

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder® , Inc. - Illinois Chapter 1 general membership meeting.

July 5, 2006 44 of 70 members were in attendance

President Don “Spoiled” Pugh called the meeting to order at 1938 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Guest present were Connie of the Tioga VFW Post 2149 in Wooddale and also from the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans were Chairman Bob Adams and co/chair Dick Enger.

President - Don Pugh

Don mentioned upcoming events such as Wildfire MDA Run, Hines visit, Tioga VFW Remembrance Table, Walneck’s Swap meet in Woodstock. Details are at the end of these minutes.

Our Chapter received a letter and a refund check of \$1000 from Rolling Thunder National. This was a refund of our January \$1000 contribution to the Mobile RV Veterans Assistance Center promoted by National. Apparently the VA could not agree on the unit’s specifications and there had been no progress in over a year. The project was cancelled by RT National.

Rick “Popeye” Montgomery was enlisted to head the Election Committee for Vice-President, Treasurer and three board members. Cutter and a Snipe will assist. Elections are scheduled for the September meeting.

Brad Smith of Leathersmiths passed away this week. Services are at Norris-Walen, 132 Freemont St. West Chicago, IL 630 231-0060. The wake is Thursday 3 to 9 and funeral is Friday.

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek-

\$xxx in the bank plus in addition to the \$xxx check received from National. Another payment will be made on the bike balance this month.

A question was asked regarding the bike raffle ticket sales. Snipe responded with these figures: 1321 tickets unassigned, 654 tickets assigned to members and 525 tickets sold for a total of \$xxx against our bike cost of over \$xxx. We need to sell more tickets as we cannot expect to sell the balance of the tickets at the Big Thunder Run.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Steve Prokopec and Dennis "Peabody" Shabel were awarded their rocker and eagle. Boot patches were awarded to Robert "Boz" Hall, Leonard "Wolfman" Traskel and Richard Johnson.

Old Business

Peabody spoke about the upcoming Windy City Motorcycle Rally <http://www.windycitymotorcyclefestival.com/> and the need for members to work the booth as it is a four day event. Ray Lynn and Brad are also assisting with this event. Ray Lynn received a layout sheet for the event and a volunteer sign up sheet. We will have a free 10 x 10 booth (with table and chairs if requested) which we will need to "man" at least from 3 to 11 pm daily for the four day event. The event hours are 3 to 11 Thursday and Friday, and 9am to 11 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Our Chapter can earn \$5 an hour per member when members volunteer to work the beer tent at the event. The consensus of the members was the priority should be to staff our own booth first and get the POW/MIA message out and sell our merchandise. The questions were asked does our quartermaster Laurie have adequate

Tshirts and merchandise on hand. No answer was available. Snipe volunteered to work with Laurie on this.

A sign up sheet was passed around. Contact Ray Lynn or Peabody to sign up.

There was no trailer news to report this month.

Snipe and Weebles will be heading up the Remembrance Table for Aug. 13 in Glendale Heights.

New Business

Our guest Connie spoke and asked the membership if we would perform the Remembrance Table at their Sept. 10 Bike Run for Juvenile Diabetes (630 776-0334) at the Tioga VFW in Wooddale. The offer was accepted and **this will be a chapter event.**

Peabody suggested we put together another Remembrance Table set. Julie made a motion to replace the worn looking plates in our present set. It was agreed that we replace the plates and put together a second Remembrance Table set. Snipe said the covers (hats for the non-military) are the hardest to procure. Speak up if you have any leads on obtaining these covers.

Doug "Skippy" Mahar reiterated that the Remembrance Table is a Rolling Thunder ceremony and is only to be performed by Rolling Thunder members. All present emphatically agreed.

Our guest from the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans spoke. www.helpaveteran.org Dirk Enger, Desert Shield and Desert Storm veteran and Co-Chairman spoke about the local situation and their recent opening of a shelter for 5 residents at 119 N. West Street in Wheaton. The homeless veteran dilemma is one

of the least funded programs by the VA. There are 300,000 homeless vets in America, 20,000 in Illinois (18,000 in Chicago) and 115 in DuPage County. The Wheaton shelter is supported entirely by volunteers. Dirk spoke about the proceeds from the Illinois Lottery <http://www.illinoislottery.com/subsections/Instant2.htm> Veterans Cash game where 100% of the proceeds benefit Illinois veterans. Dirk also spoke about how the VA needs to change its wording in describing veteran's disability. For example, Sgt. Hill of Aurora is rated at only 60% disability despite losing both his hands below the forearms in Iraq. If he were rated at 100% disability he would be eligible for a \$15000 grant to adapt his abode for his disability. Losing the hands above the forearm would be a 100% disability.

Bob Adams, a Viet Nam Marine veteran, Corpsman and LCSW spoke about the services the Wheaton shelter provides. Services include medical care, psychological care, 12 step program if needed, education services provided by volunteers, job training and "all they need to get back into their lives."

Visitor Scott Fletcher spoke about the first annual RUN FOR THE VETS (630 876-4615) stamp run from VFW to VFW on August 13. 100% of the proceeds will go the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Contact me if you need a PDF of the flier.

Don Pugh recommended we make a Veterans Donation (\$5 per member times 70 members) to the Midwest Shelter. All agreed and Kriss issued the check.

Doug offered the Midwest Shelter a free booth at the Big Thunder Run to inform our targeted group, pass out their brochures and seek donations for homeless veterans.

Popeye spoke about the Ride for Kids <http://www.ride4kids.org/chicagoland/index.htm> which will take place on July 16 at Rt.59 and Higgins Road in Barrington. The Ride for Kids has enjoyed the support of Rolling Thunder Illinois

Chapter One for many years. A motion to donate \$210 was made and passed.

Howard “Weebles” Bushnell spoke about POW/MIA Recognition Day event being planned for the Rock Island Arsenal for the second full weekend in September. RT members from IL, IA, WI and MO may be attending. There is a national cemetery and honor guard at the arsenal. It is a two hour ride from Warrenville. More information will be provided by Weebles as it develops. LT would like to see this become a chapter event. (Note from the secretary.... Rock Island Arsenal is very scenic site located right on the Mississippi River, is adjacent to a lock and dam and is the site of the Davenport Homestead. Also at the Arsenal is one of the finest firearm museums I have ever seen. The Arsenal is an active military installation and helmets are required for those on motorcycles).

Popeye was given the floor to speak about nominations. Nominations were accepted at this meeting and will be accepted again in August and September. Elections will at the September meeting. The following members were nominated and accepted nomination: For VP Big John nominated Peabody and John Sedlacek nominated Weebles. For Treasurer John Sedlacek nominated Kriss Sedlacek. For Board members Kriss Sedlacek nominated John Sedlacek and Skippy; Weebles nominated Big John and Steve Hughes; Don Pugh nominated Dominic Ruggiero. Rik “Petro” Carlson was also nominated for the board.

Curley mentioned there is a funeral Saturday in Lemont for a recent Iraq casualty. Members from our chapter will be leaving Warrenville VFW at 0700 Saturday to ride to the Lemont VFW. President Bush may be in attendance. **Bring your flag!!!** Contact Curley for further details. (Note, I believe this link describes the funeral Curley mentioned.....
<http://patriotguard.org/Forums/tabid/61/postid/136293/view/topic/Default.aspx>).

Spoiled thanked all for participation in the July 3 Warrenville parade. Motion to adjourn meeting was made, seconded and accepted.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
bill_hoteling@hotmail.com

Addendum:

Door prizes are needed for the Big Thunder Run. Please round up whatever you can get and bring it to any meeting. Snipe has volunteered to collect and store door prizes for the run.

Upcoming Events -- Chapter Events in bold

- July 9 Ride for Life to benefit MDA at Wildfire,
<http://wildfirehd.com/>
- July 16 Ride for Kids,
<http://www.ride4kids.org/chicagoland/index.htm>
- July 29 Plainfield Hog Night
- Aug. 6 IL Chap 1 Christmas in August visit to Hines
Hospital
- Aug 13 IL Chap 1 at Walneck's Swap, Woodstock, IL to sell
BTR raffle tickets and merchandise
- Aug 13 Remembrance Table at the VFW, Glendale Heights
- Aug 13 Run for Vets, Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans,
www.helpaveteran.org
- Aug. 26 Plainfield Hog Night
- Aug. 27 Hogs for Dogs Poker Run, 708 636-8586, x227
- Aug. 31 to Sept.3 Windy City Motorcycle Rally
<http://www.windycitymotorcyclefestival.com/>

**Oct. 1 5th Annual Big Thunder Run, Rolling Thunder
Illinois Chapter One**