

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

August 11, 2023

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Monthly Quote: "Hope is outreaching desire with expectancy of good. It is a characteristic of all living beings." - Edward S. Ame.

Source: <https://www.adobe.com/express/learn/blog/hope-quotes>

Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Stemple, Terry and Swanson. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 1:10 PM.

1. 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. LDC currently has \$742.00 in cash, due to a purchase of lightning data.
2. We met with a male electric shock survivor who had two incidents of electrical shock with household current. Both times, he was shocked when he short-circuited the line with his hands. What follows is an incomplete list of some of the issues he has been dealing with, in no particular order.

He has pain in his spinal cord and when he lengthens his back, the pain increases. When he walks, his thigh bone, ankles and the bottoms of his feet all hurt. The duration of his walks has lessened with time and his gait has changed. His forearms have atrophied. From time to time, he has pain under his index finger and thumb; or, his pinkie and half of his ring finger go numb. Sometimes his hands will go numb and sometimes his arms will go numb up to his shoulder.

Since he short-circuited the line with his hands, two doctors said he defied physics, since the effects of the shock were noted in his face, eyes and ears. There were burns on his ears, nostrils and throat. An endoscope exam showed throat inflammation.

His skin feels like sunburn on the inside of the skin. He has lost part of the skin function. There is minimal sweat or skin oil and he barely bleeds. Skin biopsies were normal, but he wonders if the biopsies went deep enough to find anything. He has tried an experimental laser treatment which apparently worked one time before but the doctors do not understand how it worked.

On the evening of his first shock, there were no tears, even though there was emotion. There were only basal tears. His eyes are dry and he doesn't have tears very often. His eyesight has deteriorated after the shocks. He has a cataract in one eye, which has grown large enough to warrant an operation, but that cannot be done now due to dryness in the eye. After the second shock, he was seeing double. He has trouble reading and never needed glasses to read until after the shocks.

He first went to a dentist about his saliva gland and was referred to an ENT doctor who then referred him to a burn center, which was of no help. He had no prior dental issues but now has gum disease. His teeth do not hurt now, but he suspects it won't be long before they do start to hurt.

He had some tinnitus and hearing loss. He has a physical reaction to music or TV where he gets tense and needs to escape the room.

His digestive system has mostly shut down. He has trouble eliminating feces and has to rely on gravity and air, no muscle. He is often constipated as there is no urge to move the bowels. He occasionally has nausea and throws up. There is also some urinary incontinence, with random leakage. A urinary dynamics test was performed and it suggested the leakage is random and might be neurological in origin. He said the urinary issues may not get any better. His weight is stable.

He is treating symptomatically and has seen over 20 doctors. Diagnostic tests have not found anything. Brain and spinal MRI exams found nothing. He said the doctors have no experience and they don't understand his condition. Some tests do diagnose symptoms but the doctors do not know the cause. Dr. Phil Yarnell said the pathophysiological nerve issues are not being elucidated by tests and the only way to treat the issues is symptomatically, which is what he is doing.

He is pretty sure there are cognitive impacts. After the first shock, he was dazed. After the second shock, EKG & CT tests were normal. Howard Wachtel asked if his heart went into fibrillation and it did not. His long-term memory appears okay, but his short-term memory is not good. He lost what he calls "mental images" after the first shock. He used to have vivid images which were almost like a photographic memory. These images were extremely useful to him in his recall of previous events.

His anxiety and depression have worsened since the shocks.

Phil recommended he join the LS&ESSI group. The survivor has already spoken with Jim Signari.

3. The LS&ESSI group is now affiliated with the Phoenix Society, which was mentioned in last month's minutes.
4. LDC welcomes your 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 EMS.

5. Questions, comments, error notifications, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please send them to Steve Clark. Please keep the communications professional and respectful. They will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.
6. 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.
7. Next meeting: Friday, September 8, 2023, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MDT. We plan on meeting with a lightning strike survivor.

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.**

No links this month.