

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Illinois Chapter One General Membership Meeting Minutes September 4, 2013

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter Meeting of September 4, 2013 was called to order by **President Bill Sharpness** at 19:30 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag and had a moment of silence for the five Illinois MIA's that went missing in the Vietnam War during the month of September. The Mission Statement was read by **Vice President Dominic Ruggerio**.

We had two Guests in attendance: Kandice Jacobs and Cathy McGuiness, both of Inland Bank.

The Board attendance is listed below:

Attending	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
Yes	Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)	Vice-President
Excused	Jim Murray (Snipe)	Treasurer
Yes	Robert Leskovar	Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Kristina Sedlacek (Kriss)	Board Member
Yes	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Chuck Kimber (Boat Sides)	Board Member
Yes	Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)	Board Member
Yes	John Mikuski	Board Member
Yes	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
Excused	Gary Stengler	Assistant Treasurer

30 of 75 adult members were in attendance. 2 Guests

President- Bill Sharpness (Hawk)

- We have elections tonight. Additional nominations may be made prior to the election.

- Hawk expressed gratitude to Inland bank for their interest and generosity with Illinois Chapter One and our POW/MIA mission.
- The Board has been remiss in tracking patch eligibility for members. Knute has been around almost three years and still does not have a rocker. This will be remedied. Any member that is eligible and does not have their patches should notify a Board member.

Vice President-Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)

- Dominic thanked Inland Bank for their support. Inland allowed us to partner with them at the Warrior Summit at Soldier Field last month. Kandice's branch of the bank has sold several books of tickets for the motorcycle raffle. We will also be adding a tri-fold flyer about Inland's Hometown Heroes program when we stuff the BTR programs. Inland also purchased a full page add in our BTR program book

Treasurer's Report - Jim Murray (Snipe) - Excused

Chairman of the Board- Richard Montgomery (Popeye)

- A rocker and eagle patch were awarded to Knute.
- A boot batch was awarded to RTO.
- Elections:
 - Nominations were solicited. Several declinations were received.
 - Gary V (Names) was nominated for Board.
- Election Results:
 - Vice-President - Dominic Ruggerio (Hardcore)
 - Secretrary - Open at this time. All nominees declined the position.
 - Board - Bill Houghtaling (BB)
 - Board - Dan Thomas (Cage)
 - Board - Bill Atkinson (Fallout)
- Popeye thanked Chuck Kimber for his two years of service to the Chapter as a Board Member.

- Popeye thanked Rob Leskovar for his years of service as Secretary after an awkward transition.
- Bike raffle tickets: Sales are very tough this year. We have not yet covered the cost of the bike. Please keep pushing tickets.

Board Member - Chuck Kimber (Boat Sides)

- Chuck has BTR parking passes made for vendors, band, etc. See Chuck if your vendor wants a parking pass.
- Moe and his parking crew will determine when to stop charging late afternoon arrivals who show up just for the party. Bike show participants without a wrist band will be charged the \$20 BTR fee.

Board Member-Kristina Sedlacek (Kriss)

- Kriss, our BTR Chair Person, reviewed the Big Thunder Run day, member jobs for the day and BTR activities.
- Any questions: Please contact Kriss for an answer.
- Items reviewed were member work assignments, the band, the stage, the Run route, the bike show, raffles, the program book, t-shirts, TV for the Bears game at noon, the Remembrance Table, Gerald in the POW cage (watch for no tip jar this year), the Bagpipers, Greasy and his crew from Task Force Omega.
- Suggestions were: Why don't t-shirts match the cover on the BTR program book? Also, can we get an ATM machine in the VFW Hall for the day?
- Remembrance Table: LT is heading up the Table Ceremony. Participants should wear black jeans, black boots and a long sleeve white t-shirt. Vests and POW hats will be supplied.

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Board Member- Knute Weick

- Knute is working on two POW/MIA ceiling tiles at the Glendale Heights VFW.

Board Member - Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)

- Our Bowe Bergdahl billboard at I-355 and Rt. 64 is down. Our 30 day lease is over. Fallout is investigating other sites.

Board Member-Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)

- We will have a ¼ page BTR flyer ad and a ¼ page Bowe Bergdahl ad in the September issue of Thunder Roads magazine.
- The Board is considering making a donation to the Concord Place Homeless Veteran program. We will be making a due diligence visit there on Monday at 11:30 am. Members are invited to come along. See website calendar for details.

Other Concerns:

- Radio Steve (RTO) will be having a Walk for Bowe Bergdahl on September 20th. This is also National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Meet at noon at Union Station downtown Chicago, and proceed as a group to the Viet Nam Memorial. Bring a POW flag and wear your vest. This is not a civil disobedience walk. It is simply a POW Bowe Bergdahl awareness walk. Details will be posted on the website calendar.
- Cage met with Tom Cullerton, candidate for IL State Senate, who was totally unaware of Bowe Bergdahl. Tom will be drafting a letter to Tammy Duckworth.
- Beau spoke about the very meaningful escort of a Korean War MIA from O'Hare to McHenry and additionally the funeral escort on Saturday.
- Hawk gave a very heartfelt thank you and expressed appreciation to all the non-veteran members of Rolling Thunder who work so hard on our POW/MIA mission and veteran causes. Boz added some very kind words and reminded us that we can hate the war but not to hate the warrior.

Motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Houghtaling
for
Rob Leskovar, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
Rleskovar@aol.com