

**Rolling Thunder® Illinois Chapter 1
Meeting Minutes**

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

April 1, 2009

27 of 63

members were in attendance

President Doug Mahar called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Our guests this month were Bruce and Chris Bade from Somonauk, IL. Bruce is a Viet Nam veteran. Also visiting was John Mars of Dowers Grove.

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 asked for a brief meeting to allow for a Big Thunder Run meeting following the monthly meeting.

We have been offered an opportunity to submit a grant application to apply for substantial dollars. This offered was received from a relative of member Brian Provis. A committee comprised of several board members will be working on the application.

Member Joe Feze has donated a 24' enclosed trailer with a ramp door to IL Ch 1. Joe received a thank you and a standing ovation. This is very important to us because for we for years have considered a trailer to transport the raffle bike to different ticket sales opportunities. Additionally the trailer can provide storage for most of our merchandise. We currently pay yearly for a storage unit and hope to save that cost. Joe had the trailer mechanically checked including electric brakes, lights, interior lights, tires, suspension, etc. Joe has even included insurance coverage for

the first year. Future plans include large POW/MIA decals and selling sponsorship decals on the trailer.

Vice-President - "Harley" Steve Pletzke

Steve asked that we support the Warrenville VFW by attending two of their upcoming events:

1. Warrenville VFW Loyalty Day, May 2 at noon
2. Warrenville VFW Texas Hold'em Tournament, April 9, 2pm to 2am

Volunteers are needed for Heritage Fest in Downers Grove on the weekend of June 26. See <http://events.downers.us/heritage-festival> We will have a booth and the raffle bike on display. The purpose is to publicize the POW/MIA issue and sell BTR raffle tickets. This is a long event and many members are needed to staff the booth with 34 hours of operation over 3 days. Our booth will be next to Jessica's <http://ctvsc.com/>. Last year the 3 day attendance was over 100,000. This is a chapter event.

Steve had 10th Mountain Division patches for those who participated in the welcome home escort in January.

The Lisle Memorial Day Parade plans continue. Rolling Thunder is now their feature. Line up at Heritage HD at 10am.

Honor Flight Chicago takes place on April 15th. We will be participating in a Welcome Home at Midway Airport in Chicago at 9:15 pm. This is a Chapter 2 event. Line up at Warrenville VFW at 7:00 pm. <http://www.honorflight.org/>

Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray

Our treasury report was read and accepted. Payouts this month included a donation to 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.

Secretary - Bill Houghtaling

Bill will be sending in current roster and dues to National this week. Our current membership stands at 63 members for 2009, down from 81 members in 2008.

A thank you letter form MSHV was shared.

Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery

Popeye has raffle tickets available for the Batavia VFW Raffle in conjunction with Loyalty Days.

Board Members -

Boz spoke about the play A Place of Angels. This play was written by Bob Adams and was presented at COD as a fundraiser for the MSHV. Boz had an opportunity to talk with Dirk Enger who express his grateful appreciation for our donations to the MSHV. Donations to the MSHV are down due to the economy.

Additionally, Boz thanked Joe Feze for donating the trailer to IL Ch1. Joe received another well deserved round of applause.

Bill "Hawk" Sharpness is leading our IL 1 contingent to Rolling Thunder XXII this year. The planned date of departure is Tuesday May 19th. Bill has all the DC info, schedule and route plans. Contact Bill if you are going to DC Bill.and.Lorie@verizon.net

Old Business and New Business

Howard Bushnell brought a guest, John Mars, who spoke about the Yes to Vets Parade on May 23. This parade will be live on WGN Radio. Contact info at mrjohnmars@yahoo.com .

Meeting Adjourned.

Bruce Bade completed an application after the meeting and paid dues for 2009. Welcome Bruce and Chris.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

April 9 Warrenville VFW Texas Hold'em, 2 pm to 2 am

April 15 Honor Flight Welcome Home, 9pm Midway Airport, line up Warrenville VFW, 7:00 pm

May 2 Warrenville VFW Loyalty Day, starts at noon at the

VFW, LoyaltyDay@SBCglobal.net

May 3 Batavia VFW Loyalty Day Parade, line up info to follow
May 17 Frogs for Freedom
May 17 Armed Forces Day
May 24 Rolling Thunder XXII, Washington, DC. IL Ch1 group leaves Tuesday,
May 19
May 25 Lisle Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Table Ceremony, 10
am line up at Heritage HD
May 31 Remembrance Table at Wheaton VFW
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
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
Nov. Manteno Veterans Ride