

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder®, Inc. - Illinois Chapter 1 general membership meeting.

February 1, 2006 **32 of 92 members were in attendance**

President Don Pugh called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

President - Don Pugh

Don displayed a letter from the Village of Glendale Heights thanking IL Chap 1 for assistance in making the Viet Nam Veterans Traveling Wall visit a success. The event, including our Remembrance Table, is prominently featured on the front and back covers of the village calendar.

On Feb. 18 the Friends of Lt. Terry Peterson Family Support Fund will be hosting a benefit at the Warrenville VFW Post 8081. Lt. Peterson was injured by an IED on December 8, 2005. A motion was made to do a Veterans Donation (\$5 per member = \$460) to the Support Fund. The motion passed overwhelmingly. Bill will write a letter to accompany the check.

On Feb. 19 the Downers Grove VFW will be hosting vets from the Hines VA Blind Center from 11:30 to 4:30 for lunch and love. As these are the same vets we visited at Hines, members are encouraged to attend.

Also on Feb. 19 in Forest Park, IL there will be a Blessing of the Clowns. These are the same clowns that visited Hines with us. For info call 708 771-8456.

We had two visitors and potential new members at the meeting, Leonard Traskell and Mike Sheahan. Mike was in the Marine Corp (I know, once a Marine always a Marine) and spent time

in Kuwait. Leonard although not a vet is one of those wonderful people who wasn't there but still cares.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek- \$ in the bank.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

We have had some small success in recovering patches for National. I received one set of eagle/rocker patches from one former member in Lisle and separately a boot patch from member who transferred to Tennessee. Efforts to obtain more patches continue.

Steve and Maureen Hughes received their rockers and eagles. The Chapter received a thank you letter from Rev. John Steer of the Living Word Christian Ministries for our 2005 donation of \$. John expends considerable effort on behalf of veterans.

Dues renewals at this point have been lackluster. We are at about 50% re-up rate, ie, 45 out of 92 members. Just about all the active members that come to the meetings have renewed which is great.

Old Business

Big John received a thank you letter from the Chief of Blind Rehabilitation Services at Hines VA Hospital. This pertains to our visit in December.

Don Pugh talked about our upcoming booth at the McCormick Place Super Cycle show this weekend. Don, along with Gary and Jennifer Huizenga plus other volunteers, will have the bike at the show for raffle ticket sales. The BTR flyer is not complete yet. This brought up much discussion on the absolute closing time for the poker run winning hands. Discussion of times and different methods of running the poker run followed. It was determined that a 4 pm deadline, rain, shine or snow, for the poker hand is needed.

Jennifer and Gary Huizenga will be leading our efforts to sell BTR bike raffle tickets at the Super Cycle show this weekend. Saturday volunteers are adequate but we are light on Sunday volunteers. The show ends at 4:00 pm and the Super Bowl game starts at 5:20 pm. Jennifer said last year they were on their way home by 4:20 pm.

For contact and volunteer information call:

Jen and Gary	Home	708 301-1951
Jen	Cell	708 373-2186
Gary	Cell	708 362-2800

Curley has BTR bike raffle tickets available for members to sell. The tickets are in groups of 20 tickets at \$10 each. Snipe has written a clever computer program to aid us in keeping track of tickets sales.

New Business

Big John stated that since we did not spend all our budgeted money at Hines that we should consider a second run this year, possibly to the Manteno State Veterans Home. This brought an overwhelming positive response from nearly everyone at the meeting. Seems that we all want to do another visit or run to a veteran's hospital or veteran's home in addition to our December Hines visit. This initiated much discussion and many ideas. Some of the thoughts are as follows: we need a truck to carry stuff to the visit, T shirts with RT logo are nice but socks with the RT logo may be liked more, Crazy Man Marvin asked "do we want to combine efforts with Manteno HOG and their visit to the Manteno Home?", toiletries are a preferred item, Kriss suggested maybe LaSalle Veterans Home in June, some members prefer a visit in August. A motion was made and passed to do an additional run this year to a veteran's home or hospital. No specifics were decided. Big John and Brad will head a committee to finalize this effort. Snipe made the good suggestion that we re-phrase our fund raising descriptions to "veteran's hospitals" from "Hines Hospital." This will allow us more flexibility in funding our visits to locations other than Hines.

Pat Cannella, a visitor and former member of IL Chap 1, spoke for a few minutes at the meeting. She is representing the USMC Scout Sniper Association and is looking for donations to send directly to the units. Seems that these guys are so far removed and out in the field they do not receive care packages unless sent directly to them. Pat is looking for donations of snacks, rifle cleaning equipment (WD40?), Kool Aid, and toiletries. They will be shipping in April and cash can be donated to defray shipping cost. Bring donations to the next meeting. Pat can be contacted at 630 778-8399 or at PLC5005@sbcglobal.net .

Tom Dertz mentioned a memorial benefit for Sidecar Jack Wheeler, a deceased IL Chap 1 member. It is sponsored by South Suburban Abate and will take place at the Will County Fairgrounds in Peotone. The date is April 18 from 4 pm to 1 am. Call Mike at 815 838-1730 for details. All proceeds go directly to Jack's Family.

Brad is putting together another T-shirt order for Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1. Contact Brad for details or to order.

Popeye reminded us to keep checking in with the Patriot Guard web site, <http://www.patriotguard.org/> . There may be pending legislation regarding the Patriot Guard and the demonstrators.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
bill_hoteling@hotmail.com