

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

May 4th, 2011

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter Meeting of May 4th 2011 was called to order by Vice President Dominic Ruggiero at 19:30 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag and had a moment of silence for Illinois POW/MIA's that went missing during the Viet Nam War, and are still missing in the month of May. The Rolling Thunder® Mission Statement was read. The Board attendance is listed below:

Attending	Name	Position
Yes	Bill " Hawk" Sharpness	President
Yes	Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggiero	Acting Vice-President
Yes	Jim "Snipe" Murray	Treasurer
Yes	Tony "Clutch" Leone	Secretary
Yes	Richard "Popeye" Montgomery	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Kristina "Kriss" Sedlacek	Board Member
Yes	Richy "Fr. Guido" Zayat	Board Member
Yes	Doug "Skippy" Mahar	Board Member
Yes	Dennis "LT" Reiter	Board Member
Yes	Bill B.B. Houghtaling	Board Member

44 of 75 adult members were in attendance. We had 4 guests that were in attendance.

The meeting began with a guest speaker, Jeff Gilbert, and his wife Janet Gilbert. Jeff and Janet are the founding members of an organization called Hope for Tomorrow, Inc. The organization provides help to veterans with chronic substance use / co-occurring disorders or compulsive pathological gambling addictions.

The organization operates homes to provide a safe, structured, supportive, substance free housing to veterans. Jeff and his wife provided detailed pamphlets on their organization to all Rolling Thunder® members, and asked for our support. After a question and answer period, Jeff and Janet thanked us for our time. We thanked them for their contributions to veteran issues and this was warmly recognized by applause from our organization.

Please refer to the provided pamphlet on details of the organization.

President- Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

Bill asked our guests Jeremy and Chris Peters to stand up and be recognized. They were greeted with a hearty round of applause. Bill proceeded to go into our first order of business which is our 10th anniversary Big Thunder Run. Bill recognized board member and Director of the BTR, Kristina "Kriss" Sedlacek.

Board Member-Kristina "Kriss" Sedlacek

Kriss reiterated that this is our 10th annual BTR. We need to make this a special event. Kriss thanked Hardcore for the upgraded color posters. Rhonda will be handling registration again. This is a difficult and important position and Rhonda was thanked by the membership. Father Guido and Weebles are handling the program booklets. Kriss solicited members for sponsors, story contributors and advertisers to insert in the booklets. She also asked for any suggestions from members to make this event stand out.

Member Tom Dertz has suggested that we have an Honor Guard and Taps. He has used a young group of performers at his poker run and believes that they would be an excellent addition to the Remembrance Table.

Frank Battaglia introduced guest Jeremy owns a bar on Rt. 64 and would like to be a stop in the poker run. He will contribute proceeds of .25 per drink served back to Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1. John Sedlacek is handling the poker run route and will look at the feasibility issue. The board will take this into consideration.

Other issues discussed are procurement of the band, 50/50 raffles using decks of cards(Eugene Labelle volunteered for this), and a worst hand as part of our poker run, along with advertisers and vendors and participation in the Remembrance Table Ceremony.

Kriss stated that she needs volunteers to help with the raffles and merchandise. Please get with Kriss if you can help out with any of the above.

Vice President-Dominic “Hard Core” Ruggiero

Dominic stated that we have submitted our grant request. The proposal was for \$238,000. B.B. and Dominic put in countless hours to get this proposal done within the time constraints that they had to meet. They were thanked by the membership with a round of applause.

Secretary’s Report - Tony “Clutch” Leone

Rocker and Back patches were awarded to Ron Tuttle, Eugene Labelle, and Marvin Harkins. A dues reminder was given to the members and I restated the new rules for receiving patches. Boot patch is a \$50.00 deposit, and Rocker and Eagle is \$100.00.

Treasurer’s Report - Jim “Snipe” Murray

Jim stated we have \$24,000 in our account.

Chairman of the Board- Richard “Popeye” Montgomery

No Report

President- Bill “Hawk” Sharpness

Because many members are going to Washington D.C., Bill solicited those members not going to Washington to participate in the Lisle Days Parade and Remembrance Table Ceremony.

Reminder June 12th is the Wheaton VFW poker run. We will bring the raffle bike and perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony at this event.

Walneck’s was successful as we sold \$1000 worth of tickets.

Bill reiterated that we need, as an organization, to contact our Senators and Congressmen to express our concern that Bowe Bergdahl is still alive and is a POW in Afghanistan since 2009. Bill has phone numbers and sample letters for anyone that is interested.

Other Concerns

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Leone, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
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