

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes June 5, 2024

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Al “Shadow” Miller at 1940 hours at the Warrenville VFW.

Chapter Board

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Al “Shadow” Miller	President
Yes	Kandice “PG” Jacobs	Vice-President
Yes	Rick “Cosmo” Herr	Treasurer
Yes	Jim “Snipe” Murray	Secretary
Yes	Knut Weick	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Wendy “Dragonfly” Vach	Director
No	Don “Stone Cold” Gaylord	Director
No	Greg “Rooster” Messler	Director
Yes	Keith “Stretch” Stengler	Director
Yes	Dave “Roadie Dave” Skinner	Director
Yes	Sue “Stumbler” Price	Director

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Miller. Opening prayer by Chappy

Guests: Bill Kempiaak, who is the nephew of 2nd Lt Porter who will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery on June 10th, thanked the chapter for assisting in the repatriation of his uncle.

Shadow:

- Shadow and Popeye presented two Boot Patches to a couple of our newest members. Congratulations to Mike Burdett and John Mihelich.



Mike Burdett



John Mihelich

- Shadow thanked the chapter for their effort in helping to make the GunBash a success. We sold all 500 tickets and were able to hold 3 side raffles.
- Shadow also thanked those that went on the Demonstration ride on Sunday the 26th, even though the weather was extremely uncooperative.

Cos:

- Informed the chapter of our bank account status as of the end of May. As always, any member looking for specific chapter financial information should contact Cos.
- Shared the results of the GunBash with the chapter. All 500 tickets were sold and total profit from the event was enhanced by the three side raffles that we were able to have.

Dragonfly:

- Reminded the chapter of the Meat Raffle being held at the Sugar Grove American Legion this coming Saturday, June 8th. Dragonfly planned on being at the Sugar Grove location around 1400-1430 hours. This is being looked at as a possible fund raiser for the chapter.

Stumbler:

- Chapter was reminded of the Craig and Dan Price Memorial Ride on Saturday, June 29th. This ride will go from Iron Gate Motor Condos in Naperville to Starved Rock State Park. Please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/craig-and-dan-price-memorial-ride-2024-tickets-885909518217> to register. All proceeds from this run will be donated to our Chapter. Cages and bikes welcome.

Roadie Dave:

- Roadie Dave informed the chapter of the Repatriation Ride on June 7th (Airport to Funeral Home) and on June 10 (Funeral Home to Abraham Lincoln Cemetery). Information is on the chapter calendar.
- Presented a plan for BTR Mystery Poker Run on September 14th and went over board recommended changes to make the event more profitable. One big change would be the venue change to Batavia VFW. This change was seen as a positive from the chapter and membership approval was given to go ahead with the event. The possibility of adding a mini gun raffle to the event was also discussed.

PG:

- Thanked Dragonfly for her efforts in ensuring a successful GunBash. PG also read off the top ticket sellers for this event. Noting that the top ten ticket sellers sold 95% of the tickets.
- Shared the experience of going to Abraham Lincoln Cemetery, with others from the chapter, to set American flags at the gravesites for Memorial Day.
- Discussed the issues going on with the Street Naming initiative. Mentioned that the process in a limbo state while we wait on word from Senate President Don Harmon who has a “rule” that those that died prior to the year 2000 could not be honored in this way. PG went on to give kudos to state representative [Stephanie A. Kifowit](#) for her support of our initiatives. No one from the chapter should suggest that outside organizations contact Senate President Harmon without first contacting PG (630.418.5741)

Upcoming Chapter Events- All of these events are noted on the Chapter Calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?height=600&wkst=1&src=rollingthunderil1@gmail.com&color#A32929&ctz=America/Chicago>

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>CHAIR</i>	
<i>* June 7</i>	<i>Repatriation of 2Lt Porter</i>	<i>Roadie Dave</i>	<i>Airport to Funeral Home</i>
<i>June 8</i>	<i>Meat Raffle</i>	<i>Dragonfly</i>	<i>Sugar Grove AL</i>
<i>*June 10</i>	<i>Repatriation of 2Lt Porter</i>	<i>Roadie Dave</i>	<i>Funeral Home to ALC</i>
<i>June 15</i>	<i>Illinois Freedom Run</i>	<i>See Calendar</i>	
<i>June 15</i>	<i>Road to Recovery</i>	<i>See Calendar</i>	
<i>June 23</i>	<i>Veteran Resource Fair</i>	<i>American Legion Post 888</i>	<i>See Calendar</i>

*June 29	<i>Craig & Dan Price Memorial Ride</i>	<i>Stumbler</i>	<i>See Calendar</i>
*July 3	<i>Membership Meeting</i>	<i>Shadow</i>	

- *Important to the Chapter*

Secretary's Note - Snipe

As a result of May's meeting regarding the heated discussion that took place relative to having a BTR this year and more specifically the reaction to the "messenger", the following letter was read. The intent of the letter is to keep us all on track working toward productive and non-hostile meetings...

One of the most positive aspects of our chapter is that every member has a voice that can be heard. This voice can be used to express new ideas, suggestions or complaints. One positive example of membership speaking up has resulted in the formation of the POW/MIA committee. This committee has since, spread awareness of the issue and identification of area Veterans who are still missing. Additionally, we have been able to successfully lobby Springfield and recognize our fallen with honorary street names. Without the new ideas and opinions that our members provide at meetings, this chapter would not be the productive and recognized chapter that it is today. It's the members that make this chapter successful.

On the other hand, it is unacceptable when speakers are interrupted and shown disrespect by shouting and swearing. This type of unruly behavior is not good for the chapter and cannot be tolerated. By example, last month's meeting became an embarrassment when someone speaking to the group was rudely interrupted by a profanity laced shouting match by some of our members.

We had guests and new members present, and after the meeting, they expressed their shock and disappointment that this type of behavior occurred and existed at our meetings. These are people who are interested in forming a partnership with our chapter and want to help us raise money and grow. At the time, all we could do was apologize and assure them this is not normal behavior.

Going forward, for the good of the chapter and its members and starting with this meeting, any outburst by a member that shows disrespect or interrupts another member, will be dealt with in accordance with Rolling Thunder Constitution *Chapter VII.3 Involuntary Suspension and Termination*. Everyone always has a chance to speak and be heard, but only when called upon and only with respect.

Jim "Snipe" Murray - Secretary
Murman03@gmail.com

"Don't just join. Be involved."

