

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

May 2, 2007

30 of 68 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.

Visitors present were George Pineda of AT&T Pioneers and potential new members Jason Bowles and Michele Siani of Naperville.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard announced we have raffle tickets available for the RT National Bike Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each with 3 chances to win one of two bikes on each ticket. We have only 9 tickets left. Bike pictures can be seen at this link <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/>

People know who Rolling Thunder is when we are leaving due to our rocker and eagle. Now we have a 5 inch wide Rolling Thunder patch for the front of the vest. These patches are optional and available for purchase from Howard at \$2 each. It is recommended that these patches be displayed on the right front of the vest above the IL Chap 1 patch. Our Chapter patches are available at \$5 each. Purchase and display of these patches is optional.

Howard also passed around photos of chapter members participating in lunch preparations at the Proffitt Family/VietNow homeless lunch program. Our chapter has designated the Sunday after our monthly meeting to volunteer at 901 Ridge Road in Lombard. Contact info at jproffitt1077@sbcglobal.net or

<http://www.vietnow.com/index.htm> This volunteer opportunity requires only about 2 hours of time.

Howard had sign up sheets for the following upcoming activities:

1. The Memorial Day Remembrance Table at the Darien VFW
2. The IL Chap 2 Challenge Run
3. Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC Capital Hill Tour
4. Illinois Freedom Run, volunteers needed to staff both and to sell bike raffle tickets.

On this Sunday May 6 at 1 pm there is a chapter publicity photo opportunity at the Nicholas Larson Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. The shelter is located at 119 N. West Street in Wheaton. We will be presenting a facsimile check of our \$ donation to the shelter for 2007. All members are encouraged to attend. It has been requested that we bring only 4 bikes.

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

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek We have \$ in the bank.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

Chapter membership now stands at 68 members. This includes new member Bill "Hawk" Sharpness of Kingston. Welcome Bill!!

We received a thank you letter from the Wounded Heroes Foundation for our veteran's donation.

Member Leonard "Wolfman" Traskel received his rocker and eagle. Congratulations Leonard!!

Chairman of the Board - Doug "Skippy" Mahar

Doug announced a BTR planning session will follow this meeting.

Old Business

LT announced BTR bike raffle tickets are available. Members picked up tickets after the meeting.

Cutter announced kickstands up at 9:30 am for the Memorial Day Remembrance Table ceremony at the Darien VFW. Participants will leave from the Warrenville VFW. Plainfield Hog nights will be the last Saturday night of June, July and August. Patch sewing is available on Tuesday nights at Suburban HD in Palatine, on Wednesday night at Wildfire HD in Villa Park and on Thursday nights at Heritage HD in Lisle.

New Business

On last Sunday, April 29th, we visited the veterans at Hines Hospital. The visit was warmly received and we had a chance to see some of our old friends. Some of you may remember Rodney, a resident that accompanied us in his electric wheel chair and who served as our tour guide during our visit last August. Rodney asked me where our goodie bags are and I explained how we now donate through Volunteer Service as they know best what is needed by the vets. Rodney said “they don’t know what we need” and proceeded to tell me about the need for a new washing machine, lack of ESPN cable channels (no Bulls games) and no remote available for the lounge TV. Their wing has had one washing machine out of service for 7 months. Apparently the VA will launder their bed linens and hospital gowns but not their personal clothing. Laurie and I continued our conversation with Rodney and then took a break to find this laundry area. The laundry area had one washer missing, its companion dryer is a virtual antique (takes 3 cycles to dry clothes) and another well worn but running washer/dryer set.

On the following days, Monday and Tuesday, Laurie pursued an appropriate washer dryer set for the Hines vets. Considerations were

size, front loading, accessible front controls, commercial service duty, purchase cost, and consent from Hines engineering, staff and Volunteer Services.

Laurie made a motion to spend \$ for a washer/dryer set from Best Buy in North Riverside with the possible later addition of a service policy at additional cost. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed. A check was made out to Hines Volunteer Services, not the VA, and is earmarked for the washer/dryer set.

Snipe congratulated Laurie for taking the bull by the horns and getting the job done. Laurie received a round of spontaneous applause from all present.

Boz announced a meeting with Tammy Duckworth on Wednesday May 16 from 2:00 to 2:30 pm at her office in the Thompson Center downtown. Members are requested to attend this meeting to discuss how we can best use our resources on behalf of veterans and to discuss our concerns.

Snipe discussed the Hines vets request for ESPN on their cable system. They apparently need a hardware upgrade and a cable package upgrade. (Rodney told me the hardware needed cost about \$).

Laurie talked about the TV remote control problem. A flat panel TV was donated for their lounge but the vets cannot operate it without the remote. "Nurse Crachitt" keeps the remote at the nurse's station and is too busy with her nursing duties to make it available.

Doug introduced George Pineda from AT&T Pioneers who would like to include Rolling Thunder IL Chap 1 in their motorcycle run and band concert on July 28 at Zylstra HD.

<http://www.attpioneers.org/home/index.html> The Pioneers have full volunteer and financial support from within their organization. They want the name recognition of Rolling Thunder to include in their advertising and promotion. We would have a booth at the event to sell BTR bike raffle tickets, sell our merchandise and publicize POW/MIA issues. Our board has decided to make this a chapter event, lend our support and lend our good name.

The run includes 2 starting points with groups from Crystal Lake in the north and Ottawa in the south and converging on Zylstras in St. Charles. Zylstra is providing the facility, parking, band stage, etc. There will be five bands throughout the afternoon. Blue Dog, our band from BTR, will be band four and the warm up band for the Lt. Dan Band with Gary Sinise. We will perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony in the afternoon. We talked about IL Chap 1 leading the group from Ottawa to Zylstras and IL Chap 2 leading the group from Crystal Lake to Zylstras. This event can be thought of as a partnership with Rolling Thunder IL Chap 1, the Lt. Dan Band and the AT&T Pioneers. The run is intended to benefit wounded and disabled veterans. Rolling Thunder IL Chap 1, our BTR and bike raffle would be included in radio and TV advertising and on their website.

A motion to adjourn was passed.

A BTR planning session, hosted by Doug, followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhotaling@gmail.com

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

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

May 6 Photo Op, 1 pm, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans,
www.helpaveteran.org

May 12 Sarge Run, Batavia,
<http://batavia.moosrider.com/sargerun/sarge%20run%20final.pdf>

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

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org/>

May 16 Tammy Duckworth meeting at Thompson Center, 2 PM

May 27 Rolling Thunder XX, Washington, DC

<http://www.rollingthunder1.com>

May 28 **Memorial Day** **Remembrance Table at Darien VFW,**
kickstands up 9:30 am, leave from the Warrenville VFW

May 31 Illinois State Hog Rally, <http://www.ilstatehogrally.com/>

June 3 Sandwich Swap Meet

June 10 Flag Day Run,
<http://www.medinahmotorcorps.org/FDR.html>

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 23 Ride to Remember, IL Police & Fire Motorcycle Assoc.,
www.honorguardtraining.org

June 24 Grayslake Swap Meet

June 30 Hog Night, Plainfield

July 3 **Warrenville Fourth of July Parade**

July 7 Paul Salley Memorial Ride, www.rubriders.com

July 22 Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Golf Outing,
www.helpaveteran.org

July 28 **Lt. Dan Band, Zylstra HD in St. Charles, Remembrance**
Table

Aug. 25 Hog Night, Plainfield

Sept. 5-9 **Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, RT Escort and Remembrance**
Table

Sept. 15 **POW/MIA Recognition Day at Rock Island Arsenal**

Oct. 7 **Big Thunder Run**
<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>

Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,
<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>