

LEPC Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2018

12:00 pm Walters State Community College – Foundation Room

The meeting was called to order by LEPC Chairman Eric Powell. The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Nathan Antrican. The invocation was led by Mr. John Freitag.

There was no old or new business, and so Dr. Powell introduced Agent James Cotter with the TN Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Mr. Cotter is the Special Agent Program Manager for Cyber Operations. He discussed cyber security and that cyber issues are not theoretical, but are real. He stressed the danger of interconnectivity and how even if one's professional email/network is secure, accessing unsecure data (such as a Hotmail account) can quickly create a disaster that takes a great deal of time and money to fix. He spoke about how interconnectivity is not limited to email, but that many people connect their phones to their cars, or use "smart" appliances and that any information you share with those devices can leave you at risk of being hacked.

He also addressed numerous cyber-attacks that have occurred in the past year including: the breach at SAKS and Lord & Taylor, the Cambridge Analytica data breach, Russia-linked hackers and their influence over the election, Tesla's cloud service, MyFitnessPal app data breach (50 million users affected), Clinton campaign app data harvesting from Facebook, and St. Jude pacemaker recalls (465,000). He addressed that cyber security is the future of warfare; attacks can be conducted solely online because so much data can be accessed.

He showed a video that discussed social media and how it isn't a fad, but is the future of our culture and economy. Only a small percentage (roughly 18%) trust advertisements from companies but look to social media for peer reviews on products to decide what to purchase. Socialnomics is the future, and it's already being established now.

Agent Cotter also stressed the importance of being an active part in our security. We are all responsible for security and we must change our attitudes toward it. For example, we have to be aware of emails that we receive and not simply open attachments or links, especially if we think something looks suspicious. Additionally we need to be cautious of the types of passwords we use. Something like "P@\$word123" isn't going to keep you safe. Passwords need to be something you can remember, but also need to be complex. Additionally, be aware of what you share on social media as anything you or your children or friends post can potentially be used against you. Another facet of being active in security is knowing what your phone tracks and turning off certain permissions so that your phone is not constantly tracking your location. Agent Cotter explained that if you go to your Privacy settings and look at your location services, you can see what apps track you and you can choose whether or not to allow them to continue doing so.

After the presentation, Julia Bell with Walters State Community College joined Agent Cotter for a brief Q and A session.

Eric Powell then made everyone aware that if there was any training or events, to submit that information to LEPC Secretary Lindsey Horn (lindsey.horn@co.hamblen.tn.us) and she will forward it on. No Way Jose's was acknowledged as the provider for our lunch. The meeting was adjourned.

To contact Julia Bell:
423-585-2666

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank  for their generous lunch donation.

No Way Jose's offers a 15% discount for first responders.

Our next scheduled meeting to be held on July 10, 2018.