

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**JUNE 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Scott Ryno called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on June 10, 2015, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Guests / Presentations**

The first guest for the evening was Ryan Ellis from Compleat Restorations. He recognized the five recipients of the 2015 Compleat/Chiefs Assn. Scholarship Program. This year's recipients were Laura Gribble, Hannah Tennis, Tyler Lehman, Amanda Gossert and Leah Sheaffer. This is the fifth year that Compleat has sponsored this program with us.

The second guest for the evening was Dr. Skip George from America's 9-11 Foundation. He spoke about the 5K run / walk and 1 mile fun run / walk that was held at the Worship Center on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. He presented a check for \$825 to the Training Center out of the profits from the race.

The final guest was Bill Hall, lead instructor for the CTC Protective Services Program. He announced the recipients of the 2015 CTC Awards. Receiving the Outstanding Student was Jeffrey Stewart Jr. from Garden Spot High School and a member at Fivepointville Fire Company. Alexander Connelley from Hempfield High School and a member at Rohrerstown Fire Company received the Award of Merit. Both of these awards were voted upon by the students in the class. Bill also announced that the 2015-2016 Protective Services class is full at 60 students.

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

**Secretary Report**

Total membership for the 2015-2016 membership period is currently over 270 members, which includes 69 fire companies. The remaining companies are reminded to renew their dues membership.

**Law / Legislative**

Ernie Rojahn reported that Governor Wolf has waived the fees for the background checks for firefighters. He also spoke about the Commissioner's Office decision to switch to Emergency Reporting from Firehouse for incident reporting. He also spoke again about the efforts being made to increase the Relief funding state-wide.

**Fire Marshal**

No report; none present.

**LCWC / Communications**

Mike Weaver reported that the new radio system for the fire service has been live since May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mike shared that some issues have occurred and as they are reported, his team is checking into them and recreating them when and if possible to solve the problem.

Keith Eshelman then provided more information on the new radio system. He stated that the simulcast of the Dispatch channels to 33:64, 33:56 and 33:72 is fully operational. He asked for feedback from the county's border fire companies who use the radio patches when they run into neighboring counties. He stated that LCWC will make an announcement to Command when the Mayday button is activated and advise by whom and on which channel it was activated. LCWC is working on creating a

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policy to announce to the fire companies in case the system goes down. The private channel for each fire company only has a range in your region; it's possible you might get a little farther, but don't rely on it. LCWC will announce the working Ops channel upon the dispatch on 33:90. Keith acknowledged that there still is some radio interference on the new system and that they are working on eliminating it (it's from a TV station in the Washington DC area that affects the northeast part of our county). Keith asked everyone to advise him or Ron if you encounter any problems. They are starting a list of changes that need to be made or discussed. Priority scanning is still being worked on. AVL and mobile status is being developed.

A question was raised why the announcing of units is not being done on the Dispatch Channel. Rick shared that it is so the text paging can go out quicker. There was a lot of discussion on this topic and an informal poll by Keith showed that the majority of members in the room want the announcement of the units on the Dispatch channel.

A question was asked if a fire company can get the public safety channel of a neighboring municipality programmed in their radio. Any company that wants this to happen should write a letter to LCWC requesting it.

Fire companies do not need prior permission to use one of the countywide Training channels; just monitor the channel to make sure no one is using it first.

There was a lot of discussion on the desire to have alpha display on the portable radios for the unit ID number, not a 7-digit, numerical display. Keith said this will get discussed again.

Alpha Paging – Mike said Unication is working on developing a P25 pager. He also said there is a vendor that is working to have an alpha-numeric pager that will convert the text to voice. A question was asked if the conversion to high-band voice paging can be started now. Mike said it is too costly to consider that right now. He encouraged everyone to consider alpha paging.

Lastly, Rick reminded everyone of the forms on their website to report any P25 issues and to request a Special Events channel.

### **Lancaster County Emergency Management**

Randy Gockley reported that thanks to Eric Bachman efforts, Randy and Scott Martin were able to testify before the State Government about our County's preparedness for crude oil transportation. DEP hired a consultant to research how much booming material would be needed to spread across the Susquehanna from the Lancaster County side to the York County side.

Randy pointed out about the need to be prepared for possible bird flu outbreak in the county and decon procedures. He also advised everyone of a Tornado Awareness class being held at LCPSTC on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Eric Bachman reported that from the survey he sent out about the Haz Mat training and grant program, that there is interest in Haz Mat Pro Board certification in the county. Unfortunately, only 35 fire companies replied to the survey.

Eric advised everyone that Dave Dodsen has been scheduled for next year's Chiefs training, teaching the "Art of Reading Smoke." There will also be additional classes on Sunday and Monday. More information on this will be known later.

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**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center**

Dave Gribble reported that he needs plenty of time to schedule certification testing; at least thirty days of notice. Current classes are filling up quickly. Dave will update the website twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association**

Jere Buchter reported that the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the LCFA Headquarters. No fire company offered to host the parade this year. The Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony was on Saturday, as was the Convention meeting. Jere also reminded everyone that they can go online to reserve the fire school on Pequea Lane for training.

**South Central Terrorism Task Force**

No Report

**Apparatus Reviews**

Eric Bachman reported that Traffic 23 and Engine 66-1 were reviewed.

**Standards Committee**

No Report

**Golf Committee**

The 2015 golf tournament will be held on July 24 at the Foxchase Golf Course. The tournament is full already.

**EAST Committee**

No Report.

**Unfinished Business**

Craig Rhineer Jr. received the 2015 Dispatcher of the Year Award.

**New Business**

Fire Chief Bill Hall from FDMJ shared with the members of the success they had at FDMJ during a Recruitment Day on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. They gave out 19 applications, received 14 back, accepted 12 into membership and 9 are still very involved and advancing. Bill presented an idea to do a similar recruitment day, but county-wide. This would allow a broader range of promotion and advertising that would benefit everyone. He would like to ask the Chiefs Assn. and the LCFA to help fund this project. Several chief officers expressed interest in helping Bill on this project. They will begin communicating and meeting and report back at the September meeting of their needs.

Chief / Warden Mike Hall from Keystone Wildfire Crew reported that they have reorganized and have now become a part of the Blue Rock Fire District. His units will now be known as Brush 904, 905 and 906. They will now become available to respond on first alarms with other fire companies and still remain a DCNR resource, responding on state-wide incidents.

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**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Rick Harrison reported that there is \$48,352.22 in the Savings account and \$37,308.41 in the Checking account for a total of \$85,660.63. \$19,099 was from golf tournament deposits and the following checks were written: \$2,418 for food for Chief Training Weekend, \$100 for Craig Rhineer Jr. for the Dispatcher of the Year Award, \$200 and \$100 for CTC Awards and \$134.85 to Duane Ober for the three awards. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

**Good of the Order**

No Report.

**Roll Call**

Roll call showed (69) in attendance with (30) Fire Chiefs, (11) Deputy Chiefs, (13) Assistant Chiefs, (7) Past Chiefs and (8) Guests, representing 46 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:40 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober

Secretary

Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association, Inc.