

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES

First Vice-President Bill Hall called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on September 13, 2017, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations – Guests for our meeting included Sue Hamberger from Middle Creek Search and Rescue (Station 94), Jeff Winters from PA Canine Search and Rescue (Station 95), and David Clark from PA Wilderness Search and Rescue (Station 96). All three reviewed their operations to the audience and explained how their teams complement each other's. The information from their presentation will be emailed to the Chiefs email group.

Previous Meeting Minutes - The Minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report - Secretary Ober reported that UGI will be presenting a program prior to our December meeting, as well as sponsoring the meal that evening. More information and details about the program will be sent to everyone closer to the December meeting.

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn reported that the final round of Recruitment and Retention grants from the State of PA Firemen's Association included awards for Blue Rock Fire Rescue and Garden Spot Fire Rescue. He also shared that there was a chance that the State 2% Loan Program was possibly going to be reduced this year in the budget, but prior to the end of the meeting, it was announced that it was not changed. A committee is being appointed to review the progress of the former SR60 program and determine what programs affecting today's fire service need to be addressed now. Ernie also spoke briefly about the 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb that took place and the 9-11 Memorial Service that was held at the Training Center. Both events will be featured in the next PA Fireman.

Fire Marshal – Secretary Ober reported that he spoke to the new PSP Fire Marshal serving Lancaster County. His name is Ryan Gehman and lives in the Manheim area. He is one of 3 current fire marshals serving Lancaster County, however, the other two reside in Chester County. There is another PSP Officer working on becoming certified as a fire marshal, bringing the total FM's to four. FM Gehman also advised that it is possible that they might take over fire investigations in York County, but it hasn't been decided yet. FM Gehman also intends to come to our Chiefs meeting in the future to introduce himself to the fire chiefs.

LCWC / Communications – Ann Weller reported that the Relm staff is testing the new radio software (Touch 2) with Manheim Borough Police, Mastersonville Fire and Northwest EMS right now. Motorola radios are being tested at Brunnerville Fire Company. They are hoping to begin in mid-October with the upgrades in the rest of the county. When they are ready, the vendors will contact the fire company directly. They are not sure how long the upgrade process will take.

Mike Weaver reported that Airbus was sold to Motorola, but it shouldn't have an impact that any of the users will notice. Mike also reported that they are experiencing a higher than normal turnover rate among their dispatchers. They have a great need to hire more, and hoping to hire more than their allotted number of positions. The reduced number of dispatchers affects the quality of service and puts a strain on the current dispatchers, due to the need to use overtime to cover shifts.

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Lancaster County Emergency Management – Randy Gockley advised that the South Central Task Force Fire Police work group would like to see additional Traffic Incident Management classes held, specifically for tow truck operators. They are also pursuing providing this as an online course.

Randy reported that a reverse 9-1-1 mass notification call was placed recently during a Search Detail in Clay Township. He pointed out that the smaller the area that needs notified, the quicker the call will be sent. This notification process is also very useful for shelter-in-place notifications. The South Central Alert system can register up to five devices, at up to 10 locations. You can register at www.sctfpa.org.

At a recent incident, Garden Spot Fire Rescue requested a grid shut-down by PPL in which they refused to do so. Randy is trying to set up a meeting with PP and Chief 39 to discuss the issue. Duane Hagelgans reported some of the issues they have encountered in Millersville with regards to utility companies and strongly recommended that the PUC is also included in that meeting. There was also discussion about the risks involved with shutting down the grid, despite the immediate need that you may be experiencing at your incident.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center - Craig Elmer reported a Spirit Ride highlighting “Slow Down, Move Over” will take place on Sept. 20th and include a stop at the Training Center around 3pm.

Todd Kirkpatrick advised that the Haz Mat Ops Refresher grant for 2018 has been approved according to Eric Bachman. Please schedule your classes through LCPSTC so it can be included in the grant.

2018 classes have been posted, including the 2018 Spring Fire Academy.

The roof simulator has been constructed and safety guidelines are being implemented. The railing on the right side is removable, to allow for aerial training. This prop was funded by the Chiefs Assn., LCFA, and the LCPSTC Foundation. When registering to use this prop, please refer to it as the “Large Roof Simulator”.

George Stapleton has left the PA State Fire Academy to take a class in South Carolina.

NIMS 300 and 400 classes are being scheduled for daytime hours.

There is an Art of Reading Buildings class on December 9th, hosted by the LCPSTC Foundation. There are still openings for the class.

The 2018 Chiefs Weekend is February 10-11-12. Chief Rick Lasky has been confirmed to be the instructor on the 11th and 12th – two identical classes, allowing for companies to send officers on both days. Friday night will be discussion on local fire service topics.

Todd also mentioned that he tries to work with local instructors for off-site classes to be held at fire stations, but the interest is low. Most instructors prefer to use the Training Center and the props that are on-site.

Lastly, Todd spoke about the rise in no-shows recently. When students don’t show up, it impacts those who could have taken the class but were denied because it was full; it could also bring the total number of students below the required number of students needed for the class; or the extra instructors might not have been needed for the class.

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Lancaster County Fireman's Association – No report.

SAFER Grant – Bill Hall reported that we have been struggling with the coordination of our invoices with FEMA's reimbursements. Duane Hagelgans will be using his students to reach out to the fire companies to help collect information.

Apparatus Reviews – No report

Standards Committee – Craig Rhineer Jr. reported that they have been slowly getting started. The current Chiefs Handbook is from the early 2000's so a lot needs to be updated. Right now, they are working to update some of the Haz Mat updates.

Golf Committee – Rick Harrison reported that the golf tournament had income of about \$34,000, with expenses of nearly \$17,000, for a profit of nearly \$17,000, which is over \$2,000 more than in 2016. VFIS was the biggest sponsor, for \$5,000 they were the only business in the Commissioner's Club. Three Founder's Club members participated again this year: LCFA, Provident Insurance and Compleat Restorations. Chiefs Club sponsors this year included 10-8 Emergency Vehicle Service, Glick Fire Equipment and Relm. Deputy Chiefs Club members included: Active 9-1-1, ServPro, The Fire Store, Belfor Restoration and Fire Line Equipment.

Rick also mentioned that the committee intends to raise the cost of the individual golfers and foursomes (not Chiefs and Deputy Club sponsors) from \$80 to \$90 next year. He also spoke of other fund-raising ideas, including one that would include the fire companies, giving them a chance to earn some of the proceeds.

EAST Committee – Jim Herr advised that he met with his committee and working on creating a checklist for the first 24 hours of a Line of Duty Death or a non-Line of Duty Death. They will be meeting again in January.

Radio Advisory Committee - The committee had its first meeting on September 6th and Mike Ross from Quarryville Fire Company was named the Chairman. They will meet the first Wednesday of every month. They are looking to gather suggestions and process ideas. Ron Oettel also spoke about the survey that he emailed to the Chiefs group, seeking additional input.

Unfinished Business – None that wasn't addressed earlier in the meeting.

New Business – None

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Rick Harrison reported the following: two bills were paid to our marketing vendor for the SAFER grant, Communication Solutions Group, for \$10,361; we are still waiting for \$18,626.25 in reimbursements from FEMA. In addition to the bills paid for the golf tournament, we also paid \$5,000 for our share of the new roof simulator at LCPSTC; and a payment of \$375 to LCPSTC for

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meeting food. Total in the checking account is \$8,062.05 and \$63,494.18 in the Money Market account, for a total of \$71,556.23 in funds.

Good of the Order – No report

Roll Call - Roll call showed (57) in attendance with (24) Fire Chiefs, (11) Deputy Chiefs, (6) Assistant Chiefs, (12) Past Chiefs and (4) Guests, representing 36 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13th at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
October 2, 2017