

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

January 11, 2019  
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO  
[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Quote of the Month: “The lightning bug as he skimmed the air was puzzled as he could be. ‘There are plenty of lightning bugs, but where are the thunder bugs?’ said he. ‘If we only knew where they winged their flights, we could all mix up together and furnish thunder and lightning nights in the pleasantest kind of weather.’ - Herald Democrat, August 31, 1909

1. Members Present: Clark, Yarnell, Wells, Swanson and Terry. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 12:55 PM. Clark moderated.
2. The LDC is accepting donations, either as cash or check. If you donate via check, please make your check payable to Steve Clark at 755 S. Clinton Street, #2A; Denver, CO 80247. He will cash the check and keep the cash holdings specifically for the LDC. When the LDC incurs expenses, Steve will pay for services rendered through his bank account using the cash from LDC’s cash holdings. A log will be maintained detailing the inflow and outflow of monies. At the present, the LDC has \$90.00, enough to pay for website hosting for the first half of 2019.
3. The November 2018 issue of the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS) has a paper which discussed how millennials (people aged ~17-34 years old) acquire weather information via mobile weather applications (MWA) on cellphones. Almost 100% of college kids in this age group own cellphones and approximately 94% own smartphones. This age group uses their phone apps for many purposes including shopping, entertainment and socializing, with weather apps being not too far behind. A survey was taken of 308 students on three college campuses in the southeastern United States regarding the usage of smartphones to acquire weather information. Only two parts of the survey addressed lightning. Regarding the importance of mobile weather app features, only 26% said a lightning detection alert feature was important. On the perceived confidence in the lightning detection alert feature, 49.8% of respondents were confident or very confident. The authors stress the results from this survey are far from perfect because the survey was conducted for only three college campuses in a relatively small geographic area and because the survey was conducted during the fall and winter months, which could cast a “cool weather bias” in the results.
4. The LDC will participate in the EMS Safety Summit on March 28, 2019 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Embassy Suites, located at 1420 Stout Street in downtown Denver, Colorado. Featured speakers will be Steve Clark, Carl Swanson, Sheryl Olson, Barb Stemple and possibly a local broadcast meteorologist. The event is free to attend and is open to the public.
5. The Lightning and Electric Shock Survivors International group will be holding their 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on May 17-18, 2019. All members are invited and speakers who have been instrumental in making the organization what it is today are invited to speak. The conference announcement is attached to the end of these minutes.

6. Last month, Steve Clark said he would reach out to the authors of a proposal to include the neuropsychological sequelae of lightning and electrical injuries into the DSM manuals. Steve sent a proposal to Dr. Chris Andrews to inventory complaints from lightning strike survivors. The proposal was warmly received, but the data LDC sends will not be used in formulating the proposal to the DSM at this time; however, Dr. Andrews did express interest in performing further analysis on the data so received. LDC will begin work on the inventory in mid-February.
7. Dr. Phil Yarnell presented a case referred to him by Dr. Mary Ann Cooper. A woman was struck by lightning. She tried to ignore it, but her condition has become progressively worse. Her complaints include, but are not limited to: headaches that vary in intensity, muscle pain and weakness, chronic pain, sleep issues, irritation at those who do not understand, brain fog, pain every day and numerous other issues. Every doctor she has seen wants to give conventional medication, which concerns her, as she is about holistic healing which she says bothers most doctors. Anyone who can assist this individual is encouraged to e-mail me at [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto:sclarktoto@gmail.com), and I will refer you to Dr. Yarnell for further discussion. Before referring the case to Phil, Dr. Cooper told her of LSESSI and provided contact information.

This case led to a discussion of brain injury. Phil said brain injury can manifest in several ways and provided a few examples. Instances occur where there is no insight or emotional connection. There can be behavior without realization. A brain-injured person could be fired from a job due to sub-par performance and not even realize their performance is sub-par. A brain-injured person can undergo a personality change and not know it.

8. Carl Swanson got an e-mail from Marty Coniglio, a Denver broadcast meteorologist. He wanted to know if we knew anyone who has survived a lightning strike, whose story would be used for a morning show called "I Survived", which will air sometime in February. Carl has offered to assist Marty.
9. The LDC welcomes your medical questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto:sclarktoto@gmail.com). Your medical questions will be forwarded to Dr. Phil Yarnell for his review and will usually be taken up for discussion in the next month's meeting. Please be advised any questions posed are for the general consideration by the group and do not constitute a formal medical opinion. If a formal evaluation is requested, arrangements can be made directly with Dr. Yarnell. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911 or your local emergency services provider.
10. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto:sclarktoto@gmail.com). Please keep your communications professional and respectful. Communications will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.
11. LDC Disclaimer: These minutes do not represent official positions of the LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting. Furthermore, the LDC does not implicitly or explicitly recommend or endorse any product or service. Any product or service presented in these minutes is done so for purposes of discussion and analysis. The merit (or lack thereof) is open for the consideration and review by the entire membership.

12. Next meeting: Friday, February 8, 2019, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. Meeting Format: TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

### **Lightning Links**

**This is a monthly listing of periodicals, websites, and videos about lightning and allied areas from a variety of sources. A headline or description is listed, followed by the link. Please note that some of the links are perishable, which means you'll need to go to the source for the information.**

Phan, M.D., B.E. Montz, S. Curtis and T.M. Rickenbach, 2018: Weather on the Go: An Assessment of Smartphone Mobile Weather Application Use Among College Students. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, November 2018, pp. 2245-2257.

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# LIGHTNING STRIKE & ELECTRIC SHOCK SURVIVORS INTL. INC. 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**WHERE HOPE BEGINS  
AND SURVIVORS MEET**

## **WHEN**

**May 17th & 18th, 2019**

## **WHERE**

**Country Cascades Waterpark Resort & Summit Tower**, 204 Sharon Drive Pigeon Forge, TN

**The Creekstone Inn**, 4034 S River Rd, Pigeon Forge, TN.

**FEATURING** • Guest Speakers – Extended Survivor and Caregiver Support Groups —*New* Mixed Support Groups for All Picnic and Family Outing-Jam Session / Entertainment-Auction LSEESI Store - Books/Research/Apparel

**WWW.LIGHTNING-STRIKE.ORG**  
A REGISTERED 501C3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## **ALL AGES EVENT**



**For Survivors, Their families, caregivers and other interested parties. If you are with the Press you must pre register.**

## **CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTER**

**Call**

**910-346-4708**

**Or register at the Door**

## **SPEAKERS**

**Dr Mary Ann Cooper**

**Cal & Rose Zonker**

## **HOTEL**

Please remember to book early, to book please call the hotel directly. They can be reached at **1-800-223-6707**. Remember to tell them you are with **LSEESI** in order to receive the special rate. Also all three hotels are part of the same group, so calling the phone number above will connect you to all three locations.