

December 20, 2010

Dear Fellow Fire Police Officer member,

Important Note: The CCFPA meetings for 2011 will be held at Ridge Fire Company, Station 62. The address is: 480 Ridge Road, Spring City, PA 19475-9678. (East of Rt. 100 2.5 miles on Rt. 23). Please mark your calendars, meetings are: January 9, March 6, May 1, September 11, November 6. 2 PM.

We thank West Chester's Goodwill Fire Company Station 52 and Fire Police Officer Bill Best for hosting our 2010 meetings and to you, the membership for attending those meetings. In **January**, Ron Miller, Thorndale Fire Company Sta. 38 gave a presentation describing a computer version of preplanning we should all be doing. Ron also volunteered to assist any company in setting up their preplans. **March**, Justin DiMedio and Rob Gilbert from the Chester County accident reconstruction team described the teams activities at an accident scene. **May**: District Attorney Joe Carroll (and wife Barbara) detailed the activities of his office. He also promoted the alternative punishments other than jail time when possible and appropriate. **September**: Jim Ploumis brought us up-to-date on LODD, state certification and appropriate hand signals. **November**: Mike Spirito, Deputy Director-Technical from DES gave a fantastic presentation on the current radio rebanding, pager up-grades and the new radio system for 2016.

Several meetings were held to provide input for Homeland Security monies that are available to the Special fire Police in Chester County. These meetings have resulted in the formal purchasing request in December for portable message boards, traffic trailers and stop/slow paddles. We should know how the request and formal presentation went by the first quarter of 2011.

It is important to mention the extraordinary work John Neff of Station 49 has done for all of us. John was appointed the liaison from CCFPA to represent us in the 1. Rebanding of current 800 radios, 2. The new pagers and 3. The new radio system to roll out in 2016. Without his hard work and many man/days, our fire police voice would not have been heard.

Again Jim Ploumis, our legislative representative, is heading a committee looking to get Special Fire Police Officers considered for federal LODD benefits.

We are working with PA DOT on signs for the major arteries in Chester County. We have not forgotten the Large Event Dispatch for major events but will be rolling that into the message boards, PA Dot and renewed strategies for large disaster events.

I personally thank those who stepped up for special events and funeral duties during the year. Your professionalism and dedication at these events are a credit to you and the association.

While I look forward to working with Jim Metzger as our new recording secretary, I will miss the superlative efforts of Eileen Amatrudo over the past six years. Please thank Eileen when you see her.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and thank you for making the Chester County Fire Police Association special.

Sincerely, Joel Gramling

SAFETY, SECURITY, SERVICE