

# Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Illinois Chapter One General Membership Meeting Minutes October 2, 2013

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter One meeting of October 2, 2013 was called to order by President Bill “Hawk” Sharpness at 19:30 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag and had a moment of silence for the five Illinois MIA’s that went missing in the Vietnam War during the month of October. The Mission Statement was read by Board Member John Mikuski.

The Board attendance is listed below:

Attending	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
No	Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)	Vice-President
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	Treasurer
		Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Kristina Sedlacek (Kriss)	Board Member
Yes	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Dan Thomas (Cage)	Board Member
Yes	Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)	Board Member
Yes	John Mikuski (Raffles)	Board Member
Yes	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
No	Gary Stengler	Assistant Treasurer

\_34\_ of \_75\_ adult members were in attendance.

Hawk adopted a brief meeting format to allow time for discussion of the Big Thunder Run. No guests were in attendance.

## **Board Member Bill “BB” Houghtaling**

- BB directed everyone’s attention to the Thunder Roads magazine at each table. In the September issue we ran a ¼ page BTR flyer and ¼ page Bowe Bergdahl ad.

- Rolling Thunder has been invited to kick off the Westchester Veterans Day 5k and Walk by Inland Bank with a motorcycle escort on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Hardcore if you can help out. Details will follow in an email.
- The free entry into a gun drawing with the purchase of 5 tickets has been expanded to include anyone who purchased 5 tickets previously. See Popeye or BB to notify us of eligibility and to obtain a blue ticket stub. A name and phone number will be needed. The honor system will be used.
- The Glendale Heights VFW is having a fundraiser this Saturday night (the night before the BTR) for the homeless veterans of Concord Place in Northlake. It is a spaghetti dinner. Details and a flyer are posted on the website calendar. Chicago Bears of the Walter Payton era are rumored to be in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report - Jim Murray (Snipe)

- Snipe reviewed the bike raffle tickets sales to date. We have finally sold enough tickets to cover our cost on the bike. Any further sales will provide us with funds to help our veterans and publicize the POW/MIA issue.
- Snipe provided the balance of funds in the Chapter Treasury.
- The Gun Bash provided a return of \$1.89 for every dollar invested. Next month figures will be available for the Big Thunder Run and the Bike Raffle. These figures will provide insight into which fundraising activities are worthy of our collective efforts.
- Snipe has also assumed the duties of Membership Chairperson. This month a rocker and eagle were awarded to Steve "RTO" Tomaszewski. Congratulations Radio Steve!

### Chairman of the Board- Richard Montgomery (Popeye)

- We have finally sold enough tickets to pay for the cost of the raffle bike.
- We are looking for motorcycle escorts to accompany the Viet Nam Moving Wall from the Aurora Comfort Inn to West Aurora High school. This escort will occur on Thursday morning November 7<sup>th</sup> and the Wall will stay in place through Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Axle (aka

Names/Gary) volunteered to lead our effort. This will be posted on the Chapter website calendar.

### **Board Member- John Mikuski (Raffles)**

- John asked that members bring raffle prizes on Saturday setup and not to wait until Sunday.

### **Board Member-Kristina Sedlacek (Kriss)**

- BTR set up is at 9 am Saturday morning; fencing, stuffing program books, etc.
- BTR arrival time for members is 7 am on Sunday morning. A meeting for those working the run stops will be held prior to leaving for the stops.
- Popeye noted that many members go to Harmers' Bakery for breakfast at 6 am. <http://www.harnersbakery.com/> The address is 10 W. State St, North Aurora, IL located between Rt. 25 and Rt. 31.
- The VFW will also be serving breakfast on Sunday morning.
- The run stops are Knuckleheads in Elburn, Hinks in Sycamore, Brown Pub in Hinckley and Bristol Tap in Bristol.
- The 2013 t-shirt run logo was reviewed. The t-shirt vendor needs to be located indoors this year.
- Other items reviewed were bike parking, t-shirts, many vendors expected this year, the morning rush, the band, the stage, raffle table, registration tables. Bring raffle prizes.
- The Vets from Hines will not be in attendance. They had a conflict on their calendar.
- Popeye thanked Tony for procuring a great stage again. For free!!
- Popeye complimented Weebles and Guido for a great BTR program book.

### **Chapter President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness**

- Hawk spoke about our recent donation to the Homeless Veterans at Concord Place in Northlake. The Chapter is donating the furnishings for two resident rooms at a cost of \$2500 per room. The Walter and

Connie Payton Foundation started this endeavor with the Concord Place. The whole 15<sup>th</sup> floor is for homeless veterans. Eight chapter members did a due diligence visit in early September and were positively impressed with the quality operation for the veterans.

- Kriss asked members to find veteran projects for the Chapter to consider.
- Hawk is looking for ladies to participate in the POW/MIA ceremonies at the BTR. We will also have present: bag pipers, Task Force Omega from Kentucky, a POW cage display, RT IL Chap 2, a POW balloon release and taps.
- Hawk thanked RTO for initiating and leading the National POW Recognition Day and Bowe Bergdahl activities in downtown Chicago. Many people were made aware of Bowe Bergdahl and the POW/MIA issues.
- Lisa's dad passed away this week. A sympathy card to sign was passed around.
- There are no more food vouchers for members at the BTR. Other than breakfast, the VFW is out of the food business. We are all on our own for food. Food will be available for purchase from Tailgater Toby. Spilz is obtaining free food from Chipotles in Warrentville. No details on what they will be providing yet but they want to feed the volunteers.
- Our Chapter needs more participation from members. Currently our position of Secretary is open and there are no volunteers. Many have been asked. Hawk noted that the Board is not a clique and is open to all. Ideas as well as participation are always welcome.
- Popeye admonished the membership about their conduct during the September meeting. There were many side conversation and diversions occurring. We need to respect the speaker who has the floor.

### Other Concerns:

- Radio Steve thanked the Chapter for his Rocker and Eagle. Steve also suggested we invite BTR riders to attend a BTR meeting and consider joining our efforts. (Note: we have business cards in the trailer that have our meeting time and location and website).

- Wolfie noted the Manteno Veterans Run occurs on the first Sunday in November. That is Nov. 3 this year. Wolfie made a motion that we again make our annual donation of \$1500 to the Manteno Veterans Home. The motion was seconded and passed. Watch the website calendar for details as the date approaches. A personal care items need list will also be posted.

Motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Houghtaling  
for  
Rob Leskovar, Secretary  
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1  
Rleskovar@aol.com