

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on September 13, 2023.

Guests – Bob Timko from Provident Insurance was present to greet the audience and highlight the options and coverages that they offer to fire companies, including additional coverages such as property and casualty insurance, cyber liability, and First Responder Assistance Program (FRAP). Provident also offers over 400 online classes to its clients. A round of applause was given to Provident, who have been a Founding Sponsor of our golf tournament for more than 20 years, providing over \$50,000 towards our efforts to support the Lancaster County fire service.

Merle Weaver, Assistant Chief with Middle Creek Search and Rescue and the President of the Lancaster County Fire Police Association gave an update on their Association, including providing the hotline / on-call number for the fire police resource officer – (717) 455-0287.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike Smith made a motion to accept the June 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Bill Hall and approved.

Secretary Report – The Secretary reported that there are three fire companies who have not paid their dues yet: Reamstown, Refton, and Maytown. Overall, we have over 320 members of the association. He also reported that Greg Leaman, Secretary of the LCFA, provided old records of the Chiefs Association that were in storage at the LCFA Headquarters. We have a continuous collection of our meeting minutes, from today back to the first ever meeting in 1929. The Secretary is reading through the Minutes and collecting a roster of all past leaders of the Association and will share once completed.

Law / Legislative – Jerry Ozog from the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) was present and gave an update on his efforts throughout the state and in Harrisburg to support the fire service. He provided information about the status of SR6 topics and the results of Act 91, which strengthened the office of the State Fire Commissioner. He spoke of Relief Association reform, which allows money to be used for recruitment and retention and incentive programs. The state fire grant has increased to a maximum of \$20,000, funded by the fireworks legislation.

PSP Fire Marshal – No report.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk reported that there have been reports of issues with the new WebCAD map. They have been researching the issues, testing equipment, and working with the CAD vendor. Matt asked for anyone experiencing issues to notify him so it can be investigated.

There are now three air medical helicopters serving Lancaster County – Life Lion 1 at Hershey; Life Lion 2, now positioned at Lancaster Airport; and Wellspan 490, located at Stevens Fire Station.

Matt warned everyone that this time of the year is when radio interference is at its highest.

Lastly, Matt reported there are a lot of fire and EMS agency box alarm changes pending right now, so please be patient. All changes are being made in the order they have been received.

LCWC Director Mike Weaver reported that they were successful in getting approximately \$10 million in ARPA funds approved by the County Commissioners to be used towards refreshing of the radio system. Their goal is to have it completed in Spring 2024. The new radio system equipment will be Phase 2 compliant. All user radios currently on the system are Phase 2 compliant except for the original Realm radio equipment.

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Lancaster County Department of Public Safety – Todd Kirkpatrick advised that Brett Fassnacht is working with the specialized teams and task forces in the county to establish working groups for water rescue, wildfire, and wilderness search and rescue resources. The groups have met a few times and will continue to build their working relationships. Look for more to come from each group in the future.

Ken Weber reported that the new fire engine that the LCFA purchased for the Training Center is here to stay now. Mounting equipment will take place soon. Ken also shared that his supply chain is low for vehicles to be used for vehicle rescue purposes. He is not able to provide resources for company-level vehicle rescue training right now, only the certified classes. Ken spoke again about the issue of the shortage of instructors and the impact of cancelling classes.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Randy Gockley reported that the new engine that the LCFA purchased for the training center was received, and their donation has been acknowledged. The LCFA attorney is reviewing proposed bylaw amendments. The final proposed bylaw amendments will be sent to member companies at a later date. LCFA BOD voted to request a quote from Helix Strategies for the development of a flow chart and business model.

Steve Roy handed out paper copies of the survey that the LCFA is using to gather information relating to the Pequea Lane training facility. They would like to receive more feedback than they currently have.

EAST Committee – The committee has helped with two recent funerals and services.

Golf Tournament – Kurt Gehman reported the tournament was sold out and netted the Chiefs Assn. over \$19,500. SERVPRO, a new sponsor, was the Commissioner's Sponsor this year. Provident Insurance, Compleat Restorations, and the LCFA continued to be Founders Club sponsors. Chief's Club sponsors this year included 10-8 Emergency Vehicle Service, K&C Communications/Motorola, and Glick Fire Equipment. Deputy Chief's Club sponsors included Restoration Relief (new), John Sly Grant Writing, VFIS, Belfor Property Restoration, Hursh Painting, and Fire Line Equipment. Captain's Club sponsors included Trout CPA, Horst Insurance, Walz Group, BJ Baldwin, Levis Nails, and Kauffman Gas. Kurt thanked everyone who helped at the tournament and pointed out that this year, the forcible entry trailer was on-site to show our sponsors how their past donations have been used.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – President Little reported that the committee has selected Ryan Pennington to present on the dangers of hoarding conditions, which is being planned to be held in early 2024. www.chamberofhoarders.com

Radio Advisory Committee – Mike Smith reported that at their last meeting, they discussed the WebCAD incident additional notes clutter; WebCAD changes sought by the committee; moving incidents off the hailing channels; and the issues with the WebCAD mapping that Matt Shenk discussed earlier in the LCWC report. The RAC is also working on a new training aid for using the radio system, so that the document can be used by current or new members to help understand proper use of the radio system. Their goal is to complete this in time so it can be introduced at the December Chiefs Assn. meeting.

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Standards Committee – Bill Hall reported that Tanker 14 was inspected as a Pumper-Tanker. The committee will take another look at the staffing standard idea. They also plan to review the arrival assignments standard and to take a look at a rural water supply arrival instructions. The Rescue-Engine standard will be reviewed and the committee will also consider the request for apparatus name changes, such as Ladder, Tower, etc.

Sustainment Committee – Nick Good advised that he and a group of chiefs from the Executive Board are working with the Lancaster County Commissioners to approve a tax credit for the volunteer firefighters. They have a meeting planned with Commissioner D’Agostino on September 15th.

Unfinished Business – Secretary Ober reported the recruitment ad is on display at Park City now and posters of the same design have been printed and are available for chiefs to take with them to place in their community. Additional posters will be available at the Training Center to be picked up. So far, we have had four potential applicants submit information, with one applicant becoming a member of Akron Fire Company recently.

New Business – President Little informed the members of a cancer screening program offered by United Diagnostic Services for firefighters. It’s a federally funded program and more research is being done to see if we can bring the program to Lancaster County.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Harrison read the Treasurer’s Report – Checking Account balance is \$13,318.68 and the Money Market has a balance of \$98,822.02, for a total of \$112,140.70. Recent payments since the June meeting include \$21,831.69 in gold tournament expenses, two CTC checks cashed for \$500 each, \$5,604.93 for the Park City ad and printing of posters, \$575 for the food at the June meeting, and \$410 for the new part for the fit testing equipment. Income included \$165 in membership dues and \$17,780 in golf tournament deposits. The Treasurer also transferred \$15,000 from the checking account to the Money Market account. The Treasurer’s Report was approved as read.

Open Discussion – Local State Representatives, State Senators, and County Commissioners were invited to our meeting to take part in discussions about important topics affecting the fire service locally and at the state level. Those in attendance included County Commissioners Parsons and D’Agostino, State Representatives Sturla, Mentzer, Zimmerman, Miller, and Smith-Wade El, and Terry Trego from Senator Martin’s office. The discussions included Relief Association Reform, Workers Compensation Reform, Cancer Presumption Act and the impact on Workers Compensation rates, and tax credits for volunteer firefighters.

Good of the Order – No report.

Roll Call – Roll call showed 63 in attendance with (24) Fire Chiefs, (8) Deputy Chiefs, (10) Assistant Chiefs, (7) Past Chiefs and (14) Guests (including 9 elected officials) representing 32 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

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With no other business, Ken Weber made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kurt Gehman and approved; the meeting was adjourned at 21:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
November 29, 2023 (edited)