

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

January 3, 2007

18 of 80 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.

Howard led the group with the Rolling Thunder Prayer from IA Ch 1.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Our newest member Tom Potts attended the meeting with his wife Kathleen. Tom was welcomed as our newest member. Also in attendance was a visitor John Mostowski who picked up an application after the meeting. John is a “former Marine” and would like to do the Ride to the Wall.

### President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard began by thanking members who had taken out Corporate Sponsorships in the Big Thunder Run flyer last October. Certificates of Appreciation were made for:

Main Street Barber Shop, Downers Grove  
Wildfire Harley, Villa Park  
CI Print, Westchester  
Harts Garage, Downers Grove  
Crescent Auto Services, Elmhurst  
Chicago Electric Authority, Bolingbrook  
Ethics Auto Body, Maple Park.

Members are encouraged to show their appreciation by patronizing these businesses.

Howard expressed his desire to for our chapter to have more involvement in POW/MIA issues and local veteran assistance in our area. To achieve that end Dominic Ruggerio has volunteered to be our

Legislative Liaison Committee Chairperson. A future meeting with Tammy Duckworth, the new director of Illinois' Department of Veterans Affairs, was discussed.

We are also looking for a Publicity Chairperson. The photo op during the POW/MIA Flag presentation at Senator Durbin's office is a good example of publicity that could be distributed to local newspapers if we had a publicity person. RT events could be also publicized.

**Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek** John and Kriss could not attend the meeting.

**Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek** Howard relayed from Kriss that we have approximately \$ in the bank

**Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.** Al Preseren was awarded his boot patch.

The dues renewal season for 2007 continues. See me in person to renew or send a \$ check to Rolling Thunder, Illinois Chapter One, PO Box 1042, Warrenville, IL 60555

Fred, our webmaster, has put a link on our homepage for the Rolling Thunder Times. This monthly newsletter from National details a lot of the activities pursued by National and activities of Chapters across the nation. I recommend reading it for a view of the national picture.

## **Old Business**

None.

**New Business** Howard reported we are in the process of procuring a Rolling Thunder patch for the front of our vests. The concept is to communicate who we are while in conversation with others so we do not have to walk away for someone to see the Rolling Thunder name. The patch will display well with our vertical Chapter

patch. This will be in addition to our boot patch. A motion was made and accepted to order 200 patches at approximately \$ each. This order will be shared with IL Chapter 2.

Howard raised the topic of a bike raffle for 2007 at the Big Thunder Run. Much discussion followed. People at the BTR look forward to the bike raffle. Do we want to raffle a 2007 or 2008 model? Which bike should we raffle? How much money did we make on the bike last year? How many tickets did we sell? Did we sell all the tickets? In 2006 we sold \$ in tickets against a \$ bike resulting in a \$ net. We sold 2000 out of 2500 tickets leaving \$ "on the table." By the beginning of the BTR we had sold only enough tickets to pay for the bike. The resulting net was from ticket sales at the BTR event. In 2005 we sold 2300 tickets. We have been very successful in raising money. Now we need your help in spending the money and using it wisely. Snipe suggested obtaining a list of returning vets that may need financial help or that could be "adopted" by our group.

Discussion evolved regarding the amount of money we have in the bank and whether we need to pursue a bike raffle this year. We do not have a budget planned to determine how to or where to spend the money we have raised. We seem to be flying by the seat of our pants with few goals in mind. All members appeared to be in concert regarding the support of local veteran assistance, veteran's projects and POW/MIA issues. These concerns were echoed by several members. The BTR costs estimated \$ per year in expenses. If we do nothing, the money in the bank will have to last for two years.

Howard asked that a motion be made to raffle a Heritage Softtail Classic or better for the BTR bike raffle. A motion was made and unanimously accepted.

Curley volunteered to be the Bike Raffle and Ticket Chairperson again. Some members talked about raffling a better bike such as an Electra Glide or Street Glide. If we want to do a more expensive bike we will all need to step up and sell more tickets. Some groups have been raffling Street Glides and have sold all their tickets. No plans were made for the upcoming Super Cycle Show at McCormick Place. The Illinois Freedom Run to Marseilles was mentioned as a great ticket selling opportunity (15000+ motorcycles).

The Hines December visit had been previously tabled. This delayed visit will be made in the spring, probably in April. The visit will emphasize spending quality time with vets and less on creating goody bags of personal care items. During this upcoming visit members are encouraged to listen, share stories and try to brighten their day.

We need a chairperson to volunteer for this event. Our chapter board will assist and not let you fail. We also need to choose a date for this visit.

Snipe has volunteered to create a SOP Manual for the BTR. Members are requested to write down their activities of that day, what worked, opportunities for improvement, descriptions, supplies needed, etc. Please forward all this info to Snipe to collate.

The BTR date for this year is October 7, 2007, the first Sunday in October.

Howard recommends all interested in attending Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC on Memorial Day make their reservations now <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/PDFs/RTXX.pdf> . The Hyatt Regency in Crystal City (next to the Pentagon) <http://www.crystalcity.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp> is the HQ hotel for RT and they have a special rate of \$ for RT members. Be sure to mention RT when making the reservation. Some of our members are staying there as well as the Best Western in Falls Church, VA

[http://www.bestwestern.com/findhotel/hotel\\_list.asp?city=Falls%20Church&stateCode=US\\_VA&countryCode=US](http://www.bestwestern.com/findhotel/hotel_list.asp?city=Falls%20Church&stateCode=US_VA&countryCode=US)

(About six miles away). This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the Rolling Thunder Run and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Viet Nam Wall. Five hundred thousand bikes and over a million people are expected.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
[billhoteling@gmail.com](mailto:billhoteling@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events:**

Feb. 3                    Super Cycle at McCormick Place North (one day event)

[www.supercycleshow.com](http://www.supercycleshow.com)

Oct. 7                    Big Thunder Run