

Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2026

President Mason Brandt called the meeting to order at 1902 hours.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed in memory of Past Chief Wesley Hicks (Refton Fire Company) and Wayne Nau (Columbia Borough Fire Department).

Guest Presentations

Peter Sorgel, Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, presented information regarding classes offered through the PSFA Alternative Energy Division. An information packet was distributed to attendees (attached).

Kimberly Herskowitz and Margie Gantz presented the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center awards. The Award of Merit was presented to Eric Patterson and the Outstanding Firefighter Award was presented to David Sandul, both members of Station 21.

Frank Lucarino (Station 57) and Kaylee Ober (Station 26/WESC) were awarded the annual \$1,000 Complete Restorations Scholarship.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Todd Kirkpatrick, seconded by Rick Harrison, to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Harrison reported the following balances:

- Checking Account: \$35,036.68
- Money Market Account: \$93,848.14
- Total Assets: \$128,884.82

Expenditures since the last meeting:

- Website: \$27.50
- LCPSTC: \$1,282.00
- Telecommunicator Week Gift Cards: \$1,250.00
- MPB Insurance: \$410.00

- Sign Me Up (Golf Tournament): \$272.00
- CTC Awards: \$1,000.00
- Miscellaneous: \$1,128.00

Deposits: \$26,150.68

Rick reported that the Association is transitioning its banking services from PNC Bank to Members 1st Federal Credit Union.

Committee and Agency Reports

Law & Legislative:

Mason Brandt reported several legislative initiatives are currently being discussed. Additional information will be provided as those initiatives progress.

Fire Marshal:

No report.

Department of Public Safety – Emergency Communications Center (ECC):

Brett Fassnacht reported that Deputy Director Sara Sloat is retiring and the position has been posted.

The Radio Phase 2 Project remains on schedule. The year 2027 will serve as a transition period during which both Phase 1 and Phase 2 radios will coexist. A complete cutover to Phase 2 is planned for January 2028.

At the previous meeting, Chief Randy Smith (31) requested consideration for grace login attempts within WebCAD when user passwords expire. The CAD vendor was unable to provide that functionality but has implemented an email notification prior to password expiration. This will allow users to reset passwords before losing access to WebCAD during emergency responses.

Todd Kirkpatrick presented information regarding available hoist-capable helicopters in the region following two recent incidents where hoist rescue capabilities were required. Presentation attached.

Department of Public Safety – Emergency Management Agency (EMA):

Todd Kirkpatrick reported that a contract has been awarded for a countywide Hazardous Materials Study. The study is currently underway, with results expected near the holiday season.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC):

Jason Weikel (Lebanon 50) reported on behalf of the Hazardous Materials Group. Hydrocarbon spills of 55 gallons or greater require notification of the Hazardous Materials Duty Officer and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

He further advised that towing companies performing spill cleanup must be properly certified and that DEP will follow-up to ensure proper remediation.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center (LCPSTC):

Todd Kirkpatrick reported that the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center has signed a 2–3 year extension to remain at the LCPSTC. The agreement is currently under county review.

Training on the What3Words platform continues. DPS personnel remain available to provide training directly to agencies.

Chief Hershey (Station 74) requested that What3Words locations be entered into the CAD comments field rather than the location field. Brett Fassnacht will relay the request to the ECC.

The Training Center is exploring training opportunities involving CalTopo mapping systems.

The SIM-U-SHARE fire officer simulation training program remains in development. Bill Hall noted that local building inventories can be incorporated into scenarios to improve realism.

Todd reported that the previous annual record for Pro Board certifications at the Training Center was slightly more than 100. To date in 2026, 231 Pro Board certifications have been completed.

The LCPSTC has also become an Education and Training Agency (ETA) for the American Red Cross and recently received recognition as a top CPR training facility.

Todd cautioned agencies that DEP and other state agencies routinely monitor internet and social media postings for evidence of regulatory violations. Structural burn training conducted without proper permits may result in significant penalties, including criminal charges.

Radio Advisory Committee (RAC):

Dean Gantz reported that the RAC met once since the last Chiefs meeting.

Discussion centered on continued concerns regarding unnecessary Fire Police radio traffic on hailing talkgroups. Potential solutions discussed included:

- Letters to offending agencies
- Restricting radio programming to monitor-only access
- ECC personnel not acknowledging unnecessary transmissions
- Disabling radio access

The committee agreed that none of these options are preferable to improved radio discipline.

The RAC approved the removal of the CAD incident nature "Fire Alarm – On Trouble."

Additional discussion occurred regarding requests from local Emergency Management Coordinators to transmit on hailing talkgroups. Dean reported no local fire chiefs have contacted him in support of that request.

A proposal to establish a Critical Care Transport (CCT) designation was reviewed and not supported by EMS representatives on the committee. The request was denied.

Dean also reported that the ECC is developing a Signal 13 Policy and expects to forward the draft to the RAC for review.

Lancaster County Firemen's Association (LCFA):

Brian Duquin reported that the annual meeting was held the previous weekend and experienced one of the largest attendances in recent years.

Bylaw revisions are underway, and members are encouraged to review updates on the LCFA website.

The tuition reimbursement program has been expanded to include:

- Fireground Support
- Traffic Incident Management
- First Aid
- Hazardous Materials
- EVOC
- Basic Fire Police

Training must be completed through an approved ETA.

The Association is also exploring moving its annual meeting to October.

Golf Tournament:

Rick Harrison reminded attendees that the annual golf tournament will be held on July 10, 2026. Members interested in assisting should contact Kurt Gehman or Rick Harrison.

Food and beverages are included with registration. Two foursome openings remain available.

Leadership Training:

No report.

Standards Committee:

Bill Hall reported three apparatus inspections remain pending and will be completed shortly.

Sustainment Committee:

No report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Mason Brandt advised that nominations for elected Association positions will open during the September 2026 meeting.

Open Discussion:

None.

Good of the Order / Announcements:

None.

Roll Call:

Total: 50

Departments: 24

Fire Chiefs: 12

Deputy Chiefs: 9

Assistant Chiefs: 14

Battalion Chiefs: 0

Past Chiefs: 8

Guests: 7

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 1900 Hours.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Justin Barnes (Station 70) and seconded by Todd Kirkpatrick (Station 91).

The meeting adjourned at 1957 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brett Fassnacht
2nd VP, LCFCA