

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

December 4, 2008                      37 of 80 members were in attendance

President Doug Mahar called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Guests present were Bob Shuttleworth of Bolingbrook, Beverly C. of Lombard and Dominic Henry of Chicago. Bob joined Illinois Chapter One after the meeting. Welcome Bob.

### **President - Doug “Skippy” Mahar**

Doug expressed the wish for a brief meeting prior to our annual Christmas party immediately following the meeting.

We received a thank you card signed by all the Hines VA blind vets we hosted at the Big Thunder Run. They really enjoyed their day out.

Drinks Americas is sponsoring a fundraiser for the Walter Reed Society. Details can be seen at

[http://www.drinksamericas.com/files/--RHH\\_sell-sheet.pdf](http://www.drinksamericas.com/files/--RHH_sell-sheet.pdf)

### **Vice-President - “Harley” Steve Pletzke**

Harley asked that everyone take time to read their report on the Rolling Thunder National Conference recently held in Washington, DC. The report was previously distributed via email to all IL 1 members.

Harley also asked Moe read the Rolling Thunder Mission Statement which is quoted below:

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues: To educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans

from being left behind should they become prisoners of war-missing in action.

We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

**Treasurer - Jim “Snipe” Murray**

Treasury Report: We have about \$ in the treasury.

The Board is in the process of creating IL Chap 1 by laws to supplement the National Rolling Thunder Constitution and to clarify some of our Chapter policies. These proposed bylaws must be read at three consecutive meeting before they are voted upon by the membership. Upon chapter acceptance they must be forwarded on to National for approval or veto. Presently there are no Chapter One Bylaws and we operate solely under the National Rolling Thunder Constitution. The first proposed bylaw read as follows:

## Donations

Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter one has a mission of action on behalf of POW/MIAs. Keeping this issue in the forefront is the national direction of this organization and therefore the primary objective of this chapter.

It is also recognized that Illinois Chapter One has the opportunity and obligation to help veterans and veteran organizations in what ever capacity comes to bear. We are pledged to assist other veterans by becoming physically involved as a chapter or by donation as a chapter.

At times, it is recognized that donations and assistance may be called upon for civilian needs. These needs must also be considered but not at the risk of the obligations stated above.

Therefore the following donations policies are established and will be adhered to by this chapter.

### Civilian

Once approved by the board and then a majority vote of the membership present at a subsequent meeting, a donation to a civilian individual or cause will be funded using the formula of \$3.00 per paid member. Individual support either in labor or finance is the choice of the member(s). Community involvement of chapter members is supported and encouraged.

### Military

There are occasions within which we, as a chapter, are called upon to assist a veteran in need. These needs, once approved by the board and then a majority vote of the membership present at a subsequent meeting, will be funded using the formula of \$5.00 per paid member.

In the event that individual veterans or organizations that support veterans are in need of our help, we as a chapter have the sanction to approve via the board and a majority vote of all members present at a subsequent meeting, a monetary amount befitting of the request. This

amount will not have an arbitrary limit and will be decided upon by the membership.

This proposed Donation Bylaw will be read again at the next two meetings.

There has been some news regarding the City Limits HD Raffle of a motorcycle to benefit Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter One via the Rolling Thunder Charities. A problem has developed as they became aware of an Illinois law preventing a for profit organization from operating a raffle even if it is to benefit a not for profit. The final raffle drawing is to be held in Schaumburg on December 19. Schaumburg will not issue a raffle permit due to the Illinois law. City Limits HD has been selling raffle tickets for six weeks that state the drawing will be held in Schaumburg on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Chapter has been asked if we, as a not for profit organization, can operate the final raffle on the 19<sup>th</sup> in Schaumburg. The Executive Board considered this dilemma and the fact that the sole beneficiary of this raffle is Illinois Chapter One. The Executive Board approved our Chapter's involvement. When presented to the membership during the meeting discussion evolved and a motion to participate was made and seconded. The motion was overwhelmingly approved by the membership. Our responsibilities, pending approval of the Raffle Permit by the City of Schaumburg, will involve selling tickets, handling all the money and the raffle on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Here is a link to the raffle flyer: <http://cdn-4.psndealer.com/e2/dealersite/images/citylimitshd/clhd-millerinfoposter575.jpg> We will need six to eight members minimum from 9 pm to 1 am at Chicago City Limits in Schaumburg.

**Secretary - Bill Houghtaling**

The 2009 dues renewal season is here. Some early bird members have already paid their 2009 dues. The dues remain at \$30 per year.

Joe Feze was awarded his boot patch. Congratulations Joe!!

We received a letter from RT National regarding a point of contact for the VIP Escort at Rolling Thunder XXII on Memorial Day in Washington, DC. VIP's are primarily Gold Star/Blue Star Moms and family members which are given motorcycle rides in the parade. We need members who will be attending RT XXII to sign up for escort duty (which is a wonderful honor). Bill "Hawk" Sharpness has taken ownership of this sign up sheet. Please contact Bill if you are considering the Ride to the Wall (also known as Rolling Thunder XXII). We need to send in our list by February 2009.

### **Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery**

In the interest of brevity no report was presented.

### **Old Business and New Business**

Harley Steve reminded us of Rolling Thunder Charities' internet shopping program which can benefit our Chapter directly. Please see: <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/charities.html> Purchases must be made by linking through the National Rolling Thunder site only. Up to 10% of your purchase price from these national retailers may be credited to the IL Chap 1 account at Rolling Thunder Charities. This is a direct benefit to us.

Don Ross mentioned that our fellow member John "Beau" Brandenburg and his wife were forced into a curb while riding home from the Big Thunder Run. Don said his wife is doing ok but Beau is wearing a neck brace. The hat was passed and \$ was collected.

Laurie asked if we have to go through the Board for all donations. The answer is yes.

Tom Dertz asked if we can donate to Toys for Tots. The Board will consider this request and bring it up at the next meeting.

Ron "Tut" Tuttle spoke about a sled hockey team comprised of Iraq veterans/amputees from San Antonio who will be competing in the Wirtz Cup Sled Hockey Tournament this weekend West Dundee. See info at <http://www.leafsicecentre.com/> (I found a couple pdf flyers which I will send in a separate email). Per Tut this could be a future opportunity to get some disabled veterans out on the ice and sponsor a sled hockey team.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
[billhotel@gmail.com](mailto:billhotel@gmail.com)

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

<b>Dec. 19, 2008</b>	<b>Harley Raffle, Chicago City Limits Sports Bar, Schaumburg, 9 pm to 1 am, (tentative)</b>
May 17, 2009	Frogs for Freedom
<b>May 24, 2009</b>	<b>Rolling Thunder XXII, Washington, DC</b>
Sept. 18 & 19	The Ride Home, <a href="http://powridehome.org/">http://powridehome.org/</a>
Oct. 3, 2009	Big Thunder Run