

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**June 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on June 14, 2023.

**Guests** – Alyssa and Antonio from Paul Davis Restoration were present to speak about their upcoming Chili Cook-off on July 29<sup>th</sup> at Noon. There will also be other events taking place that day, all held at their facility at 1816 Olde Homestead Lane, in the Greenfield Industrial Park. More information can be found on the Paul Davis of Central PA Facebook page.

Mike Thompson, with his wife Kathy in the audience, thanked the firefighters who were present at their house fire on Memorial Day on Snyder Road in Manheim Township. He gave an emotional speech about the firefighters' efforts and the impact it had on his family. In a show of appreciation, his family is donating \$2,500 to the Chiefs Association to be used towards countywide fire safety initiatives.

Greg Zelt and Rick Buch presented the winners of this year's Compleat Restoration Scholarships. Sarah Hamm, a graduate from Donegal High School, is the daughter of Chief Brett Hamm and will be attending Millersville University. Elizabeth Hubbs, a graduate from Penn Manor High School, and a firefighter at Conestoga Fire Company will be attending HACC. Both students received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Last, Margie Gantz presented the two students who received the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center Protective Services program awards from the Chiefs Association. Landon Lehman received the Outstanding Student award and Lana Stum received the Award of Merit. Both students received a certificate plaque at the CTC awards ceremony and a \$500 check from the Chiefs Association.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – Ben Herskowitz made a motion to accept the March 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Darryl Keiser and approved.

**Secretary Report** – The Secretary reported that there are still ten fire companies who have not paid their dues yet: Haz Mat, Strasburg, Marietta, Reamstown, Schoeneck, Lampeter, Refton, Rheems, Maytown, and Robert Fulton.

**Law / Legislative** – President Little stated that there are 33 bills being drafted / proposed in the State House and Senate. He highlighted House Bill 182, a grant for firefighters who obtain Firefighter 2 certification that will fund the purchase of new turnout gear every 5 years. House Bill 187 provides for funding for firefighter physical examinations based on NFPA standards. Senator Cappelletti is working on a proposal for a training standard for all firefighters in Pennsylvania.

**PSP Fire Marshal** – PSP Fire Marshal Corporal Ryan Gehman is now the unit supervisor at the Lancaster barracks.

**LCWC / Communications** – Matt Shenk reported that LCWC is no longer dispatching the Fire Police Task Force since they are no longer affiliated with the Lancaster County Fire Police Association and due to very low call volume over the past decade. Matt encouraged all Fire Chiefs to update their resources with fire police companies and Traffic units so that in the event of a larger need, the Incident Commander can just request a specific number of resources to help with traffic control.

Next, Matt reported on the new WebCAD map that is currently being tested by EMS and police departments. The maps will be able to provide aerial views, water sources, hydrants, and floor plans can be submitted to be included at specific locations. The map will be updated with the newest streets, addresses, hydrants, etc. every Thursday.

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Matt reviewed the new LCWC policy in which a boater in need, but not in danger, will not be dispatched as a water rescue. The Fire Chief will be notified so that a decision can be made if he feels the fire company can help, or if other resources should be notified. This does not refer to emergency water rescues, rather just the public service / misc. assistance calls from waterways that are made to LCWC.

Lastly, Matt reminded everyone about the WebCAD warning that is displayed when a person logs into it. LCWC will prosecute for illegal use of the information contained in the WebCAD.

**Lancaster County Department of Public Safety** – Todd Kirkpatrick spoke about the current burn ban that the department and a few fire chiefs helped to provide input to the County Commissioners to put into place. The Commissioners have also requested air quality alerts be relayed during levels of concern. The department is considering creating an Everbridge text group that would be used to collect immediate responses on timely topics, such as this.

They have been meeting with the countywide specialty teams recently, including the search and rescue teams, water rescue teams, wildland firefighting teams, and foam task force.

The Training Center Foundation just recently received a \$500,000 grant from Senator Aument's Office for improvements to the firing range and firefighting props. The Foundation also just received two memorial stones for recently passed dispatchers. The memorial stones in front of the Training Center have been corrected and the brickwork and lighting were recently improved as well.

The new fire engine purchased by the LCFA will arrive soon.

Lastly, Todd spoke about Maryland banning the use of OSB in flashover props; there has been no word yet from PA on their stance.

Ken Weber shared that the Foundation just recently completed its first EMT class, while also completing an EMR class prior. He shared that the previous survey about EMS training showed the preference for a blended program, specifically an EMR class.

Ken reminded everyone about the instructor shortage, specifically with the high demand for classes in our county. He's encouraging all chiefs who might know anyone interested in becoming an instructor to reach out to him and he will facilitate the process for them.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Randy Gockley thanked everyone who sent members to help at Fire Expo this year. Attendance this year was 9,500, which is an increase from 2022. There were 254 exhibitors, including 192 returnees and 62 new vendors.

On June 3, the annual LCFA Convention and Memorial Service was held. He shared that the LCFA has a value of \$17,286,391, with nearly \$12 million on hand and \$5.5 million in properties.

The new Pierce fire engine for the training center cost \$580,000 and will be used by Glick Fire Equipment as a demonstrator unit until returning to the training center in September.

The LCFA provides financial support to any fire company who is hosting a firefighter cadet program or camps for the youth.

A survey soliciting input on the PA Fireman was recently promoted. They hope to provide a survey soon looking for suggestions and input about the Pequea Lane training facility.

The next LCFA meeting is Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The LCFA is again a Founders Club sponsor to the Chiefs Assn. golf tournament this year for \$2,500.

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Lastly, Randy spoke of the reason that the LCFA denied a request from the Chiefs Association to partner with a recruitment ad at the Park City mall.

**EAST Committee** – The Secretary provided a report on behalf of the committee. The committee assisted with equipment for funerals for Rheems and Conestoga fire companies. Two flags have been ordered but have not arrived yet.

**Golf Tournament** – The Secretary gave a report for Chairman Kurt Gehman. The tournament will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup> at Foxchase Golf Course and is already sold out. This year's major sponsors include Commissioner's Club: SERVPRO; Founders Club: LCFA, Provident Insurance, and Compleat Restorations; Chiefs Club: 10-8 Emergency Vehicle Service, K&C Communication/Motorola, and Glick Fire Equipment; Deputy Club: Restoration Relief, John Sly Grant Writing Services, VFIS, Belfor Property Restoration, Hursh Painting, and Fire Line Equipment; 8 Captain Club sponsors; and the lunch sponsor will be Frontline First. If registered, please send in the names for your foursome as soon as you can. Extra help from the association members will be needed on the day of the tournament.

**Leadership Development (Training) Committee** – No report.

**Radio Advisory Committee** – Dean Gantz Jr. gave an update on the survey to remove the second dispatch. The Alpha and text pages will still be made, just no tone and voice alerts. Of the survey, 26 out of 40 respondents did not want the second dispatch eliminated, while 14 voted in favor. Discussion on this topic will continue.

A request to include the caller's name and a contact number to be included in the notes field of a controlled burn notification has been submitted to LCWC for consideration.

Chief Gantz thanked everyone for their efforts to support the radio policy changes, including the use of the WebCAD, reduced radio usage, etc.

**Standards Committee** – Craig Rhineer Jr. and Stefan Kuenzli resigned as Co-Chairmen of the committee; Josh Pfeiffer, Chief 33, is the new Chairman of the committee. Chief Pfeiffer encouraged anyone who is interested in joining the committee to reach out to him. His email is pfeiffer1274@gmail.com. He spoke about the efforts to create a rural predetermined arrival instructions standard, and that the committee will continue to provide apparatus reviews prior to units going into service.

**Sustainment Committee** – Members of the committee and the Executive Board will be meeting with the County Commissioners on Friday to discuss tax credits for volunteer firefighters.

**Unfinished Business** – President Little gave an update on the State Fire Commissioner's NFIRS changes. With the change at the United States Fire Administration, Pennsylvania has decided to wait to make any changes. Emergency Reporting will continue to be the supported incident reporting software.

Fifty \$25 gift cards were purchased and provided to LCWC for National Telecommunicators Week in April.

**New Business** – Secretary Ober brought up for discussion an idea for the Chiefs Assn. to sponsor a recruitment ad on a kiosk at the Park City Mall for one year. The cost is approximately \$5,200 for the advertisement. A QR code will be included in the ad, directing potential applicants to the Chiefs Association website to complete a form that will

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---

be sent to the nearest fire company. The LCFA was asked if they would like to financially partner on this project and they voted against it. Ben Herskowitz made a motion for the Chiefs Association to sponsor a recruitment ad for a year at the Park City mall, seconded by Darryl Keiser, and approved. Secretary Ober will lead the project.

The Training Committee has not yet confirmed the speaker but asked for the ability to spend up to \$7,500 for a full-day class by a national speaker and lunch. Mike Smith made a motion to permit the committee to do so, seconded by Darryl Keiser, and approved.

Ken Weber asked for the Association to fund the \$410 cost to buy an upgrade to the fit-test equipment for the new Scott SCBA mask. Dean Gantz Jr. made a motion to support the purchase, seconded by Josh Pfeiffer, and it was approved.

Todd Kirkpatrick unveiled an engraved stone for the Memorial Garden to present to Phil Colvin in honor of his 30 years of service in the Lancaster County Emergency Management Office. The Chiefs Association and the Training Center Foundation shared the cost of the stone.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Secretary read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$39,795.30 and the Money Market has a balance of \$83,819.90, for a total of \$123,615.20. Recent payments since March include \$780 to the Training Center for the March meeting food, \$502 to White Oak Printing for stationery, and \$1,250 in cash withdrawal for the dispatcher gift cards. Income included \$770 in membership dues, \$23,750 in golf tournament deposits, and \$96.68 from Amazon Smile. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

**Open Discussion** – No additional feedback was given for the meeting with the County Commissioners about tax credits for the volunteers firefighters. Secretary Ober reviewed the intention of the September Chiefs Association with State Representatives, State Senators, and County Commissioners being invited. The Executive Board identified topics such as tax credits for volunteers, Relief Association reform, Workers Compensation reform, while comments including capital projects at the Training Center and issues with certifying more state fire instructors were provided by the audience.

**Good of the Order** – Ken Weber recommended that the agenda be adjusted to include the Treasurer's Report near the start of the meeting so that the financial status of the Association is known prior to any new business discussion.

**Roll Call** – Roll call showed (56) in attendance with (25) Fire Chiefs, (8) Deputy Chiefs, (6) Assistant Chiefs, (7) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 32 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
March 11, 2023