

Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1 Meeting Minutes

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

March 4, 2009

President Doug Mahar called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Our guests this month were Jo Giovannoni from City Limits HD and Ed French, a former member, from Plainfield who wants to join again. Member John Beau Bradenburg was in attendance, looking good and welcomed back.

President Doug Skippy Mahar

Doug spoke about the email he sent to the membership regarding three available positions: 1. Events Coordinator, 2. Media Coordinator, and 3. Education Coordinator. Beth Pletzke accepted and was welcomed as our Events Coordinator. Media and Education positions are available.

We have been invited to perform the Remembrance Table at the Wheaton VFW on May 31 in conjunction with their Bike Run. We have been encouraged to display our POW/MIA accountability information, sell our POW/MIA merchandise, display our BTR Heritage Softail and sell raffle tickets. The Board discussed and approved this opportunity as a Chapter Event. More details will follow.

Our friends at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans are hosting a play at College of DuPage as a fundraiser. The play is Place of Angels on March 31 at 7:00pm. This play was written by Bob Adams, one of the founders of the MSHV, and concerns his experiences as a Navy Corpsman in Viet Nam. Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://helpaveteran.org/> The Board has approved the purchase of 5 tickets to be used by 5 veterans from Hines Hospital. Individual members are also encouraged to attend.

Vice-President Harley Steve Pletzke

Harley 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.

Our invitation to attend and ride in the Lisle Memorial Day Parade is becoming a bigger event every week. Rolling Thunder will be front and center during this parade on Monday morning May 25 at 10 am <http://www.villageoflisle.org/home/index.asp?page=9&recordid=1459> We will stage at Heritage HD in Lisle, receive a lights and siren escort running the reverse of the parade route to the parade staging area where we will be placed at the front of the parade. Participation from IL Ch 2, the American Knights and Patriot Guard is anticipated. Channel Two has been invited. We will perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Village Hall (post parade). The Lisle VFW will provide a 21 gun salute and Taps after our ceremony. Certificates of Appreciation to the Lisle PD, for our welcome home escort in February, will be awarded. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Treasurer Jim Snipe Murray

Treasury report was given. Payouts this month were to our accountant and to the Illinois Attorney General to correct and clarify our status as a charitable entity in Illinois. As previously reported most of the money on hand has been budgeted to various allocations such as start up money for the Big Thunder Run. Approximate dollar amount for donations was given.

Snipe described the POW Ride Home in Andersonville, GA <http://www.powridehome.org/home.html> This event takes place on National POW Recognition Day and sponsors former POW s to attend the event. Jim made a motion that we sponsor at the \$1000 level. The motion was seconded and subsequently approved by the members present. It cost about \$300 per former POW to attend the Ride Home. We are also looking for local POW s to sponsor.

A Heritage Softail will be the subject of our BTR bike raffle this year. Thank you to Ozzie and Wildfire HD for their assistance. We will be selling 3000 tickets this year. Ralph and John are helping with the tickets. We need a key person to oversee a ticket sales table at Wildfire HD and City Limits when they have their events. Phil Ferrer volunteered and was accepted for this job. Members can help on these days with a time commitment of 3 to 4 hours. Tickets will be available at the April meeting.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Several more members paid their 2009 dues at the meeting. We currently stand at 52 of 79 members who have renewed for 2009. In two weeks I will be compiling a list of current members and forwarding the dues to National. This provides enough time for any last minute folks to forward their dues to PO Box 1042, Warrenville, IL 60555. Dues are \$30. Make checks payable to Rolling Thunder.

Chairman of the Board Rick Popeye Montgomery

Popeye thanked those who helped at the Rosemont Cycle Show. The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation sold a large number of raffle tickets.

Old Business and New Business: Rob Wilkins is working on Big Thunder Run radio publicity.

Big John asked if folks from the Manteno State Veterans Home can still come and speak at our meeting to solicit a donation. Answer: Yes. John suggested we make the Manteno Run a Chapter Event along with a donation.

LT reported member George Paton is at home from the hospital and recuperating.

Dominic introduced Jo Giovannoni from City Limits HD. Jo was a key person in the City Limits Harley give away. Jo was welcomed as a potential new member. Jo offered her contacts and assistance to us.

Kriss was thanked for accepting the job of Big Thunder Run Chairperson. Dominic and Hawk are assisting. Kriss said we need raffle prizes. Bring whatever you have to any meeting. An expense of previous years has been purchasing prizes due to our shortfall in this area. There will be one less run stop this year. There will be additional specific BTR meetings. Members are needed to oversee specific areas of the BTR such as run stops, registration, parking, prizes, 50/50 raffle, bike raffle tickets sales, bike show, etc. Contact Kriss directly or via email at: kristina.sedlacek@sbcglobal.net We will provide needed support and will not let you fail. We are going for reduced expenses this year.

Phil Ferrer asked are we investing in new RT banners? Answer: Yes. We are working on new banners as well as magnetic signs.

Kriss was contacted to see if we would participate in the Warrenville 4th July Parade.

This has been a regular event for us and has been given the status of a Chapter Event. The theme this year is Lincoln's Legacy. The parade takes place on Friday July 3 at 5pm.

Beth asked if we can put a video of our Remembrance Table Ceremony on our website. This will be investigated.

Meeting Adjourned.

Ed French completed an application after the meeting and paid dues for 2009. Welcome back Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
billhotelting@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in Bold)

May 17 Frogs for Freedom

May 17 Armed Forces Day

May 24 **Rolling Thunder XXII, Washington, DC**

May 25 **Lisle Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Table Ceremony**

May 31 Remembrance Table at Wheaton VFW

June 14 Flag Day

June 20 **Illinois Freedom Run**

July 3 **Warrenville 4th July parade, 5 pm line up**

Sept. 18 & 19 The Ride Home, Andersonville, GA <http://powridehome.org/>

Sept. 18 National POW / MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 27 Gold Star Mother Day

Oct. 3 **Big Thunder Run**