

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

August 6, 2008

28 of 69 members were in attendance

Chairman of the Board “Harley” Steve Pletzke called the meeting to order. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

New members present at the meeting were Tony Leone of Woodridge (Tony’s forefathers and uncles are vets, he is very concerned about veterans), Jessica Jarosz of Downers Grove (and great supporter of our troops, see www.ctvsc.com) and Bryan Provis of Aurora (Bryan is the son in law of Skippy and Rhonda and has been helping and supporting IL Chap 1 at our events for quite a while). Mike McPherosn of Wheaton, a Viet Nam vet, attended the meeting and took an application for membership. Nancy Burke, also a visitor spoke about the Ride for Kurtie, see www.rideforkurtie.org on Aug. 24.

President - Doug “Skippy” Mahar

Doug was not present at the meeting due to the recent storm.

Chairman of the Board - “Harley” Steve Pletzke

Steve announced a brief meeting format to allow time for a Big Thunder Run planning session.

Steve described IL Chap 1 successful efforts at the Operation Support Our Troops event at Cantigny. Fr. Guido won the door prize which was a meet and greet with Gary Sinese of the LT. Dan Band and TV fame.

Also mentioned was the escort of Purple Heart Veterans from Hines VA to Kup’s Purple Heart Cruise at Navy Pier. About 15 of us met at Hines at 5am for the escort. Ceremonies at Navy Pier included

a 82nd Airborne jump team, a Lima Lima flyover and speeches from local dignitaries.

We received a package from Ozzie in Afghanistan. Included was a flag flown over Bagram Airbase on July 4th, 2008 and a certificate. Steve will make a display case so we can show this prize at all our information booths. We will scan the certificate for all to see via our email list. Thank you Ozzie for this most treasured flag.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek

John had nothing to report.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek Treasury Report: \$ on hand in the treasury.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

I reported on a recent letter from Artie regarding the patches and unpaid dues from recent members. We have 22 former members on Artie's list that have not paid dues and whose rockers and eagles we need to retrieve. Ultimately our Chapter will owe National \$ per patch set not returned. National recommends legal action by our Chapter to retrieve these patches. We should all think of these patch sets as being on loan from National.

Old Business and New Business

LT reminded us of our commitment to a Remembrance Table Ceremony this Sunday, August 10th at the Glendale Heights VFW on Army Trail Road at 12 noon.

Additionally, LT is forming a core of regulars to practice and polish our performance of this ceremony. To create a more uniform look POW/MIA vests will be provided. White t-shirts and black hats will be required. Additional volunteers are needed for back up and as flag bearers.

Members going the Glendale Heights VFW run and Remembrance Table Ceremony will meet at the Warrenville VFW this Saturday, kick stands up at 8am. The run is at 9 am and the ceremony is at 12 noon.

Much discussion evolved regarding the best way to obtain rockers and eagles from former members. Probably the best and most successful way to retrieve these patches is for current members to contact these former members (who are probably still our friends) and ask for return of our patches. A list of names and their most recent contact info will be distributed to all current members to be used in soliciting the return of Rolling Thunder rockers, eagles and boots. A committee of Bill Houghtaling, Dominic Ruggerio and Laurie Velasquez was formed to pursue these efforts. A plan starting with this softball contact approach and escalating to full legal action will be followed.

Nominations for September election of a Treasurer, Vice-President and three board members were accepted. Nominations will also be accepted prior to the election at the September meeting. The current nomination status is as follows:

Vice President	“Harley” Steve Pletzke
Treasurer	Jim “Snipe” Murray
Board Members	Bill “Hawk” Sharpness
	Dominick “Hard Core” Ruggerio
	Richy “Fr. Guido” Zayat
	Laurie Velasquez
	Rich “Cutter” Wayne

Roy Yeager mentioned the Bikers for Bob ride and fundraiser. The ride begins at the Naperville VFW at 9am on August 17th. Contact 9wheeler@comcast.net for further info.

Bill Houghtaling is putting together a group ride to his house on the Rock River in Oregon, IL on Saturday October 11th. This is the Saturday after the BTR. A motion was made and passed for the Chapter to provide pizzas and soft drinks. Oregon is about 60 miles west of Warrenville on Rt. 64. A 30 mile scenic ride along the Rock River may feature a stopover at the Turkey Testicle Festival.

Dominic made a motion to donate (\$3/member) to the Ride for Kurtie and Bikers for Bob. Cutter made a motion for a Veterans Donation to Jess's organization, www.ctvsc.com All motions passed.

The IBEW is having a ride to benefit the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans <http://www.helpaveteran.org/> on Septmeber 7th. The ride ends at the Warrenville VFW. The Warrenville VFW has asked our Chapter to run the beer tent at the VFW. This request was unanimously accepted. (ed. while I have great personal reservations in supporting this event because I feel it may cannibalize the Big Thunder Run... it is too close in time, too close in location as it begins in Batavia, has RT participation, benefits the MSHV (who we already support with \$ a year) **I think we should be extremely aggressive at this event in pushing the Big Thunder Run and assertively selling bike raffle tickets).**

Popeye thanked those who participated in the Ride for Kids and the Chapter for our donation to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. The event raised \$ to fund cancer research.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was passed.

LT conducted a Remembrance Table Ceremony practice session.

Weebles will hold a Big Thunder Run planning session on another night as we ran out of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
billhoteling@gmail.com

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

Aug. 10 **Remembrance Table at the Glendale Heights VFW**

- Aug. 17 Ksu @ Warrenville VFW 8 am
Bikers for Bob, Naperville VFW, 9am
Info at 9wheeler@comcast.net
- Aug. 24 Ride for Kurtie, West Chicago,
www.rideforkurtie.org
- Sept. 7 Ride for Homeless Vets, IBEW in Batavia,
(we run beer tent at Warrenville VFW at ride end).
- Sept. 14 Ride to Remember 9-11, Springfield, IL
www.ridetoremember911.com
- Oct. 4 Saturday morning set up for Big Thunder Run
- Oct. 5 **Big Thunder Run**
- Oct. 11 **Group Ride to Oregon, IL**