

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

August 1, 2007

29 of 75 members were in attendance

Chapter President Howard “Weebles” Bushnell called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

Our chaplain Wayne “Lmore” Stevens opened meeting with a prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visitors present were Bill Atkinson of Carol Stream, a friend of Bill Sharpness. Also present were guest speakers from Soldier’s Angels and from VFW Operation Uplink.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard turned the floor over to Stephanie Lind from Soldier’s Angels. Full info can be seen at <http://soldiersangels.org/> which describes all their activities and causes. Stephanie talked about **Standdown 2007** which takes place August 24 and provides safe harbor with basic life and health services at the National Guard Armory at 1551 N. Kedzie in Chicago. Watch for a separate email with full info on this standdown. Volunteers are needed. Contact Stephanie at stephanielind@pepsi.com or 630 880-2565 (cell).

Next Michaela Doyle, President of the Warrenville VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and Katie, Junior Vice-President spoke about VFW Operation Uplink which provides phone cards for active duty, overseas or homeless vets. Donations of cash or phone cards are needed. A separate email with full details will be forthcoming.

Howard spoke about the BTR (Big Thunder Run) program and ads available within the program. Our BTR program is distributed to all riders at the Big Thunder Run and is well read and received. Howard

noted that at last year's event no programs were discarded on the ground or in the trash cans. Corporate banners and ad banner locations are available at the BTR site for a fee. See Howard's recent email for ad and banner pricing.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day observances take place on Saturday September 15 at the Rock Island Arsenal. We will perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony. Also present will be about 150 Patriot Guard Riders, the American Legion Riders and the Commandant of the Rock Island Arsenal. We need many of our members to participate. A sign up sheet will be at the September meeting.

On August 19th we will be performing the Remembrance table at the Glendale Heights VFW. A minimum of ten members are required. Fr. Guido is leading our effort. Contact info is richythez@wowway.com.

On Sept. 5th we will be escorting the Traveling VN Wall from Heritage Harley Davidson to downtown Lisle. The event takes place at noon on Wednesday and should only take a few hours of time. Contact Harley Steve at bowhunter1962@sbcglobal.net to sign up. Our monthly chapter meeting takes place on the same day.

Our Chairman of the Board, Doug "Skippy" Mahar will be attending the National Rolling Thunder Convention on November 2 and 3 in Washington, DC to represent our chapter. Contact Skippy or Howard with any concerns or requested changes to the National Constitution prior to Aug. 16.

Howard asked for nominations for the September elections. Snipe has withdrawn his acceptance of nomination to the board. John Sedlacek has withdrawn his acceptance of nomination for President. Fr. Guido and Roy Yeager were nominated for the Board.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek John had nothing to report.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek We have \$ on hand in the treasury.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

Rocker and Eagle patches were awarded to Robert “Boz” Hall, Richard Johnson and Wayne “Lmore” Stevens.

We will meet to escort the Wall at Heritage Harley Davidson in Lisle at noon on Wednesday September 5th. Departure with the Wall will be at 2 pm. Watch for the full schedule of Wall events via email later this month.

Chairman of the Board - Doug “Skippy” Mahar

The AT&T Pioneers event went well. Turn out was less than expected. It was a great showing for IL Ch. 1 and IL Ch. 2. We received many compliments on Rolling Thunder’s participation. The Pioneers have partnered with the homeless veterans shelter in Wheaton. This event will repeat next year.

BTR is coming up soon. Expect to receive BTR planning emails and watch for a special BTR planning meeting. Committee leadership posts are available. We need help prior to the run and as we usually get plenty of people to show up on event day. Watch for email mentioning open positions.

Doug made a motion that we do a Veteran’s Donation (\$5 per member) to VFW Operation Uplink and Soldier’s Angel. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business and New Business

Howard complimented Rhonda, Skippy, Snipe and others for their participation in last weekend’s event. The AT&T Pioneers have made a long term commitment to Rolling Thunder.

Dominic reported on the Operation Support Our Troops at Cantigny. Fisher House received a \$ donation. Our chapter sold \$ in bike raffle tickets. A Medal of Honor recipient was present. Dominic has contact info for their national organization thru which we can get speakers or honored guest.

LT requested BTR ticket stubs and cash.

Howard reminded us chapter elections are next month. Nominations can also be made at the September meeting. HOG NITE is a great bike raffle ticket sale opportunity. The last Hog Nite is Saturday August 25th in Plainfield.

Popeye thanked the chapter for the Ride for Kids donation and our participation in the ride. The event raised a record setting \$ for juvenile brain tumor research

A motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhoteling@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

Aug. 19 IL Chap 1 Remembrance Table at Glendale Heights VFW

Aug.24 Standdown 2007, stephanielind@pepsi.com or 630
880-2565

Aug. 25 Hog Night, Plainfield = BTR bike raffle ticket sales

Sept.5 Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, RT Escort , 2 pm

<http://www.avtt.org/index.htm>

Sept.9 Moving Wall, Lisle VFW, Remembrance Table,

<http://www.avtt.org/index.htm>

Sept. 15,16 POW/MIA Recognition Day at Rock Island Arsenal
http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/pow_rec_day_00.htm

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<http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/local/>

Sept. 23 Fox Valley HOG, Ovarian Cancer Run,
<http://www.fvhog.com>

Oct. 7 **Big Thunder Run**

<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>

Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>