

Minutes of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Illinois Chapter One General Membership Meeting

November 1, 2006

21 of 78 members were in attendance

Chapter President Howard “Weebles” Bushnell called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Our newest member Carol McKenzie was welcomed.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell Howard distributed to each table several extra copies of the BTR program with info on POW/MIA issues. The program was a smaller easier to carry leaflet size this year. While at the BTR Howard checked the waste cans and grounds for discarded programs. None were found. This seems to indicate our POW/MIA message is getting out via our BTR program.

Weebles spoke about email courtesy and thinking of our email recipients and how the original intention of the message may not be so obvious. Building resentments will not let our chapter grow. Holding resentments will not let our chapter grow either.

The alcoholic beverage policy from our constitution Paragraph 15, page 4 states “All chapters must comply with the rule that no alcohol will be sold or distributed by any member of the organization at any Rolling Thunder event. No member shall consume alcohol beverages during any meeting.” Weebles then stated alcoholic beverages before and after the meeting are allowed but not during the meeting.

On Thursday morning Weebles and Carol will be leaving for Washington, DC to represent us at the Rolling Thunder National Convention. One of their activities will be to present a POW flag to Senator Durbin’s office.

Weebles has been uploading RT event photos to Snapfish.com. BTR and Rock Island POW/MIA Recognition Day are available for viewing. Photos can be ordered for 19 cents each and picked up at your local Walgreens. Weebles is seeking any photos available from the Remembrance Table Ceremony at the BTR.

<http://www2.snapfish.com/shareereg/p=496231161618828577/l=216485431/g=37749778/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB/pns/share/p=496231161618828577/l=216485431/g=37749778/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB>

Howard talked about creating a BTR SOP manual detailing materials and resources needed for a successful BTR. Howard is looking for someone to head up this project of collecting and collating this information. Members were asked to write up their tasks and experiences of that day to form a basis of this manual.

The Marine Heroes Ride is this Sunday morning November 5th. Complete details are at <http://www.afmc.com/USMC%20Ride%2006.htm>

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek John had no chapter news but did announce that Kriss is pregnant. Congratulations to John and Kriss!

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek Kriss announced that we have \$xxx in the treasury. The BTR raffle bike has been paid off.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling. We received a \$xxx donation check to Illinois Chapter One from Joe Fese of Elmhurst, the gentleman who won the BTR Bike Raffle. This was in addition to Joe's previous donations in support of BTR. Joe received a spontaneous round of applause.

Webmaster - Fred Folkerts Fred is working to upload photos to our website. The email links for those listed on the website have been modified to prevent robots from scanning email addresses and sending spam. The link to our new website is:

<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com/index.html>

Old Business

A question was asked about how we did financially at the BTR. Basically we grossed \$xxx less a \$xxx balance on the bike. Some bills and some money are still coming in. For example, we just received a check from the cigar man for 10% of his sales. There were 902 paid registrations at the event.

New Business

Popeye reminded us of three Patriot Guard Missions on Thursday Nov.2. The missions are in Byron for a VN vet, Lombard for a General and Downers Grove for a 23 year old Iraq casualty.

<http://www.patriotguard.org/>

Weebles again spoke about the Marine Heroes Ride on Sunday November 5th.

Brad spoke about our yearly Christmas visit to Hines Hospital. Our visit has to be scheduled with Hines so there is no conflict with the many groups visiting Hines at that time of year. Maybe our time, efforts and money could be spent serving a different veterans organization such as the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton <http://www.helpaveteran.org/> Much discussion followed: Our spending has averaged spending about \$xxx on each of last two Christmas visits to Hines. There was a time when Hines vets were sadly ignored, not well provided for or cared for. Fortunately these circumstances have been corrected. Vets at Hines are being well cared for and provided with the items they need. The list of prohibited items like razors, nail clippers, phone cards, pizzas, etc is growing. We can still go to Hines at another time of year and take whatever items we have available. Mike Jordan already has in process 432 bottle each of shampoo, conditioner and lotion with Rolling Thunder labels for a December visit. One of our most valuable and appreciated gift at Hines is spending time with the talking with the vets, listening to their stories and letting them know we appreciate their service to the country. We can visit Hines without spending a lot

of money and still have a very positive impact. Maybe our \$6500 would have greater impact at the Midwest Shelter.

Howard asked for a motion to delay the Hines visit until next spring while Brad investigates the Midwest Shelter. The motion passed. There will be no visit to Hines this December.

There was no 50/50 raffle month.

Our annual Christmas Party will follow next month's shortened meeting. Watch for invitations from Kriss. The Chapter will be providing dinner entrees. You are encouraged to bring a side dish to share. Contact Kriss for ideas.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
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