

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

February 7, 2007

25 of 80 members were in attendance

Chapter President Howard “Weebles” Bushnell called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. A quorum was present and an official meeting was declared.

Howard led the group with the Rolling Thunder Prayer from IL Ch 2.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

There were no visitors or guest in attendance.

President - Howard “Weebles” Bushnell

Howard announced our Chapter has raffle tickets from Rolling Thunder National for the bikes to be raffled off at Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC on Memorial Day. The bikes can be seen at <http://www.rtmrwdc.org/raffle.html> and include themed custom paint jobs. Members are encouraged to show our Chapter’s support of National by purchasing a ticket. We as a Chapter do not attempt to sell tickets on the “outside” as we do not want to compete with our own bike raffle in October. Howard has 50 tickets available at \$ each. Tickets can be purchased at our monthly meetings or by sending an SASE and \$ to Rolling Thunder, PO Box 1042, Warrenville, IL 60555. Popeye took 10 tickets to sell.

Howard has been procuring the “straight line” Rolling Thunder patches and they should be available at the March meeting.

A meeting is being arranged with newly elected Representative Peter Roskam regarding POW/MIA issues and probable donation of a POW flag for his office. Howard will announce the date and time. Members are invited to attend.

Our visit to Hines VA Hospital will be on Sunday April 29. We are looking for a volunteer to lead this effort. The visit will be low key, social and intentionally light on goodies. There will be much less

emphasis on goody bags. Our primary intention is to spend quality time talking, listening and visiting with the vets in the hospital. A sign up sheet for participants is available. Seventeen members signed up. We still need one key person to organize this event. This would be an easy event for a volunteer to organize and lead. Remember, our board will not let you fail.

We are also looking for volunteers to lead monthly rides for the Chapter. These rides would be for members and guests and take place on Saturdays or Sundays. The same person does not have to lead the ride each month. This is a great opportunity to take our group on your favorite ride or to your favorite destination. A different ride leader for each month is encouraged. See Howard if you have a ride in mind. Rick "Popeye" Montgomery volunteered to plan and lead a Chapter run in April. Mario Giovannini has volunteered to lead a chapter run in June

Howard passed around a sign up sheet for those going to Rolling Thunder XX in Washington, DC. We are looking for names, hotels and cell numbers to share among all those going. Our Chapter would like to do some events together as a group such as the Friday night Candlelight Vigil at the Viet Nam Wall, the visit to Fort Washington Harley (free food and band) on Saturday and especially the run into DC on Sunday morning. This allows time on Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon for individuals to see others sights on their own. If you missed the sign up sheet forward your info to Howard, fanfold@hotmail.com So far 16 people have signed up for Rolling Thunder XX in DC.

Our Chapter will be performing the Remembrance Table Ceremony at the Darien VFW <http://www.angelfire.com/ct3/darienvfw> on Memorial Day weekend. This event has been sanctioned by RT National. Rich "Cutter" Wayne will be leading the effort for those not going to DC that weekend. The exact date and time will be announced.

Vice-President - John "Cupcake" Sedlacek
nothing to report.

John had

Treasurer - Kriss Sedlacek We have \$ in the bank.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling.

The dues renewal season for 2007 continues. See me in person to renew or send a \$30 check to Rolling Thunder, Illinois Chapter One, PO Box 1042, Warrenville, IL 60555. Members are expected to renew this month as we send our dues check to National in early March. \$10 of the dues is retained by the chapter for our use. As of this date 44 of 80 members have renewed for 2007.

Boot patches were awarded to new members Carol McKenzie and Tom Potts. Mario Giovannini was awarded his rocker and eagle. Congratulations to all.

Chairman of the Board - Doug Mahar

Doug announced the recommendation of our Chapter Board of Directors to donate \$ plus 20 Visa gift cards valued at \$ each to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, recently renamed the Lance CPL Nicholas Larson Home for Veterans, <http://www.helpaveteran.org> .

A motion was made to discuss this recommendation. Discussion began which led off into several off topics and tangents which I will try to summarize:

Bob Adams and Dirk Enger addressed our Chapter last year regarding their very worthy plans for the shelter located at 119 West Street in Wheaton. How are they going to spend the money? Will they be accountable to us? Can we dole out the money on a monthly basis, i.e., \$ a month? Can we put restrictions on how the money will be used? There are 185 homeless veterans in DuPage County. The home has a capacity of 5 but hopes to expand to 50 vets. The money would be spent on items the government does not or will not fund. What are the shelters needs? Do they care for veterans not residing in the home? What feedback will we receive on how the money is spent? While we are discussing and debating these points there are homeless veterans out in this cold winter weather with no place to spend a warm night. Many questions were raised and the answers were not

known. A meeting with Bob Adams and Dirk Enger will be arranged to seek answers to our many questions. Discussion ended with no action taken or approved. This discussion will continue after meeting with the shelter directors.

Doug continued with our efforts to reach out to other veteran organizations to learn of their cause and how they help the veterans. We are especially interested in how we can donate our money and effectively get the best impact on the dollars we donate. Our board wants opportunities to effectively get 100 cent benefit on the dollar donated. If we all work and look, as was discussed at January's meeting and recorded in the minutes, we should be able to find these opportunities to benefit veterans directly.

With this thought, the board has decided to fund 8 tickets for members at \$ each to Heart for American Heroes Charity Dinner on Feb.24 <http://www.woundedheroesfund.net/events.asp> in St. Charles. A motion was made and passed. This will allow us to support their efforts and research how they spend their charity funds. Rik "Petro" Carlson will be leading this group of 4 couples. Others are encouraged to attend at their own expense.

A meeting with Tammy Duckworth, the new head of Illinois veteran affairs is being pursued. We want to tell her the Rolling Thunder story and seek her input on the best way to spend our time and dollars. A motion to initiate contact was passed. Boz may have an expedited means of contacting Tammy.

Doug has been a very active member of our Chapter and is doing many jobs such as Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the Big Thunder Run, Chairman of the Education Committee and Chairman of Media and Public Relations. Doug is looking for help or better conduit to accomplish these tasks. Doug feels Education and Media/Public Relations could be better served by another member of our Chapter who could spend more time on these issues. We are looking for volunteers here. Please consider being our Education and/or Media/Public Relations person. They are not hard jobs and our board will not let you fail.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Kriss mentioned the Warrenville Fourth of July Parade and asked if members would be interested in attending again. A positive response was received. The parade will be held on Tuesday July 3rd. Timing and details will be announced.

Howard reminded us that we are updating and renewing our Remembrance Table Ceremony table settings. The place settings have been ordered. Additionally we want to add a service flag from each of the five services. Two sets are required. Do we want 4 x 6 outdoor quality flags at \$ each? LT suggested we could get 3 x 5 flags for \$ each. Moe volunteered to get more information and prices.

Curley and Snipe are heading up the bike raffle this year. Much discussion was had over selling 2500 tickets at \$ each or 500 tickets at \$ each. Fox Valley Hog does \$ tickets and they are sold out already. They also have around 800 members. We would have to work much harder to sell \$ tickets. It was thought that \$ tickets would be a tough sell the day of the BTR. We know that in the last two years we have sold enough \$ tickets before the BTR to cover the cost of the bike and eventually make a profit (ed. see January minutes for details). Both Snipe and Curley emphasized that all members have to work much harder this year to sell raffle tickets as “money was left on the table” for the last two years. A motion to sell \$ tickets was made, seconded and approved by the membership.

The bike this year will be a Soft Tail Deluxe. The Illinois Motorcycle Freedom run in June with 25,000+ bikes was mentioned as a great opportunity to set up a booth, get out the POW/MIA issue and to sell tickets for the bike raffle. We need a volunteer to make contact with the Freedom Run folks and set this up. Contact a board member if you are interested. Your board will not let you fail.

Motion for adjournment was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houghtaling, Secretary
billhotaling@gmail.com

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

Feb. 24 Heart for American Heroes dinner, to benefit our wounded heroes

<http://www.woundedheroesfund.net/events.asp>

April 29 Chapter visit to Hines Hospital

May 13 Challenge Run by IL Ch. 2
(Yes, they know it's Mother's Day)

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org/>

Memorial Day Remembrance Table at Darien VFW, details to follow

June 16 Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run

<http://ilfreedomrun.org/index1.html>

July 3 Warrenville Fourth of July Parade

Oct. 7 Big Thunder Run

<http://www.rollingthunderil1.com>

Oct. 14 Never Forget Thunder Run,

<http://rollingthunderilch2.org>