

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
JUNE 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on June 8, 2022.

Guests – Bill Hall from the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center, and Assistant Chief at FDMJ, presented the two CTC student award winners to the audience. Yaneiris Cintron received the Outstanding Student award and Marik Tomassetti received the Award of Merit. Both students received a framed certificate and \$500 from the Chiefs Association.

Ken Weber, Fire Training Coordinator, gave an update on the transition to the 7th Edition IFSTA manual for the Fire Academy training class. Ken spoke about the option to still utilize the four modules of the program and the complete fire academy. He spoke of the struggles to get sufficient suppression level instructors recently and advised that he intends to send a survey soon seeking input the fire chiefs for the direction of local level training of firefighters. For 2023, he already has two full fire academies scheduled and two series of the modules scheduled.

Terry Wise, of the PA Canine Search and Rescue gave a presentation about his team and their resources. His team is also a member of the PA Search and Rescue Council. The team's average deployment of personnel is within an hour, and they average 12-14 responders per incident. His team is available to meet with any of the fire companies and take part in joint trainings. Terry's email address is chief.pacsar@gmail.com.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Todd Hutchinson made a motion to accept the March 2022 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Scott Ryno and approved.

Secretary Report – No report.

Law / Legislative – President Little reported on highlights from PFESI, including the modernization of the junior firefighter program (including live fire for those under 18), PA Fireworks Law reform, and 10-year smoke detectors mandated for rental properties, of which he had been advised that there is not enough votes in the PA House to approve it.

Fire Marshal – President Little reminded everyone that any fire chief requesting a fire marshal must call their headquarters at (717) 299-7650 to request one. If you call LCWC and ask them to contact the fire marshal, they will transfer you to the PSP dispatcher.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk reported that tropospheric interference has been occurring again recently. This is affecting mobile and portable radios and impacting neighboring counties. The interference normally ends by late morning and users are encouraged to use other tools available, such as the Simplex channel, using the WebCAD for status updates and to communicate with the dispatchers, and calling in by phone when possible. LCWC will add banners on the WebCAD when known interference is occurring.

LCWC has chosen Evidence.com to share audio recordings of incidents. Instead of providing the recordings on a CD, the person requesting the audio will provide an email address and then receive an email with an embedded computer URL link. There is a revised fillable PDF on the Agency Forms page on the LCWC website to request an audio file.

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Whenever an agency experiences an issue with the radio system, please submit a Radio Report Form as soon as possible. This will go to the on-call radio technician, as well as the other radio technicians and management. This form can also be found on LCWC's website under Agency Forms.

LCWC Staff Changes – Andrew Lavin is the new training supervisor. Michael Zimmerman is the new second shift primary supervisor, and Darren Martin is a new radio technician.

LCWC is hiring dispatchers. A new class begins later this month, and another class will start in late August. Please refer interested candidates to LCWC's main phone number – 717-664-1100.

A radio system update will occur on Tuesday, June 14th night into Wednesday morning. Brief, intermittent radio system outages will occur as engineers work their way through the zones. The outages may last 5-10 minutes. Once all is completed, users will need to turn off their radio equipment and then turn the radios back on, for the radio equipment to register onto the system. In some instances, users may need to turn off their portable radio, remove the battery and then replace it.

New radio dispatch protocols went into effect on May 24th and 25th. Users will notice more detailed comments in the notes. Please be patient with LCWC staff as they work to process this change into their routine.

Mike Weaver shared information relating to the American Rescue Plan Act funds that the County Commissioners have available for projects in Lancaster County. LCWC has applied for funding for the upgrade of the current radio system infrastructure and the adding of several tower sites to improve the existing system coverage. He asked for the support of the Chiefs Association for these projects.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – New Lancaster County Emergency Management Director Brian Pasquale was present and introduced himself to the membership. He also shared that Brett Fassnacht has been hired as the new Training and Exercise Coordinator with LEMA.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick advised that the memorial stones have been removed and on their way to Vermont to get corrected. He also shared that funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have been requested to fund some projects at the training center.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Randy Gockley reported on the County's Firemen's Convention and Memorial Service that occurred during the past weekend. He shared that the Board of the Firemen's Association is working hard to work with the member companies. They have hired a full-time office administrator, two former PA Fireman employees, and Greg Leaman has been hired to be the new editor of the PA Fireman. They have also contracted with Helix Solutions for a review of their operations. John Sweigart is now the Treasurer of the LCFA. Lastly, Randy asked for support to grow their membership by encouraging more of the county's firefighters, especially the younger members, to join the LCFA.

EAST Committee – The committee thanked the Chiefs Association for the approval to buy additional assets for the team.

Golf Tournament – This year's golf tournament will be held on Friday, July 22nd at Foxchase Golf Course. The tournament is sold out – 144 golfers. The committee is looking for helpers at the tournament. If you can help,

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please contact Kurt Gehman at kgehman@ekmconkey.com. They are still accepting Hole Sponsors for the tournament - \$150 per hole.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee – Mike Smith read a letter from Chairman Dean Gantz Jr. advising that the committee is researching ways to reduce radio traffic on the hailing channels, creating a document for radio system usage, and updated radio terminology list. They have also been working with LCWC to create an active shooter incident guide. Mike shared that the committee, made up of members of the Chiefs Assn., LCWC reps, and EMS leaders, has been working well together and making a lot of progress.

Readiness Committee – No report

Standards Committee – Brett Fassnacht advised that two units have been reviewed recently – Engine 29-1 and Tanker 3. The committee is still working on the rural pre-arrival instructions and is looking for suggestions in creating the standard. Brett reviewed the proposed training standard that was discussed at the March 2022 meeting and will be sent to the fire companies for a vote at the September meeting. The Radio Advisory Committee will review the proposed staffing announcement guidelines and report on it at the September meeting.

Sustainment Committee – President Little reported that PFESI will have their annual Conference and Dinner on Saturday, October 22nd. A table of 8 costs \$1,200.

Unfinished Business – There is no update on the Pulse Point program.

The PFAS Foam disposal topic is being addressed by the LEPC.

Chief Darryl Keiser shared the names of the recipients of the Compleat Restorations scholarship program – Collin Burkholder and Zoe Weir. Both students are Garden Spot High School graduates and received \$1,000.

The results of the Naming of Command were read: a total of 44 ballots, with 19 in favor and 25 against. The change to geographic naming of command was not approved; Incident Command will still be named with the fire company number. President Little stated that the Radio Advisory Committee will create guidelines for the naming of command at complex incidents.

New Business – President Little reminded everyone that the vote for the Training Standard will occur at the September meeting. Ballots will be emailed to the fire chiefs prior to the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Secretary Ober read the Treasurer's Report for Rick Harrison – Checking Account balance is \$40,895.07 and the Money Market has a balance of \$83,811.54, for a total of \$124,670.61. Recent payments included \$500 in gift cards for LCWC Dispatchers for National Telecommunicators Weeks; \$145.63 for changing the hosting of our website; \$59.98 for CTC awards, and \$22,450 in golf tournament deposits.

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Open Discussion was held on the topic of American Rescue Plan Act funds. President Little reported on the survey results, in which the chiefs were asked for project ideas for the Chiefs Association to support to the County Commissioners. The top project ideas were radios, radio system updates, bulk purchasing of PPE, Training Center upgrades, and firefighter health and safety. Discussion followed on the various projects and the deadline for submissions. The Chiefs Executive Board will review the ideas shared and report back to the membership.

Good of the Order – The September 14th Chiefs Assn. meeting will include a presentation by the State Fire Commissioner’s Office on Recruitment and Retention. The Chiefs Association will provide a meal and the presentation will begin at 6:30pm. The Secretary will send an invitation to the membership to collect RSVP’s for the dinner.

Roll Call – Roll call showed (60) in attendance with (30) Fire Chiefs, (7) Deputy Chiefs, (6) Assistant Chiefs, (10) Past Chiefs and (7) Guests, representing 34 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 2022, following the presentation by the State Fire Commissioner’s Office at 6:30pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
June 15, 2022