

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

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:05 hours on September 8, 2021.

Guests – Dale Brubaker from the Lancaster County District Attorney Office was present to give an update on Narcan use by emergency services. He manages the Narcan distribution program and reminds all agencies that if your fire department uses Narcan on a patient that was supplied by his office, you must provide data to them in a timely manner. They need to know the number of doses used, the number of individuals to whom it was administered, the number of overdose reversals, and the number of doses left behind by EMS. His contact info is brubaker@co.lancaster.pa.us or you may call his office at (717) 824-8500.

Todd Leiss from the PA Turnpike and PennTIME was present to discuss and review recent incidents of first responders being struck on our nation's highways. There is an average of two responders being struck every day, including one killed every six days. www.respondersafety.com offers free online roadway safety classes. Tim encouraged all fire companies to have their members attend a Traffic Incident Management training class, where they can learn about best practices in traffic safety. More classes can be found on the TRAIN PA website, at www.train.org/pa, or on www.penntime.org. Todd's contact email is tleiss@paturnpike.com.

Ken Weber from the LCPSTC gave an update on the decision to provide training according to the Bucks County Fire Academy, in place of the well-known Essentials Modules. Ken explained the state fire academy has updated the certification requirements, but the curriculum has not necessarily matched it. The State Fire Academy has fallen behind and does not intend to break out the training into modules moving forward. The certification for Firefighter 1 is moving into the 7th Edition Essentials manual.

Ken explained that there will be one more Essentials class broken into the four modules, which will start in the Spring of 2022. After that, the Bucks Fire Academy will be the only method offered. Students will have to be 16 years old to take the class but must be 18 to participate in the Live Burn at the conclusion of the class. If the student is not 18 by the end of the class, he/she will still receive credit for finishing the class, but it will show "without Live Fire" on the certificate. That student will need to complete a Structural Burn Session, after the age of 18, to be eligible to test for Firefighter 1.

During the class, the student will receive their hazardous materials training, CPR, and First Aid certification to test for Firefighter 1 (separate test from the Fire Academy). The actual academy is approximately 112 hours in this new format and most classes will last approximately 3 months.

Chief Wes Clark from Middle Creek Search and Rescue was present to explain the services offered by his team. They are willing to come out to fire company trainings to review their team with your members. They also offer trainings occasionally that are open to everyone. He cautioned the fire chiefs that his team is spread out over seven counties, so their full team arrival time could be delayed; which is why it is important to notify them as soon as possible.

Previous Meeting Minutes – The June 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober reported that all fire companies have paid their dues.

Law / Legislative – No report.

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Fire Marshal – No report.

LCWC / Communications – Mike Weaver reported that Jeff Garner has retired and is now working for PEMA. Matt Shenk has been promoted to Operational Manager, in charge of Technical Services.

Ann Weller reported they are still working on updating the Incident Type protocols and its interface with the CAD. She will provide more information at the December Chiefs Meeting, as the goal is to go live with it by January 1st.

Matt Shenk reported that Radio Maintenance Inc. (RMI) in Berks County is now programming Kenwood radios, not B Moyer Radio.

Brett Fassnacht shared information on the new Critical Property Information that will now be available to fire companies in WebCAD. Premise alerts can be submitted to aid responder safety, as well as general information. Information relating to hazardous materials storage, Knox Box location, SARA Title facility info, etc. can be submitted to be entered into this field. The form to submit your information is on LCWC's website, under the Agency Resources tab. As this moves forward, more features could possibly be added as well.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Phil Colvin reminded everyone that we are in significant weather time and to be prepared for such. He reported on the request from PEMA for boat resources to aid in other counties and said this could become more normal under the Pennsylvania Intrastate Mutual Aid System (PIMAS) for major incidents or events. Phil also advised that there will be a survey sent to the fire companies soon seeking information about the use of drones.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Ken Weber reported that they will be changing their phone system and might not have a fax resource in the future. He reminded everyone of the 9/11 Ceremony on Friday, September 10th at the Training Center.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – No report.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – President Little read an email from Committee Chairman Kurt Gehman thanking those who played, helped to get sponsors, and helped at the event. Adding a second flight increased the number of players to 256, however, total income was only slightly higher from the previous years' events with only one flight. The profit was right around \$17,000 this year. President Little also stated that Kurt Gehman and Rick Kane have decided to step down as the Chairmen of the committee, so we will need some other members to step up and help lead the tournament next year.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Chairman David King was not present but sent information that he is looking for members to serve on the committee and is asking for ideas for training events.

Radio Advisory Committee – Chairman Dean Gantz Jr. was not present but advised the committee is working with LCWC on the new incident type protocols. Moving forward, they will be focusing on working on a 20-minute

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checklist to aid the dispatchers' support of the incident commanders, and approved radio terminology, in joint effort with the EMS Council.

Readiness Committee – President Little reported that Chairman Rick Kane will be seeking assistance to help update the Chiefs Handbook, which was last updated in the early 2000's.

Standards Committee – Chairman Craig Rhineer Jr. presented the guidelines for standardized arrival instructions for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd arriving engines and first-arriving truck. He stated he was also asked to create a "rural" guideline that includes the use of tankers and rescues, as well as a first-arriving chief officer checklist. He said those would follow the vote on this topic. There was no additional questions or comments at the meeting on this guideline. A formal vote on this guideline will take place at the December meeting, with every fire company getting one (1) vote. Letters will be sent to each company prior to the meeting about the vote.

Craig also shared that they will be working to update some of the standards, specifically the Rescue standard, since battery-powered rescue tools are becoming more common.

Another topic that the committee will be tackling in the future is the standardization of the qualifications of an interior firefighter, which also leads to the reporting of staffing when responding to calls.

Sustainment Committee – Committee Member Bill Hall reported that part of the committee's role is to seek grant opportunities for the county fire companies. He shared that an idea is being discussed to consider pursuing a grant to help with disposal of unused firefighting foam and to purchase replacement foam.

Unfinished Business – Phil Colvin will be working with Secretary Ober to create a new LCFCA website.

Pulse Point is still a work in progress (creation of an app to alert for cardiac arrests, funded by a grant from LGH).

EMS units have been removed from the dispatch of gas leaks (with no patients), after a vote of 34 in favor to 16 against.

New Business – No new business was discussed.

Treasurer's Report – Duane Ober read the Treasurer's Report for Rick Harrison – the current balance in the Checking Account is \$23,114.53. Since the June meeting, a \$5,000 donation was made to the Training Center Foundation for the purchase of hose and nozzles; nearly all other expenses were related to the golf tournament, as was the income. Total funds available in the Money Market account is \$83,805.27, for a total balance on hand of \$106,919.80.

Secretary Ober also shared that income YTD is \$47,515 and expenses YTD are \$53,966.72. The Treasurer's report was approved as shared.

Open Discussion – As part of the Treasurer's report, Ken Weber also shared that the Training Center Foundation has been making a lot of improvements at the Training Center, such as improvements with the facility props and equipment. The support by the Chiefs Association has also been a great help to the Training Center.

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Good of the Order – President Little thanked those who helped with the golf tournament, encouraged attendance at the 9/11 ceremony on Friday at the Training Center, and reminded everyone of the 9/11 Stair Climb fund raiser at Clipper Magazine Stadium on Sunday.

Roll Call – Roll call showed (32) in attendance with (14) Fire Chiefs, (3) Deputy Chiefs, (3) Assistant Chiefs, (5) Past Chiefs and (7) Guests, representing 18 fire companies.

The next meeting will be December 8, 2021, beginning at 19:00, 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.
September 12, 2021