

Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1 Meeting Minutes

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

February 4, 2009

33 of 79 members were in attendance

Vice-President "Harley Steve" Pletzke called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

President - Doug "Skippy" Mahar. Not able to make attendance.

Vice-President - "Harley" Steve Pletzke

Harley had Dominic read the Rolling Thunder Mission Statement which is quoted below:

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues: To educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war-missing in action.

We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

Thank you to those who attended the Welcome Home Escort for George Wright's brother. About fifteen members (two on motorcycles) provided the escort with the Lisle Police Department who had shut down US 34. We had full lights, sirens and parade speed of 5 mph.

The Village of Lisle has invited Rolling Thunder IL 1 to represent Rolling Thunder at the Lisle Memorial Day Parade. We are assured of being front and center. A Remembrance Table Ceremony could follow the parade.

The board has approved our involvement at the Illinois Freedom Run in Marseilles on June 20th. The application and fee will be filed. Please consider this one of our premier BTR ticket selling opportunities of the year.

Howard will not be able to perform as BTR Chairperson nor BTR Program Chairperson. We need others to step into this important position of our biggest fundraiser. Discussion evolved. Richy "Guido" Zayat and Mario Giovannini step up to do the BTR Program. Chris Sedlacek admitted she was once the Run Co-Chair. Bill "Hawk" Sharpness has the sign up sheet for those going to Rolling Thunder XXII in Washington, DC. This specific sign up sheet is for those who want to participate in the Gold Star Mother Escort. This is one of the premier "jobs" for a chapter to participate in during the parade. At this point National wants to get a handle by Feb. 15th on how many escorts from IL1 will be available. At the parade you will need proof of insurance, a bike built to carry a passenger, a valid license, an extra helmet, etc in order to carry a Gold Star Mom. Contact Bill at bill.and.lorie@verizon.net

Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray

Snipe read the proposed IL CH1 By Law for the third time. The text follows:

Donations

Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter one has a mission of action on behalf of POW/MIAs. Keeping this issue in the forefront is the national direction of this organization and therefore the primary objective of this chapter.

It is also recognized that Illinois Chapter One has the opportunity and obligation to help veterans and veteran organizations in what ever capacity comes to bear. We are pledged to assist other veterans by becoming physically involved as a chapter or by donation as a chapter.

At times, it is recognized that donations and assistance may be called upon for civilian needs. These needs must also be considered but not at the risk of the obligations stated above.

Therefore the following donations policies are established and will be adhered to by this chapter.

Civilian

Once approved by the board and then a majority vote of the membership present at a subsequent meeting, a donation to a civilian individual or cause will be funded using the formula of \$3.00 per paid member. Individual support either in labor or finance is the choice of the member(s). Community involvement of chapter members is supported and encouraged.

Military

There are occasions within which we, as a chapter, are called upon to assist a veteran in need. These needs, once approved by the board and then a majority vote of the membership present at a subsequent meeting, will be funded using the formula of \$5.00 per paid member.

In the event that individual veterans or organizations that support veterans are in need of our help, we as a chapter have the sanction to approve via the board and a majority vote of all members present at a subsequent meeting, a monetary amount befitting of the request. This amount will not have an arbitrary limit and will be decided upon by the membership.

Snipe asked if all were in favor of the By Law. The answer was a unanimous "yes."

Those at the meeting were presented with the treasury account opening balance, the present balance and our expected figure of money available for donations. Some of the expenses this month were donated to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and annual payment for our storage location.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

The 2009 dues renewal season is here. The dues remain at \$30 per year. Checks should be payable to Rolling Thunder.

Dues can also be mailed to:
Rolling Thunder IL Ch 1
PO Box 1042
Warrenville, IL 60555

March is the last month for dues payment.

Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery

The American Veteran Motorcycle Riders Association is having a pancake breakfast March 8th at the Brookfield VFW. Watch for a PDF copy of the flyer.

There is a special on HBO called "Taking a Chance" based on a true story. Premieres Sunday February 21 at 8 pm. Here Here is the link: <http://www.hbo.com/films/takingchance/>

Old Business and New Business

Snipe gave a report on the status of the Bike Raffle:

It is most important for every member to sell tickets:

1. These profits are the only guaranteed income in case of a rain out.
2. Fundraising efforts by us cost a lot on money and we need to offset this cost.
3. The bike has always been a profitable venture for us.
4. All the BTR monies are spent up front before the event.
5. A Heritage Harley has been selected as the raffle bike.
6. Leds is working on tickets.
7. Watch for an email flyer to forward to everyone you know
 - a. It will direct them back to our website
 - b. We will sell tickets on website.
 - c. If we don't have an online payment working we will revert to the old fashion order by mail with a check.

Many members fielded their marketing ideas. Discussion was good.

Cutter had a request from Darien VFW for us to perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony on Memorial Day. We need exact dates and times for Lisle and Darien. Can we do both? Issue tabled until dates and specific times are identified.

Cutter will also be sending an email update for Leds regarding an event at the School House on 31 south of 56 on Saturday.

Andy mentioned an event to Support Our Troops at Hotshots, Batavia Rd. and Rt. 59, Sunday February 8th, noon to 4 pm. Watch for an email update.

John Sedlacek asked if we are planning an Easter visit at Hines. No one stood up to lead this effort. Most members will attend if someone can take the lead and make the arrangements.

Harley Steve helped a homeless vet who has been living in his car since November. There was no space available at the MSHV. Steve contacted the DuPage Veterans Commission for help. Steve also contacted the Warrenville VFW whose members gave financial support to help this young vet. Maybe you all remember Steve's email plea last month. Help was provided along with a hotel room near his part time job in St. Charles. (Ed. this story is not over yet and Steve will be contacting him to check on his conditions. I think there is ample opportunity for our chapter to help here. Also, this young man needs a full time job).

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in Bold)

May 17	Frogs for Freedom
May 17	Armed Forces Day
May 24	Rolling Thunder XXII, Washington, DC
June 14,	Flag Day
June 20	Illinois Freedom Run
July 18	Operation Support Our Troops at Cantigny
Sept. 18 & 19 GA	The Ride Home, http://powridehome.org/ Andersonville,

Sept. 18
Sept. 27
Oct. 3

National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Gold Star Mother Day
Big Thunder Run