

**LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**JUNE 12, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

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President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:05 hours on June 12, 2024.

**Guests** – Michael Rosito from ClassONE Property Restoration introduced himself and spoke about his business. The meal prior to the meeting was sponsored by ClassONE.

Bill Hall recognized Chase Trollinger from Cocalico School District as the Outstanding Student from the CTC Protective Services Program. Chase was present, with Smokestown Chief Donny Stover, to receive a check for \$500 and a certificate. Bryce Bowman from Conestoga Valley received the Award of Merit from the program, but was unable to attend.

Darryl Keiser informed the audience that this year's recipient of the Compleat Restorations \$1,000 Scholarship is Brandon Balbuena-Rincon. Brandon graduated from McCaskey, is a firefighter with Lafayette Fire Company, and will attend Regent University in Virginia.

Special guests for the evening included Deputy Fire Commissioner JC Tedorski and Harvey Boyer, Administrator from the PA State Fire Academy. DC Tedorski oversees the State Fire/EMS grants program, loans program, recruitment and retention programs, community risk reduction programs, and the PennFIRS management. Harvey oversees certifications, OTR training programs, and alternative energy programs.

DC Tedorski gave updates on the legislation to reauthorize the grant program, the additional \$30 million that Governor Shapiro put into this year's budget for the program, municipal fire department capital grants (\$450,000 to award), and that there is a long waiting list for the 2% loans; they have streamlined the process to reduce it down.

Administrator Harvey gave updates about the State Fire Academy, highlighting the Academy on the Road for underserved areas in the state, and the new ACADIS portal that they are promoting for all firefighters. More information about ACADIS can be found on the State Fire Commissioner's website at [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov). He also spoke about the newly formed Fire Advisory Board that was created with representatives from 9 regions throughout the state. This Board is researching foreign fire tax / relief funds reform.

Finally, discussion about PennFIRS included that while Emergency Reporting currently has the statewide contract, no one else has been chosen yet to replace it. They are also closely watching the new NERIS program at the federal level.

**Previous Meeting Minutes** – Tim Hoerner made a motion to accept the March 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Darryl Keiser and approved.

**Secretary Report** – No report.

**Treasurer's Report** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Mason Brandt read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$23,778.79 and the Money Market has a balance of \$93,829.39, for a total of \$117,608.18. Recent payments since the March meeting include \$1,500 to PFESI for membership / donation; \$1,250 for gift cards for dispatchers; \$19.99 for website hosting; \$4,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> installment to Foxchase for golf tournament; \$500 each to Chase Trollinger and Bryce Bowman for CTC awards; and \$1,377 to LCPSTC for food at Rick Lasky training event. Deposits since last meeting include \$20,800 for golf tournament income and \$5,000 that was transferred from money market to checking account to cover Foxchase payment. He also reported that Treasurer Rick Harrison had a meeting with PNC to find a better rate with our money market funds, and he's working with Incite CPA's for our

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annual federal filing. Todd Kirkpatrick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Bill Hall and approved.

**Law / Legislative** – Mason Brandt reviewed some topics from PFESI and a few items that the two guests from earlier spoke about. He asked everyone to keep an eye on the updates that he emails to the membership.

**PSP Fire Marshal** – President Little reminded everyone about the input received from PSP about notifications for tow trucks and the process to notify a PSP Fire Marshal.

**LCWC / Communications** – Sara Sloat thanked the Chiefs Association for the donation of gift cards for National Telecommunicators Week.

Ann Weller informed everyone that Mike Weaver retired on May 31<sup>st</sup>. She is the Acting Director of LCWC right now. The County Commissioners are pursuing the merger of LCWC, LEMA, and LCPSTC into a Department of Public Safety. They are working on a job description for the top official (Executive Director), and then the organizational chart will be developed.

Ann spoke that they are continuing to work on the WebCAD mapping and gave an update on the radio system project. The tower work is finished. The total project was nearly \$10 million and will improve the radio system to Phase 2 compatibility. This will require another touch of radios, and possibly the replacement of some older radios. Once all radios are updated, the system will reach its full capability. Annual preventative maintenance of radios is important, just like preventative maintenance performed on other firefighting equipment. Ann said they have met with all radio vendors and have asked them to provide countywide bulk pricing, not on a per-company basis. The timeline for going fully Phase 2 is being targeted for late 2026 or early 2027.

Matt Shenk advised that he is working with the Radio Advisory Committee to determine which inventory lists LCWC needs to track? Drones, hay thermometers, and search cameras are examples he gave. He advised that he will be sending an email soon to address this.

**Lancaster County Emergency Management** – Todd Kirkpatrick spoke for LEMA, advising that Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERG's) are in the lobby for those who have not picked theirs up yet. He also shared that the Haz Mat team just recently completed their PEMA recertification.

Todd then spoke on behalf of the LEPC that they have contracted with a consultant to complete a commodity flow report for the county, to determine the types and amounts of hazardous materials flowing through the county. The consultant will complete this initially, but the County Commissioners have asked for a way to maintain the data annually. LEPC is pursuing the purchase of a portable trailer with detection equipment that can be placed along the roads to collect the data. LEPC will apply for a Homeland Security grant through the South-Central Task Force to help offset the cost. The LEPC is not asking the Fire Chiefs Assn. for financial support but would like to have the Chiefs Assn. write a letter of support for the grant application. Brett Hamm made a motion for the Chiefs Association to send a letter of support as mentioned above, seconded by Mason Brandt, and approved.

**Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center** – Todd Kirkpatrick reported the restroom project has been approved and contractors have submitted proposals. The goal is to be completed by the end of September.

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The Training Center was able to use grant funds secured by Senator Aument to complete improvements to the firing range, add another burn prop room, and updates to other burn props.

Todd pointed out that any outside vendor using the training center to provide training for the fire companies must provide proof of liability insurance.

Todd shared that he participated in a regional meeting about fire training instructor concerns. In addition, the Training Center Foundation can receive donations, in which they are using them to look for ways to improve training opportunities.

Ken Weber reported that the Training Center did apply for a grant that was mentioned earlier by Deputy Fire Commissioner Tedorski for training centers in the state.

Ken reminded everyone that when registering members for training classes, please pay attention to the prerequisites required for the class. Also, they continue to look for ways to provide blended programs for entry level classes. Ken also stated again that the delay in receiving completed training class certificates is from the community colleges, not the Training Center.

**Lancaster County Fireman's Association** – Randy Gockley gave some numbers from this year's Fire Expo, including attendance at just over 9,700, visitors from 19 states, vendors from 32 states, and net profit of just under \$400,000, which was about \$50,000 more than last year.

This year's LCFA Memorial Service had about 110 people in attendance, but the Convention had a much lower turnout. The LCFA's net worth is \$16,984.873. Randy will be ending his role as President on June 26<sup>th</sup> but will continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Randy also shared that Mountville Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Duquin was elected to the Board of Directors.

**EAST Committee** – No report.

**Golf Tournament** – President Little advised this year's tournament is sold out – Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Foxchase Golf Course. The committee is always looking for help at the tournament.

**Leadership Development (Training) Committee** – No report.

**Radio Advisory Committee** – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee is working with LCWC on special equipment tracking, as Matt Shenk spoke about earlier, and the Communications Plan that was reviewed prior to the start of the meeting. Dean also stated that Phil Colvin is helping to create a new online connection for Lancaster County fire radio channels on Open MHz.

**Standards Committee** – No report.

**Sustainment Committee** – President Little reported that 283 volunteers applied for the Lancaster County Real Estate \$150 tax credit, much below the amount the county commissioners budgeted for this year.

**Unfinished Business** – As reported earlier, the (2) \$500 CTC awards were provided, and the (50) \$25 gift cards were given to LCWC to distribute for National Telecommunicators Week in April.

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**New Business** – President Little advised that Secretary Ober, and Directors Keiser and Rhineer, will serve as the Nominations Committee for the election in December. Nominations will take place at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Chiefs Assn. meeting. Anyone wishing to serve as an elected officer of the Chiefs Assn. for 2025-2026 should reach out to one of these three chiefs. An email will also be sent.

Chuck Stanford, Chief of Rheems Fire Company, was present to speak about an upcoming seminar they will be hosting with MESA and Northwest Regional Police Department. They will be hosting Travis Howze, who will speak about first responders mental health, titled Post Traumatic Purpose, on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. So far, they have 650 registered participants. Chief Stanford asked the Chiefs Assn. to consider being a sponsors of the event. Bill Hall made a motion to sponsor \$1,000, seconded by Bryan Duquin, and approved. The sponsorship includes recognition of our sponsorship on the program, banner, and social media announcements, as well as 8 seats at the event.

**Open Discussion** – No additional discussion was held at this meeting.

**Good of the Order** – Todd Kirkpatrick thanked JC Tedorski and Harvey Boyer for attending the meeting and providing updates about the state’s fire service.

**Roll Call** – Roll call showed 67 in attendance with (22) Fire Chiefs, (15) Deputy Chiefs, (12) Assistant Chiefs, (9) Past Chiefs and (9) Guests, representing 34 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center, with a brief remembrance ceremony occurring prior to the meeting.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary  
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.  
June 30, 2024