

**Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1
January 2008 Meeting Minutes**

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

January 2, 2008 21 of 79 members were in attendance

Chapter President Doug "Skippy" Mahar called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

President - Doug "Skippy" Mahar

The planned Christmas cards to veterans at Walter Reed Hospital were canceled as mail that is not addressed to a specific individual will not be delivered to the hospital. Sandi Gorski had provided 2 boxes of cards for use in this project. Subsequently, Doug took the cards and postage to the MSHV in Wheaton where the residents were pleased to use the cards.

We received a copy of the revised RT National Constitution and the revisions from the National Convention in November. The constitution can be found at <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/PDFs/constitution-2005-03-31-06.pdf> The revisions were:

Page 3, Paragraph 9 Regarding State Chapter/Director

Page 2, Paragraph 3 Regarding appointment of a membership/patch person

Page 7, Paragraph 13 Regarding no PGR patches or any other patches with MC

Kriss has coordinated our visit date with Hines Hospital. The date will be March 9, 2008, a Sunday at 1 pm. The visit will be light on hand outs, probably just some t-shirts, etc. The emphasis will be on spending quality time with the vets.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek John was unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek Kriss was unable to attend the meeting but relayed the treasury amount, \$34347.39

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling. Dues for 2008 are now due. We would like all members paid up by February so we can send our dues to National. Dues are \$30 per member. The Chapter keeps \$10 and forwards \$20 per member to National.

Thank you notes from Soldier's Angels, Rock Island Arsenal and the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans were passed around.

Last month I sent 29 thank you letters and certificates of appreciation to those individuals and organizations that helped us make BTR VI a tremendous success. I am still looking for mailing addresses for Shooters Images and Lone Eagle Jewelry.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans provided us with a stack of patriotic calendars that were handed out at the meeting. They also provided a handout showing their expansion plans, architectural mock up and floor plan.

Beth Pletzke was awarded her rocker and eagle. Congratulations to Beth.

Chairman of the Board Mike "Slappy" Morias
the meeting.

Mike was unable to attend

Old Business and New Business

LT made a motion that we donate to the John Steer Living Word Christian Ministries in Mountain Home, Arkansas. John Steer spends a lot of time and effort working with and helping veterans. It has been said that if someone donates \$500 John spends \$600. We, as a chapter, have previously donated to John's efforts. Links to info: <http://www.east-buc.k12.ia.us/Quas/Wall/js.htm> and <http://www.angelfire.com/fl4/jlsteer/lvwd.html>

The motion to make a Veteran's Donation (\$5 per member) was passed.

Ralph asked if RT does escorts and if we could escort his son when he arrives home from Iraq. The answer is yes. Ralph will keep us up to date.

Sparky asked if we can invest some of our money in CD's or a money market until it is needed. Much discussion evolved! Can we, as a non profit, make money on an investment? Yes. Would a CD be better than a money market? Do we have a budget or a plan of how much money is needed and when it is needed? We, as a chapter have grown and now file an annual tax return. Members are looking for more information and transparency in the chapter finances. Where does the money come from? How is it spent? Can the chapter annual reports to National be shared with the membership? Are we audited every year? Who receives account statements? Can we develop a budget? The board will take these concerns under consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary

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