia Borough School District has approved. He stated that their tax credit program mirrors that of the municipal tax credit. The school board was very supportive of the tax credit, and he shared that very active volunteers from Cbfd could earn between \$2,500 - \$3,000 combined from the school and municipal tax credits. He is willing to share his program and resolutions with anyone who would like more information about it. Scott can be reached at chief@cbfd80.com.

Unfinished Business – Secretary Ober reported the recruitment ad at Park City has yielded nine names so far and those have been passed onto the fire chiefs nearest to the applicants.

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President Little spoke again about the United Diagnostic Services health screenings for firefighters. It would cost about \$400 per firefighter, and he asked if this were something the fire chiefs would like to pursue? There was some discussion on the topic, including Scott Ryno suggesting that that we consider a countywide SAFER grant for this.

New Business – Bill Hall requested assistance from the Chiefs Assn. to purchase ten rescue technician helmets for the CTC program. He presented a price of \$141.59 for Bullard A1 SAR helmets. Darryl Keiser made a motion to sponsor the cost of 10 helmets, seconded by Josh Pfeiffer and approved. Bill also shared that the CTC program has 53 students this year, including four who have joined their local fire company since the start of the school year.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Harrison read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$\$13,961.18 and the Money Market has a balance of \$98,824.51, for a total of \$112,785.69. Recent payments since the September meeting include \$1,250 to the Training Center Foundation for the Phil Colvin paver stone, and \$632.50 for food for September meeting. Income included \$25 in dues payment and a \$2,500 donation to be used for fire safety needs. Bill Hall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Darryl Keiser and approved.

Open Discussion – Todd Kirkpatrick advised that Phil Colvin's original paver stone had a design that was off-center, and it has since been remade at no additional cost.

Erik Lofgren asked about the status of incident reporting software. The State Fire Commissioner's Office has reported that vendors are currently submitting proposals and they are working through the procurement process. Todd Hutchinson reported that ESO will support Emergency Reporting through 2024.

President Little thanked everyone for their engagement at the September meeting with countywide elected officials and encouraged everyone to keep the dialogue open with their elected officials.

Good of the Order – Josh Pfeiffer spoke about the importance of Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) training, so that we keep our responders safe while operating on highways. More information can be found at www.respondersafety.com.

Penryn Fire Chief Shannon Martin thanked the fire companies involved and LEMA for their assistance at the days-long incident at A&M Composting in Penn Township.

Roll Call – Roll call showed 47 in attendance with (18) Fire Chiefs, (4) Deputy Chiefs, (7) Assistant Chiefs, (10) Past Chiefs and (8) Guests, representing 26 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
December 27, 2023