

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 8, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

First Vice-President Mason Brandt called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on March 8, 2023.

Guests – Keith McMinn, Director of Life Lion, gave an update on the addition of a new helicopter being based at the Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center. Known as Life Lion 2, this will be Life Lion’s fourth helicopter and will be used for transport of critical care patients from facility to facility and from emergency scenes. They anticipate an extra 150-200 flights a year with the addition of Life Lion 2. The helicopter will be stored on the helipad at the hospital, except during snow, ice, or severe weather, when it will return to Hershey to be kept in a hangar. Life Lion also offers landing zone safety practices and is willing to bring the helicopter to a fire company training event, but they encourage bringing multiple companies together for the training to save costs. Keith can be reached by call at (443) 829-2460 or through email – kmcminn@pennstatehealth.psu.edu.

The next guest was Keith Doepp from Emergency Networking. This is another option for fire companies to consider for their NFIRS and personnel records. Keith would like to speak with any fire company who would like to see a demonstration of their product or those who would like to learn more. He can be reached at keith@emergencynetworking.com or at (516) 443-9710. The website for Emergency Networking is www.emergencynetworking.com.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike Smith made a motion to accept the December 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Josh Pfeiffer and approved.

Secretary Report – The Secretary reported that dues notices have been emailed to all current members. He has received dues from several fire companies, but many have not paid yet. Also, he stated that membership cards will not be provided anymore.

Law / Legislative – Mason Brandt reported that the state legislature is back in session. He encouraged everyone to keep an eye on the updates coming from PFESI; he will share all information that he receives on current topics. He also suggested that everyone meet with their State Senator and Representative and build a good relationship with them.

PSP Fire Marshal – PSP FM Ryan Gehman was present and asked that whenever calling a fire marshal, please have as much information available as possible. There is no more “notifications” being made to the fire marshals; if you call, they will either come that day or the next day to investigate. Trooper Gehman also praised all the fire companies involved in the Leacock Township hotel fire for their efforts in saving lives and property that night.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk introduced the Julia Snavelly, the new Fire Support specialist. Matt reminded everyone to use the firesupport@lcwc911.us email address whenever sending anything so that anyone from the department can receive it and take care of it in a timely manner.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Violet DeStefano reported that LEMA will be hosting a training exercise soon and that information will be shared through social media and email. They will be looking to recruit over one hundred volunteers for the exercise.

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Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick reminded everyone that Bucks County Community College is only providing online certificates now; everyone will need to provide a unique email address when registering for classes. He gave an update on the practice of 17-year-olds participating in live burn fire training. The new PSFA live fire policy for 17-year-olds only allow them to participate within PSFA Entry Level training programs. Education Training Agencies are not mandated to meet this new requirement and will make decisions independently. The outdoors props at the training center will open at the end of March. Lastly, Todd again advised everyone of the trouble they are having with getting enough fire instructors, especially for live burns.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Randy Gockley referenced a recent letter that was sent to everyone asking for help at the upcoming Expo. Volunteers are needed for Friday and Saturday, in 4-hour time blocks. Volunteers will get free admission and parking to the show. There will be a meeting prior to the Expo for those who volunteer. He shared there will be over 40 new vendors at this year's show, plus training activities and equipment demonstrations. PPL and UGI will also have presentations.

Randy also stated that the LCFA has received requests recently from organizations from outside of Lancaster County to become members of the LCFA to receive discounts on IFSTA manuals. They have decided to allow them to join as Affiliate Members. They will not have voting rights or receive training benefits provided to Lancaster County fire companies.

Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency just recently became a member organization.

Randy also reported that the Lancaster County Foam Task Force has asked the LCFA for \$60,000 to purchase replacement foam. They have denied this request since historically, they have never assisted with purchasing equipment or supplies related to emergency response.

The LCFA has budgeted \$10,000 for grants related to cadet programs being held in the county, such as those at Garden Spot and Lafayette.

There is a survey that was emailed recently to members looking for input related to the PA Fireman.

Pequea Lane training facility is being cleaned up, and old, unused equipment is being removed.

Randy advised that the Trust Fund they thought was established for years was never officially created. Funds were invested but it was not a Trust Fund. They are now pursuing establishing these funds into an Endowment account instead of the Trust Fund.

Lastly, Randy said the LCFA is still interested in working with the Chiefs Association in pursuing tax credits for the volunteers, but based on feedback, the interest from the firefighters is low.

EAST Committee – The Secretary provided a report on behalf of the committee. Some members of the committee assisted Martindale Fire Company by offering support and EAST items for use in the funeral of a past fire chief. Fortunately, this has been the only activity of the committee recently. Also, the committee is still researching the purchase of new Garrison flags. The committee will be meeting soon.

Golf Tournament – The Secretary gave a report for Chairman Kurt Gehman. The tournament will be held on July 21st at Foxchase Golf Course. Registration and sponsorship information will be sent soon.

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Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Jason Topper reported that the committee has been emailing among their members about ideas for this year, but nothing has been decided yet.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the videos that were created to share updates about radio procedures have been placed back on the Chiefs Assn. website. One topic that is being discussed right now is whether there is a need for the second dispatch? Are fire companies depending on it, or can it be eliminated? Also, there has been an increase with individual fire police officers contacting LCWC on the hailing channels to respond to incidents. An email was sent recently to all fire companies asking for this to cease. The request for a Chief Officer Task Force to be created has been discussed in the committee as well. The committee is asking fire chiefs that need more assistance to have conversations with their mutual aid chief officers to request them to respond to their calls upon dispatch. Dean also stated that the committee has asked LCWC leadership to find a way to filter the information that has been added to the CAD notes recently since it includes a lot of unnecessary information. Lastly, Dean encouraged any chief officer who would like to discuss any of the current topics or to bring up new topics, to reach out to the committee by email at rac@lancofirechiefs.org.

Standards Committee – No report.

Sustainment Committee – Mason Brandt spoke about continuing to work on a tax credit program for the volunteers. There hasn't been a lot of support for it, so a survey will come out soon to collect more information from the members, such as "how much of a tax credit (\$) will make it worthwhile to the volunteer?" Chief Keiser and Nate Good from Garden Spot Fire Rescue are helping the committee to work on a proposal to present to the County Commissioners for consideration.

Unfinished Business – Tim Baldwin from LCWC gave an update on Pulse Point. It officially went live in early February. The app is available and Darrell Fisher is continuing to work on the features, including being able to be broken out by agency, not just countywide. Tim encouraged everyone to help provide information about the location of AED's in their communities so they can be updated in Pulse Point. Tim advised that LCWC dispatches between 80-120 cardiac arrests every month;

New Business – Josh Pfeiffer made a motion for the Chiefs Assn. to sponsor (2) \$500 awards for this year's CTC Protective Services Program – Award of Merit and Outstanding Student. The motion was seconded by Ken Barton and approved.

Darryl Keiser made a motion for the Chiefs Assn. to sponsor gift cards awards for dispatchers as part of National Telecommunicators Week in April. With an amendment by Bill Hall and a second by Bryan Duquin, the motion to purchase (50) \$25 gift cards was approved.

Darryl Keiser is the point of contact for this year's Compleat Restorations scholarship. The applications have been mailed and all schools should have it in their guidance offices. They are providing (2) \$1,000 scholarships and Darryl stated it is possible this could be the last year for the scholarship program with Compleat.

Treasurer's Report – The Secretary read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$17,710.97 and the Money Market has a balance of \$83,817.81, for a total of \$101,528.78. Recent payments since December

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include \$725 to Insite CPA for 2021 Form 990, \$682.50 to LCPSTC for food for December meeting, \$4,827 to LCPSTC Foundation for share of cost of new thermal imaging camera, and \$1,500 for the 2023 donation to PFESI. Income included \$710 in membership dues and \$50.13 from Amazon Smile (which Amazon has now stopped offering).

Open Discussion – Chief Keiser from Garden Spot Fire Rescue gave an overview of a recent structure fire they responded to that involved lithium ion batteries. Upon removal from the structure, the batteries were placed in yard dumpsters to allow them to continue burning. Haz Mat, DEP, and other state agencies were also involved in the incident.

Good of the Order – Dave Keens gave an update on Witmer Fire Chief Mike Creamer who has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). He has started treatment and Chief Keens asked everyone to keep Chief Creamer and his family in your thoughts and prayers. The fire company has started a t-shirt fundraiser for the Chief and his family.

Roll Call – Roll call showed (66) in attendance with (29) Fire Chiefs, (5) Deputy Chiefs, (10) Assistant Chiefs, (12) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 34 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:28.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
March 11, 2023