

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.

DECEMBER 10, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

President Mason Brandt called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on December 10, 2025. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence held in memory of departed chief officers, Jamie Hirschberger and Eugene Rodgers, of the Lancaster County fire service.

Guests – Todd Kirkpatrick gave a presentation about the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center Foundation, which was organized in 2005 as a joint venture between the LCFA and the County of Lancaster. Since 2005, the Foundation has been the recipient of donations that supported the Training Center, both physically and financially. The LCFA donated the first Pierce fire engine to the Foundation in 2005. The Foundation has also been the host agency for the LODD Memorial with donations from brick sales and the LCFA. Since 2019, the Foundation has been the educational training agency for the PA State Fire Academy and the PA Dept. of Health to provide certified fire and EMS classes, as well as the employer who provides the instructors, evaluators, and support staff for the training programs. It has continued to provide financial support for equipment purchases and service needs to the Training Center. The Board has 13 members, serving a current term from January 2025 – January 2028. Currently, the Foundation employs 72 part-time personnel as fire and industrial instructors, certification evaluators, EMS/CPR instructors, facilitators, burn technicians, and pump operators.

The next guest was Erin Kauffman from the Lancaster County Department of Public Safety, who spoke about the program “what3words” – three words that are used to locate a person in need. “what3words” is a free app that responders can download that allows them to see the real time location of 911 calls for where the help is needed. It also provides navigation to the location. If callers are unable to provide their location to the 911 operator, a link can be sent to their phone to obtain their unique what3words identifier for responders to locate them.

The final guest was Captain Steve Smith of the West Willow Fire Company who gave a presentation on their drone capabilities (UAS 60). Their drone has thermal and visual intelligence, all-weather reliability, fast deployment, extended operational capabilities, advanced mission tools, mapping and documentation, operational safety, live streaming and real-time command, and payload delivery capabilities, such as being able to drop PFD's, radios or phones, rope lines, and first aid supplies. UAS 60 can be requested through LCECC and a qualified team of drone pilots will respond to assist.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Jamie Weir made a motion to accept the September 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Bryan Duquin Jr., and approved.

President's Comments – President Brandt reported that he and Secretary Ober will be meeting with the three Lancaster County commissioners on December 15th as an opportunity to maintain open communication with them for long-term relationship building. He also mentioned that our First Vice-President, Darryl Keiser, has offered his resignation from the position. President Brandt informed everyone that our Bylaws state that the Second Vice-President automatically moves to First Vice-President, so an election for the open Second Vice-President position will take place under New Business.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober reported that the 2026 meeting dates are: March 11, June 10, September 9, and December 9th. All meetings begin at 7pm. He also shared that LCFCA Challenge Coins were purchased for membership and are available from him. Lastly, he informed the membership that our email system is having issues with delivering emails to anyone with a ptd.net, dejazzd.com, or windstream.net email addresses. Members with these email addresses are encouraged to switch to an email with a different domain name (Gmail, Yahoo., etc.). If

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anyone would like information shared to the Chiefs email group, please send your email directly to chiefs@lancofirechiefs.org, then Secretary Ober or Phil Colvin can pass it through.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Rick Harrison provided the following report: payments since the September meeting: \$1,200 was paid to Lancaster County PSTC Foundation for bricks; \$1,015.39 to Mission BBQ for food at the December meeting; \$960.39 to Mission BBQ for food at the September meeting; \$1,820 to Incite CPAs for filing; \$1,275 for the Challenge Coins; and \$500 for an ad at the PA Career Chiefs conference in 2026. Income included \$50 in dues. Balance in the checking account is \$16,218.92 and \$93,843.46 in the Money Market account, for a total of \$110,062.38. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Law / Legislative – Ken Weber reported that Senate Bill 951 ([PN1072](#)) has been proposed and is currently in the Education Committee. The bill proposes that a portion of the department of education funding be specifically categorized to support fire and EMS training in PA, but the bill specifically indicates that only community colleges would be eligible for the funding. He encouraged everyone to send a letter supporting the bill to the State Senators, to ask that the funding be made available to all Educational Training Agencies (ETA's) approved by the State Fire Academy. Without that change in the language, county training centers, like LCPSTC, would not be eligible for any of the funding.

PSP Fire Marshal – No Report.

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY -

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) – Brad Shenk reported that the switch to P25 Phase 2 is set to start in January 2027, with the system operating in parallel with Phase 1 until a complete conversion occurs in 2028.

Brett Fassnacht stated that Sara was unable to attend but reported that there is no CAD update at this time.

Brett then reviewed the Unit ID's in Lancaster County compared to the South-Central Task Force region. Some of the other counties will use our standards in designing theirs.

He reviewed the use of Regroup, a mass notification system that is a backup to the Everbridge system they have been using. Regroup is being built out to include more response agencies. Brett asked everyone to check their junk or spam emails and to add Regroup to their "safe sender" list.

Lastly, Brett spoke about the new policy that requires the municipality to sign off on box alarm changes. He stated that there is an option to delegate that authority to a person for up to one calendar year or a personnel change.

Emergency Management (EMA) – No report.

Training Center – Ken Weber reported that two instructors have been hired – Bill Hall and Sam Kochel. These two will be able to keep classes running. Even if classes don't meet the minimum enrollment, classes can still be held.

The new fire academy will have courses that will be required to be completed during the academy to test for Pro Board. TIMS and Haz Mat Awareness certifications will be part of the class at LCPSTC. Fireground Support will be 48 hours and will include a Pro Board certification test at completion, which will be required to continue to Firefighter 1 certification.

With the addition of the two internal instructors, the class schedules will try to avoid Sundays. This does not mean that classes will never be on Sundays, but they will try to at least offer the entry level classes without Sundays. Ken asked the Chiefs to complete an online survey to let them know what they preferred for the Fall of 2026. They

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could either offer another Fire Ground Support and Firefighter 1 (already have two on the schedule) or they could offer a Firefighter 2 course and certification. They will not be able to offer both.

There is a Haz Mat Awareness Pro Board test on December 22nd. This is the last test date being offered before the vehicle rescue class begins, which requires this certification.

An Education Methodology course is being offered as a daytime class (2 days per week for 4 hours each), and an evening / weekend class.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Bryan Duquin reported that the LCFA has approved \$100,000 budget to reimbursement member fire companies who members complete entry-level firefighter training and / or EMR/EMT. The member taking the class must also be a member of the LCFA, so fire companies are urged to recommend their members to join the LCFA. Applications for individual memberships can be found at www.lcfa.com/membership/application-renewal/.

Lancaster County Fire Police Association – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee – In addition to the updates shared by the ECC team, Mike Smith reported that they received correspondence from Blue Rock Fire Rescue about a better system of using Ops channels. The committee will be discussing it. President Brandt announced that Past Chief Troy Wenger resigned from the committee and has been replaced by Assistant Chief Chris Slaymaker from Gap Fire Company. The first meeting of the RAC in 2026 will be in January.

Standards Committee – Josh Pfeiffer reported that there will be an open comment period soon on changes to the Rescue standard. Information will be sent out prior to the next meeting.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – No report.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Jason Topper advised that the training will be held on Saturday, February 7th at the Training Center. Matt Tobia and Tim McKay will both present four-hour topics. Total cost for the class will be \$3,300, which includes the meal and a \$500 donation to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. A vote to pay the costs of the class will be brought up under New Business.

Pequea Lane Working Group – The group, led by Ken Barton and Justin Brian, put out a survey last month, asking for input from the membership about several topics relating to the Pequea Lane Training Center. Forty-four members answered the survey and provided responses. President Brandt read some of the responses, and commented that 72% of those responding support transferring the ownership of the property to the County of Lancaster for \$1, with a clause in the contract that the property would be returned to the LCFA if it is no longer used for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement training. President Brandt directed Bryan Duquin to notify the LCFA that they have the support of the Chiefs Association to proceed.

Unfinished Business – None

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New Business – Bill Hall nominated Brett Fassnacht from Lafayette Fire Company to fill the vacant role of the Second Vice-President. With no other nominations, President Brandt directed the Secretary to cast the vote and Brett was elected. With Brett filling the Second Vice-President role, his position as a Director was vacated. Brett nominated Brandon Brubaker of Martindale Fire Company to fill the vacant Director role. With no other nominations, President Brandt directed the Secretary to cast the vote and Brandon was elected.

Jason Topper made a motion for the Chiefs Association to cover the costs (instructors, donation to NFFF, and food) of the Chiefs Training Day on February 7, 2026, for approximately \$3,300. Bryan Duquin seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Open Discussion – No discussions.

Good of the Order – Secretary Ober stated that the Beards for Brothers fundraiser will take place on Saturday, December 13th at the Olde Village Mill in Strasburg, from 3-9pm.

Roll Call – Roll call showed 61 in attendance with (20) Fire Chiefs, (10) Deputy Chiefs, (12) Assistant Chiefs, (16) Past Chiefs and (3) Guests, representing 35 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, Mike Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brett Hamm. The meeting was adjourned at 20:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
December 22, 2025