

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

March 7, 2007

26 of 79 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 IL Ch 2.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Bill Sharpness of Kingston was present as a visitor. After the meeting Bill picked up a RT application.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard announced our two guest speakers for tonight. Tony Cutrano, founder of the Middle East Conflicts Memorial in Marseilles as well as the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run and Dr. Robert Frank from the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans were present to address the chapter.

Tony spoke first and told us the story of the Middle East Conflicts Memorial. Tony described how he, his 9 year old son and others were carrying Support Our Troops signs at an anti-war protest downtown when his son’s flag was thrown to the ground by a protester. This action inspired Tony with his co-founder Jerry Cooch to create and build the Memorial Wall. The funding was originally provided by Tony out of his own pocket and subsequently the Illinois Freedom Run was created to provide more support. Here is a link to the website for additional info [www.http://ilfreedomrun.org](http://ilfreedomrun.org) Tony has many wonderful stories of how the Wall has impacted the families of those honored on the Wall. Tony invited us to attend their monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month.

<http://ilfreedomrun.org/events/index.html> The next meeting is Tuesday April 3rd at 7256 W. 63rd St, Summit, IL.

Dr. Robert Frank, Executive Director of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, spoke next. <http://helpaveteran.org>
The shelter has recently been renamed the Nicholas Larsen Shelter for Homeless Veterans. The shelter now has 5 homeless veterans in residence and working on job development and training among other activities. Dr. Frank described it as a place to change lives and become a more productive member of society. Plans to expand the facility to 25 residents are being considered. Dr. Frank described the screening process and some of the criteria to become a resident. Tammy Duckworth recently advised them they would be receiving \$ from the IL Lotto Veterans Instant game. They have many activities and programs for their residents. They also have many opportunities for us to volunteer.

Howard announced we have raffle tickets available for the RT National Bike Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each.

People know who Rolling Thunder is when we are leaving due to our rocker and eagle. Now we have a 5 inch Rolling Thunder patch for the front of the vest. These patches are optional and available for purchase.

Howard reviewed our visit with Representative Peter Roskam, House Resolution HR111 and member Harold Houston email regarding the diagnosis of PTSD.

Sign up sheets were passed around for the DC run and for the April 29th chapter visit to Hines Hospital. We will meet 9 am at the Hines Hospital Auditorium and volunteer center. It is likely that we will meet in Warrenville and ride in together. Details at the April meeting.

A sign up sheet was also available for the Memorial Day Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Darien VFW. Cutter is leading this effort.

Howard displayed some of the new plates for our Remembrance Table. We are still working on the service flags and stands.

Mario will be leading a Chapter Ride in June. Details to follow.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek John had nothing to report.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek We have \$ in the bank. To date there have been no expenditures for the bike raffle.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

The dues renewal season for 2007 continues. See me in person to renew or send a \$30 check to Rolling Thunder, Illinois Chapter One, PO Box 1042, Warrenville, IL 60555 Members are expected to renew this month as we send our dues check to National in early March. \$10 of the dues is retained by the chapter for our use. As of this date 53 of 79 members have renewed for 2007.

On April 14 there will be a POW/MIA Matt Maupin Foundation Scholarship Run. <http://www.rollingthunderoh9.org/mattsrun.html> A local group is leaving from the Tinley Park Cracker Barrel at 11 am on the 13th. This event is sponsored by Ohio 9.

On April 28th in Mt. Vernon, IL the Kyle Price Memorial Ride will take place. <http://www.kylepricememorialride.org/frameset1.htm> Contact Jack Paluch at 312 802-6002 for more info on either of these rides.

Webmaster - Fred Folkerts

Fred has made many improvements to the website and built a message board area for the private use of IL Chap 1 members only. Registration is required. Please see Fred's recent email for registration instructions. Fred has also included a link to the Rolling Thunder Times on National's website. This is a monthly national

newsletter. Fred is receptive to emails regarding how to use our website and message board.

Old Business

Mario reported on the Wounded Heroes Dinner to help support wounded vets and their families. About 10 returning veterans were on hand to tell their stories of how they were in the field on Tuesday and home on Wednesday. Also attending with Mario were Popeye, and Tom and Kathy Potts.

Snipe reported on the BTR Bike Raffle. The bike this year is a black cherry Soft Tail Deluxe. Tickets will be available in a couple weeks. Tickets are \$10 each. Our big ticket selling events planned this year are the Freedom Run in Marseilles and Hog Nights in Plainfield. Our intent is to sell sell sell and not leave any money on the "table."

Ozzie has extended an open invitation for us to sell tickets during weekend special events at Wildfire Harley Davidson and at HOG Dinner run and dealer rides. These are easy events and the bike is already there.

New Business

Howard asked for a motion to donate \$ to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Larry Smith made the motion. Discussion and changes followed with the donation being changed to \$ a month starting in March of this year (ten months @\$). This could be renewed for \$ in 2008 (12 months @\$ month). A vote was called and the motion passed.

A motion was made to do a veterans donation to the Wounded Heroes Foundation <http://www.woundedheroesfund.net> The motion was passed.

A motion was made to do a veterans donation to the Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall for care and maintenance. The motion was passed.

Howard and LT described Jimmy and Virginia Profitt's lunch program on Sunday mornings for the homeless. It is called the Homeless Sandwich Run and is sponsored by VietNow:

www.VietNow.com Basically, his group scrounges for donated food to create lunches which are assembled in Lombard and then transported down to Lower Wacker Drive and Maxwell St. on Sunday afternoon. This goes on every Sunday and would be a good opportunity for volunteerism. It is proposed that we could make the Sunday after the meeting our day to participate. Approximately 1/3 of the 1100 homeless served are veterans. The Profitts can be reached 1470 Elizabeth Ave, Glendale Heights, IL.

A motion was made to do a veterans donation to his group. The motion passed.

Snipe mentioned Natural Gardens in St. Charles is offering free tables at their event on June 23 and 24. This event will showcase handmade and homemade products. A detailed email from Snipe will follow.

Motion for adjournment was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhotaling@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

April 14 POW/MIA Matt Maupin Foundation Run,
<http://www.rollingthunderoh9.org/mattsrn.html>

April 15

April 22 Woodstock Swap Meet,

April 28 Kyle Price Memorial Ride,

<http://www.kylepricememorialride.org/frameset1.htm>

April 29 Chapter visit to Hines Hospital

May 5 Run for the Son, CMA Christian Eagles, 815 351-5631

May 13 Challenge Run by IL Ch. 2
(Yes, they know it's Mother's Day)

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org/>

May 27 Rolling Thunder XX, Washington, DC
<http://www.rollingthunder1.com>

Memorial Day Remembrance Table at Darien VFW, details to follow

June 3 Sandwich Swap Meet

June 14-17 Hog Rock River Rally, Cave in the Rock, IL

<http://www.hogrock.com>.

June 16 Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run

<http://ilfreedomrun.org/index1.html>

June 24 Grayslake Swap Meet

July 3 Warrenville Fourth of July Parade

Oct. 7 Big Thunder Run

<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>

Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>