

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 2018 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on March 14, 2018, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations – Frank Splain from Municipal Marketing and Mike Patterson, former Director of the PA Corporations and Charitable Organizations Bureau, were present to speak to the members about when 501 C (3) organizations need to be registered with the Bureau. They reviewed some information relating to fire company registrations, while explaining Act 202 of 1990 and how it relates to today's business world. They will be hosting an informational event on Wednesday, April 25th at 6:30pm at the Training Center to share more details about registering and to help answer any questions that the fire companies might have relating to this. All fire companies are encouraged to send at least one representative, such as the Treasurer or President, to learn more about this topic.

Previous Meeting Minutes – The December 2017 Minutes were distributed via email; no corrections or additions were needed. They were approved as written.

Secretary Report – Secretary Ober commented that some members with Gmail addresses have not been receiving emails through the LCFCA email group from him. He recommended to review your settings in your Gmail account if you are one not receiving them, to make sure the filters are set properly so that the emails are coming through.

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn reported that Rob Brady left the PA DCED and that the new person who replaced him has not been doing much at all. Rob was involved with assisting many fire companies and municipalities with mergers or consolidations of services. The 30th Annual Congressional Fire Service Institute National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner will be held April 18-19 in Washington D.C. There will also be a FASTPA Congressional Breakfast meeting on April 19th from 7am-11am; to register, call (717) 236-5995. Ernie also spoke about the Memorial Service that took place on the PA Turnpike on March 9th, the 20th anniversary of the accident that killed David Good and injured nine other emergency responders.

Fire Marshal – PSP FM Jeff Purcell was present and spoke about the addition of a new PSP FM, Colby Shesko. He is the 4th fire marshal serving in the Lancaster-Chester-York County service area.

LCWC / Communications – Radio Systems Supervisor Matt Shenk reported the following: Motorola programming problem involves no emergency button activation while in Simplex mode. LCWC technicians are re-programming those agencies that have that issue. Motorola has adjusted their programming to enable this feature. Moving forward, agencies will have this feature. Relm is planning an April 2018 return trip to complete their work. This visit will involve correcting programming errors experienced during their initial visit. In the wake of re-programming, if you have radio equipment that is not working properly, please contact Matt Shenk. Matt described Touch-2 changes to fleet-map zones and the benefits of training talk-groups. Matt urged the fire service to contact him directly when they hear rumors or have questions. He's heard a number of rumors with no basis in fact. Should any agency require additional radio training, please contact Matt. He will schedule a session that fits your schedule.

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Operations Manager Jeff Garner discussed the traditional role LCWC has played in transferring Firehouse data to the Office of State Fire Commissioner. LCWC assumed this role prior to the increased role of the Internet. As many fire agencies migrated to Emergency Reporting software that enables direct data exchange using the Internet, LCWC's role has diminished. At present, there are only a few counties serving as a data pass-through for fire data. On July 1, 2018, LCWC will no longer transfer data to the state. Those agencies who use LCWC, should point their data stream to the appropriate state server. Jeff Garner will distribute this announcement, as well as instructions for connecting to the state, in a future email and written correspondence.

Jeff also introduced a new radio tech, Dave Waechter.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – No report.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for their support during the transition time from Craig Elmer's retirement, to Todd's new position as the Director, and the hiring of a new Fire Training Coordinator. They hope to have someone hired soon as the new Coordinator. Todd also reported that Bruce Trego will continue as the acting State Fire Commissioner for the remainder of the year. The blue door forcible entry simulator has been repaired, but it will no longer leave the facility. Todd presented an idea last year for a mobile forcible entry simulator and asked the Chiefs Assn. for consideration again to support getting one. Todd also shared that the Chiefs Training Weekend went well, despite the lower attendance as compared to past years. There were only about 75 people in attendance this year, including some from out of the county. We need feedback now for ideas for next year's training weekend.

President Gribble took a moment to lead the Chiefs Association in thanking Craig Elmer for his service to the Training Center and to the fire service for his many years of service as the Director of the Training Center. He officially retired on April 16th.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Ernie reported that Fire Expo will be held May 18-20. Also, this year's LCFA Convention will be hosted by Lancaster Township Fire Department, to be held at the LCFA Headquarters on June 2, 2018. The Memorial Service, Awards Ceremony and Convention meeting will all be held on the same day. There will not be a parade this year due to lack of interest in recent years. All fire companies are reminded to submit an updated apparatus photo and an updated officers list for the convention book.

SAFER Grant – Duane Ober reported that FEMA has reimbursed us for all our expenses to date, approximately \$18,000. Our FEMA status reports are updated as well. We have submitted a request to amend our grant, which will include radio advertisements. We have not heard back yet from our account representative. We are working with Communication Solutions Group to produce movie theatre ads. Quarryville Fire Company hosted the first filming of testimonials for this project; we still need more fire companies willing to participate. We have begun to aggressively use our Facebook site again and we encourage all fire companies to share it and use it to direct potential new applicants. We have another

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bill due now, for \$13,784. Duane Hagelgans will review it once more prior to payment so that we can submit it and get reimbursed as soon as possible. The website again is www.becomeafirefighter.org.

Apparatus Reviews – Engine 53-1 was reviewed recently.

Standards Committee – Craig Rhineer Jr. reported that some standards are being reviewed to match current equipment needs, such as LED lights, as compared to halogen lights. Craig asked if anyone is interested in serving on the committee, to please contact him at rescueco512@aol.com.

Golf Committee – Kurt Gehman reported that this year's tournament will be Friday, July 20th at Foxchase Golf Course. We had a very successful year last year and one way we can improve on our success is to sell more hole sponsors, at \$100 per hole. Please encourage your fire company or local businesses to sponsor a hole. Registration forms will be sent soon.

EAST Committee – President Gribble reported that the committee will be meeting next week.

Radio Advisory Committee - Dean Gantz Jr. stated that they are still working on finalizing a letter for the County Commissioners.

Compleat Restorations Scholarship – Compleat Restorations will be sponsoring the scholarship program again this year; 2 recipients, \$500 each. The applications have been sent to the school districts, as well as through the Chiefs email group. Rick Kane is leading this project for the Chiefs Assn.

Unfinished Business – None that wasn't addressed earlier in the meeting.

New Business – President Gribble asked for approval for the Chiefs Assn. to sponsor the 2018 Fire Dispatcher of the Year Award. Bill Hall made a motion to do so, seconded by Nelson Dagen and passed.

President Gribble also asked for approval for the Chiefs Assn. to sponsor two awards for the CTC Protective Services Program, an Outstanding Student and an Award of Merit. Tim Hoerner made a motion to do so, seconded by Nelson Dagen and passed.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Rick Harrison reported the following: \$18,525 was reimbursed to us from FEMA and we had a \$700 deposit for out-of-county participants at the Chiefs Training weekend. A check for \$75 was paid to Upper Allen Fire Company as a refund for the class; \$465 food for December meeting, \$4,026.57 to Rick Lasky for Chiefs Training weekend, \$1,787.60 for food for Chiefs Training weekend, and \$728 for food for March meeting. The Chiefs Training weekend is normally shared with the LCFA; Rick will send them an invoice asking for their support again. Total balance in the checking account is \$19,391.74 and \$63,532.39 in the Money Market for a total of \$82,924.39. Nelson Dagen made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Dean Gantz Jr. and passed.

Good of the Order – Ann Weller reminded everyone that National Telecommunicators Week is in April and she is accepting items of appreciation for the dispatchers, such as gift certificates, clothing, etc.

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Roll Call - Roll call showed (53) in attendance with (18) Fire Chiefs, (7) Deputy Chiefs, (7) Assistant Chiefs, (11) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 29 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on June 13, 2018 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:32 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
March 25, 2018