

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Second Vice-President Dean Gantz Jr. called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on June 9, 2021, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests – Ryan Ellis from Compleat Restoration was present to announce the recipients of this year’s scholarship program. Michael Zalewski, who was present, is a Conestoga Valley graduate, attending Point Park University, studying Applied Computer Science. Michael’s father is a volunteer with Upper Leacock Fire Company and a career firefighter with Lancaster City. The second recipient is Matthew Smedley, a graduate of Elizabethtown Area High School. Matthew is a firefighter with Rheems Fire Company and will attend Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences. Compleat Restorations gave each student \$500 for receiving the scholarship.

Secretary Duane Ober also announced the recipients of the two Lancaster County Career and Technology Center Protective Services awards. Jarrett Welk, son of Quarryville Fire Chief Jeremy Welk, received the Outstanding Student Award. David Stoner, son of Bainbridge Fire Chief David Stoner, earned the Award of Merit. Both awards were sponsored by our Association and both students received a plaque and a \$500 check.

Previous Meeting Minutes – The March 2021 Minutes were distributed via email; no corrections or additions were needed. Motion by Tim Hoerner to approve the Minutes as written; seconded by Mason Brandt and approved.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober reported that only two fire companies have not paid their dues yet.

Law / Legislative – Ernie Rojahn spoke about the ballot referendum that passed during this year’s primary. The Volunteer Loan Assistance Program now allows all fire departments and EMS agencies to borrow money from the program, not just volunteer fire departments.

Ernie also explained that the State is requiring more community colleges and state universities to provide firefighter training curriculum, similar to programs that we receive from Bucks CC and HACC.

Todd Leiss continues to spread his message about Traffic Incident Management Systems and the newly adopted Move Over Law.

The annual Pump Primers event in Harrisburg will take place on Saturday, July 10th.

Fire Marshal – No report.

LCWC / Communications – Jeff Garner reference the email that everyone received recently from Matt Shenk about requesting talk groups for special events or for training use. The forms can be found on LCWC’s website.

At the end of May, the radio system was upgraded to its latest version, all behind-the-scenes features.

Jeff asked Fire Chiefs to report instances when the entire company did not receive text pages so that it can be investigated. A recent issue was that there was no text information sent from the CAD to Everbridge or the Alpha-Numeric paging systems. LCWC’s CAD vendor is aware of the problem and is investigating it. If a member or just a few members do not receive the texts, but others do, it is most likely a cell carrier issue, not

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an Everbridge issue. He reminded everyone to continue to use the forms found on the website to report paging or radio system issues.

There are some P25 radio manufacturers that are promoting LTE capabilities. The issue is that the LTE function on these radios is proprietary to the manufacturer's specific radio system and have not been accepted on Lancaster County's P25 system. Please contact Matt Shenk if you have any questions.

Ann Weller reviewed the new protocols for fire call-taking and dispatching. Their staff is training on the new system during the two days that follow this meeting. It is part of a state requirement to have consistent dispatching protocols statewide. LCWC hopes to go live by December 2021, with more information to be shared at our September and December meetings.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Phil Colvin spoke about the local vaccination sites are slowing down. The vaccines will also be available at pharmacies and doctor offices. Any fire companies in need of PPE can fill out the online form on LEMA's website. He also shared that they are still not certain how the stimulus money that the county has received can be spent. Each municipality is receiving money as well.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick reminded everyone about the Training Center Foundation training that will be held in December. Eric Bachman just recently sent an email with registration information for the class. Todd stated that the Memorial Stones final drawings are completed, thanks for Eric Bachman for all of his research on the project. The project continues to move forward.

Ken Weber advised that some of the local law enforcement agencies are offering voluntary rig checks, to help with weighing of fire apparatus. More information will be provided later.

Ken also spoke about some recent Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 certifications that have include skills not being taught in the class. It is being researched, but Ken does not have control over it. If any Chief has questions about the curriculum or testing, please contact Ken by phone or email.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Ernie reported that the annual Convention Memorial Service and Awards program was held this past weekend. Fire companies wishing to use the Pequea Lane training site should register through their website at www.lcfa.org. The instructors used at Pequea Lane will be through Bucks Community College and will follow Bucks CC policies.

Standards Committee – Brett Fassnacht reviewed the document on Pre-Arrival Instructions. The goal of the committee is to create guidelines for those who want to use them. They are recommending that fire companies use the template that was emailed recently. After discussion, it was recommended that fire companies review the template and offer final feedback to the committee. Many in the audience spoke in favor of creating a countywide Standard of this template.

Golf Committee – Kurt Gehman reported that spots are filling up quickly for the July 16th tournament at Foxchase. So far, 232 golfers are committed to the tournament. The split between morning and afternoon flights are about equal, allowing the tournament to bring in more foursomes than we have ever had in the past. Along with our longtime sponsors, Kurt stated that we have added 10 new sponsors at the Captain and Deputy Chief levels. Registration will end shortly – please register as soon as possible if you want to play.

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EAST Committee – No Report.

Radio Advisory Committee – Chief Gantz discussed the topic of removing EMS units on initial dispatch of gas leaks. The survey provided since the March meeting had 40 companies responding, with 25 in favor of removing EMS and 15 opposed to it. The decision to remove or not remove EMS units will be done county-wide, not by agency. LCWC advised that if the decision to remove EMS is approved, that if the caller reports illness or a patient for any reason, then EMS will still be dispatched.

The other incidents listed in the previous survey were very balanced in the results, so the committee is only looking to decide on EMS units being dispatched to gas leaks. Action will be taken under New Business.

Training – Assistant Chief Dave King was not present but advised that the committee is looking for suggestions for a late 2021 or early 2022 training day. Please contact him at davidk@gsfr39.net.

Readiness – No report.

Sustainment – Mason Brandt spoke about a tax credit program for volunteers and referred to one that was offered in Cambria Heights, as a combined income tax and school tax credit. His committee is investigating property tax relief and feel that asking 16 school districts to support the tax credit can be better accomplished than asking 60+ municipalities to do the same. They plan to have a meeting with all school district superintendents soon to explain the program. They are seeking an estimated \$250 tax credit per volunteer.

Unfinished Business – Ken Weber explained that the new Fit-testing equipment has been used by three fire companies and during the Essentials Mod 3 programs being taught at the Training Center. All fire companies are encouraged to use the equipment, which is available by request.

New Business – The topic of removing EMS units from reported gas leaks was discussed again. Mason Brandt made a motion to conduct a new survey, clearing explaining that the results of this survey will be the final decision on to keep EMS units on the initial dispatch for Gas Leaks. Upon conclusion of the survey and once results are tallied, LCWC will be notified of the results and the appropriate action will take place immediately. Phil Colvin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Duane Ober read the Treasurer's Report for Rick Harrison – the current balance in the Checking Account is \$39,227.75. Transactions since the March meeting include expenses for CTC awards, gifts for dispatchers, PFESI donation, food for March Chiefs meeting, and fee to update the Chiefs Assn. registration under the Charitable Organizations, for a total of \$3,222.81. Income since the last meeting, for a total of \$26,925.00, included golf tournament income and dues income. Total funds available in the Money Market account is \$83,803.18, for a total balance on hand of \$123,030.93. Bill Hall made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Bryan Duquin and approved.

Open Discussion – None

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Good of the Order – None

Roll Call – Roll call showed (46) in attendance with (21) Fire Chiefs, (6) Deputy Chiefs, (8) Assistant Chiefs, (6) Past Chiefs and (5) Guests, representing 26 fire companies.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2021, beginning at 19:00, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
June 15, 2021