

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

November 5, 2008 27 of 79 members were in attendance

President Doug Mahar was not in attendance. VP Harley Steve Pletzke chaired the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Ozzie Giglio, recently returned from Afghanistan, was welcomed back.

Guests present were Rudy Dubis of Batavia, Ron Tuttle of St. Charles and Tammy Plata who helped us at the BTR. All three of these guests accepted applications during the meeting and became members of Illinois Chapter One. Welcome!!

Vice-President – “Harley” Steve Pletzke

Harley thanked everyone for their work and efforts in another successful Big Thunder Run. Despite the rain and gloomy forecast we had a successful fundraising event. Harley specifically commended Howard as BTR Chairman and Leds for the printing/program assistance.

Harley Steve and Beth will be attending the National Rolling Thunder Conference in Washington, DC this weekend on our behalf. Steve asked if members had any specific concerns that should be voiced at the National Conference. Laurie asked why rocker and eagle returns are our problem instead of National's problem. The answer is in the Rolling Thunder Constitution <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/PDFs/constitution-2005-03-31-06.pdf>

Howard suggested that Harley take a few BTR programs to the National Conference.

Steve mentioned that ten members of Ch. 1 attended the Oak Lawn HOG ride to the Manteno State Veterans Home. This escorted ride was attended by 2500+ bikes. Personally, I had always heard the home is a place for old veterans to go and die and was expecting the worst. Fortunately I was very wrong. It is a clean, well run operation with residents saying they are well cared for. There are 273 veteran residents of which 203 are from WW2. While there we saw many groups donating in the amounts of \$500 and \$1000. A motion was made to donate \$1000 to the Manteno veterans. Much discussion evolved around rationalizing the \$1000 donation versus our \$5 per member veteran's donation. (We support the MSHV with \$6000 a year. This donation would affect 273 veterans vs. the \$5 per member donation). Concern was mentioned about our donation supplementing money that would be otherwise provided by the State of Illinois. Dennie Murphy will speak to the people at Manteno as to how the money would be used. Dennie will ask that a Manteno representative come to a RT meeting and address the issue of how donation money is used. This motion was tabled pending further investigation of how donated money is used in Manteno.

Harley Steve mentioned the Chapter needs a Quartermaster to oversee all our supplies, merchandise, Remembrance Table setups and storage unit. This job was formerly shared by Harley and Snipe. Bill Sharpness spoke up and was volunteered for the job. We really need a couple of people to share this responsibility. Please consider helping out the Chapter in this area.

Treasurer – Jim “Snipe” Murray

Treasury Report: \$32092 on hand in the treasury after the BTR. Those who attended the meeting received a full report on the BTR financial breakdown of expenses and income.

Snipe also has Flashers available for \$15 each. These flashers are like banners with Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter One to be displayed on your windshield.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

I received two letters from Artie regarding rockers and eagles requested for members. Artie declined in both letters and re-iterated the qualification period for receiving a rocker and eagle. The qualification period for a boot patch is three months. The qualification period for a rocker and eagle is 12 months after receiving a boot patch. There are also other qualifications regarding meeting attendance and event participation in order to receive patches. Please see the Rolling Thunder Constitution for full details <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/PDFs/constitution-2005-03-31-06.pdf> We have previously compressed the qualification times for patches but now Artie is holding patches until the time requirement is fulfilled.

Rob Wilkins was awarded his rocker and eagle. Congratulations Rob!!

A current list of those names whose patches are in arrears will be compiled by me and distributed to you in a couple days. Remember, as I have previously stated, these people are our friends and have previously been good and beneficial members of our Chapter. Contacting those you know on an informal friendly basis works better than certified letters or legal action. We will hold the heavy artillery for later.

Chairman of the Board – Rick “Popeye” Montgomery

Popeye will be attending the National Ride For Kids Conference this weekend. Popeye thanked the Chapter for our continuous support of RFK. Nationally RFK has raised \$40 million for Pediatric Brain Tumors in the last year.

Old Business and New Business

Snipe received a communication from James Wallish of City Limits Harley regarding a bike raffle. The beneficiary of this raffle will be Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter One. Full details can be seen at <http://cdn-4.psndealer.com/e2/dealersite/images/citylimitshd/clhd-millerinfoposter575.jpg> I will also attach a pdf of this flyer to these minutes. This Harley give away looks like a lot of fun so please participate in the give away and pass the flyer on to your friends.

Howard had a few BTR comments. First was thanks to all who helped and participated the making of another successful event. Despite the weather we even had a group from Kentucky who again attended the event. It is a credit to us and the Chapter. An especially moving moment was seeing grown men and women with tears in their eyes during the Remembrance Table Ceremony. Expenses were greater this year but we invested in infrastructure items we can use again next year. Howard thanked Fr. Guido for researching and organizing the content for the BTR program. Also thanked were BFC printing, Leds and Big John for program publication and other printing. A special thanks was given to the two members who stayed to clean up the Batavia VFW after the event.

Laurie mentioned the Civilian Coin Challenge and their fundraiser. Full details can be seeing at <http://www.moorefoundation.info/>

Big John reminded us of the Batavia VFW Thanksgiving Dinner for those who do not have the opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with family or friends. A pdf of their flyer is attached to the minutes.

Our December meeting will be immediately followed by our annual Christmas Party. Kriss Sedlacek was volunteered, in abstensia, to coordinate the dinner. (Kriss, members who volunteered to help you are Rhonda, Steve, Beth and Laurie). The usual program is for the Chapter to provide the main course (from Rosati's Pizza) and for members to bring a dish to pass. The best dishes to bring are either an appetizer or a desert. The reason to coordinate with Kriss is first so we can get a handle on how much food to order and second to avoid duplication of dishes to pass. Please contact Kriss via kristina.sedlacek@sbcglobal.net

Crystal Lee Noack and her husband of Photography by Crystal attended the meeting. Crystal does location photography and covered our recent Big Thunder Run. Please view and order her BTR photos at

<http://www.shutterfly.com/progal/album.jsp?aid=768a5498cf3c99b65f70>

Crystal will be sharing a portion of the proceeds with our Chapter.

Crystal also presented the Chapter with a very nice collage photo board of the 2008 BTR. Harley Steve will be making a frame so we can display these photos at our POW/MIA booths.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
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Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

Nov.7 Chicago Stand Down for Homeless Veterans
National Guard Armory, 1551 N. Kedzie
Set up on Nov. 6

Info at: stephanie.lind@pepsi.com

Dec. 3 Christmas Party and monthly meeting