

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

May 6, 2009 40 of 68 members were in attendance

President Doug Mahar called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Visiting this month was George Pleshar. Also visiting was a TV media team from Channel 7 in Chicago covering the flag disrespect story.

Harley Steve read the Rolling Thunder Mission Statement 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.

President - Doug “Skippy” Mahar

Doug spoke about the new newsletter, Thunder 411, published by Beth. All agreed it is a job well done.

Doug thanked Dominic and all the others who drafted the grant request for the Mark Morton Memorial Foundation. This grant request involves the possible receipt of significant dollars for our veteran causes. The mother of member Brian Provis directed the foundation to us. The Morton Foundation grant opportunities are by invitation only. A copy of Dominic’s final draft was passed around for membership review.

The Winfield Good Old Days Parade is on Sept. 13. A motion was presented and approved making this a Chapter event. This short ¾ mile parade is a repeat from last year.

Vice-President - “Harley” Steve Pletzke

A sign up sheet for the Lisle Memorial Day Parade was passed around. Steve is handling the parade issues and Cutter is handling the Remembrance Table. Contact Cutter at cutter44@sbcglobal.net if you can help with the Remembrance Table. Rolling Thunder is being given top billing and featured by the Village of Lisle. We are listed as one of the primary sponsors. Staging will be at Heritage HD, Monday May 25 in the west lot. Watch email for the exact time.

Steve thanked all who were part of the 20+ bike escort accompanying soldier Kyle Dearborn to O'hare Airport.

Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray

Our treasury has \$ on hand. Expenditures this month were run flyers, magnetic signs/banners and get well wishes for Tom Lonze, IL Ch 2.

The Warrenville VFW post has raffle tickets for a salmon fishing charter on Lake Michigan. Tickets are \$5.

Our bike raffle effort at Wildfire HD generated over \$ in sales plus partial books sold by members. This is great but we have a long way to go.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Our current membership stands at 68 members.

Thank you letters from MSHV were shared as well as a Certificate of Appreciation from the Army Freedom Team. We also received a thank you letter from Artie's wife who is handling the National bike raffle.

Ed French was awarded his boot patch. Congratulations Ed.

Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery

Popeye asked Beth to speak about the reaction of Kyle Dearborn to his Rolling Thunder escort.

Popeye spoke about our great Honor Flight experience of welcoming home the WW2 vets.

Board Members -

Bill "Hawk" Sharpness is leading our IL Ch 1 contingent to Rolling Thunder XXII this year. The planned date of departure is Tuesday May 19th at 8:30 am from the Warrenville VFW. Bill has all the DC info, schedule and route plans. Contact Bill if you are going to DC Bill.and.Lorie@verizon.net Illinois Chapter One has been chosen to be the much coveted Gold Star Mother Escorts at RT XXII. Bring an extra helmet, registration and insurance card to participate.

Old Business and New Business

Kriss asked that we all use RT in the subject line of our emails. Also, Rudy made 100 posters for BTR.

Doug had a call from the MSHV. They always have need of Jewel and Dominicks gift cards. These cards are for immediate needs of veterans, usually after hours when no one is around to write a check.

We do have a permit for raffle ticket sales in Lisle.

We will create 20 "hard" copies of the Thunder 411 each issue.

Tammy Platta and Laurie Valasquez are working on merchandise. What do we have on hand? What do we need? Contact Laurie at velasquezlaurie@yahoo.com

Rhonda is leading Registration at the BTR. Contact Rhonda at rockinrandi@att.net to volunteer and work registration.

Rob Wilkins said the Illinois Freedom Run is starting at the Grundy County Fairgrounds due to I-80 construction.

Harold "ZZ Top" Houston had info on two upcoming runs; the Paul Salley Memorial Charity Ride and the IL Ch 2 Challenge Run. See our events below.

Meeting Adjourned.

George Pleshar accepted an application after the meeting and paid dues for 2009. Welcome George.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
billhotaling@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.** IL Ch 1 group leaves
Tuesday, May 19, contact Hawk at bill.and.lorie@verizon.net
May 25 **Lisle Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Table**
Ceremony, 10 am line up at Heritage HD, west lot.
May 31 **Remembrance Table at Wheaton VFW**
June 7 **IL Ch 2 Challenge Run,**
rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com
June 14 **Flag Day**
June 20 **Illinois Freedom Run**
June 26,27,28 **Heritage Fest, Downers Grove**
July 3 **Warrenville 4th July parade,** 5 pm line up
July 5 **Paul Salley Memorial Charity Ride,** Chris 937 608-6599
July 18 **Special Olympics Poker Run, Kendall County** Deb @630
553-5833
Sept. 13 **Winfield Good Old Days Parade**
Sept. 18 & 19 **The Ride Home,** <http://powridehome.org/>
Andersonville, GA
Sept. 18 **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**
Sept. 27 **Gold Star Mother Day**
Oct. 3 **Big Thunder Run**
Oct. 11 **IL Ch 2 Never Forget Thunder Run and Toys for Tots Parade,**
rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com
Nov. **Manteno Veterans Ride**