

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

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

November 4th, 2009
members were in attendance

25 of 84

President Bill Sharpness called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

Acting Vice President Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggiero
Mission Statement was read.

President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

Guest Greg Smith was recognized. Greg found the organization via our website. Greg subsequently received a new member application.

Hawk recapped the Manteno Run Chapter Event raised over more than what was anticipated with 2 trailers of much needed items for the veterans that you cannot put a price tag on. Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter1 donated to the Manteno Home.

Hawk reminded everyone of the upcoming Chapter event on November 11th at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery which we will participate in a ceremony to put 2000 red, white, and blue wreaths on the graves of our deceased veteran and fallen heroes. Bill "B.B." Houghtaling offered for everyone to meet at his house, and ride out together. This is a rain or shine event.

Acting Vice President Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggiero

Hard Core gave us the update on the grant money for Hines which involves modifying their list of need and reviewing this update with the grant foundation.

Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray

Final total in Bank after all expenses for BTR are paid. Report was read and accepted. We will discuss the best avenues of distribution for this money at our next board meeting. Avenues including our core POW/MIA cause along with helping veterans, and of course, some assistance to our deployed troops.

Tony "Clutch" Leone

Boot patch was presented to Gary Stengler. Rocker and Eagles were announced for George Wright, Jessica Jarosz, Brian Provis and myself. I was only member present and will present the Rockers and Eagles to the other 3 members at subsequent meetings.

Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery

Popeye reiterated the Chapter Event on November 11th and confirmed he will send out a follow-up email.

Kristina "Kriss" Sedlacek

Kriss reminded everyone of the Christmas party at the next meeting and will send out invitations to members without email.

President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

Hawk and Richard "Fr Guido" Zayat are going to the Rolling Thunder National Convention and Hawk solicited members for their suggestions on concerns as well as questions they might have. Hawk and Fr. Guido were asked to question other chapters to discover their "best practices" with regard to our core cause and mission statement.

Hawk stressed the importance of the POW/MIA issue and would like all of the members to come up with ideas to address this issue. Don "Old Man" Ross suggested we become more involved with the families and find out a way that we may be able to help them.

Hawk addressed the issue of following the Charter requirements. I will state the 2 rules that are in contention:

No Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Section 15. All chapters must comply with the rule that no alcohol will be sold or distributed by any member of the organization at any Rolling Thunder® event. **No member shall consume alcohol beverages during any meeting.**

Section 16. Rolling Thunder® will not tolerate public intoxication by any member while wearing Rolling Thunder® patches under any circumstances.

Hawk stated that the Table ceremony is to be run in a sincere, solemn and professional manner as it is intended. There is no room for exception. There will be 2 members that will run the table so there is consistency in the ceremony. I will confirm the names at the next board meeting.

Hawk will start the meeting on time and we need all be present at 19.50

Open Discussion

Requests for more tri fold pamphlets that state are cause were made and we will have more printed and distributed to members.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Leone, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
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Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in Bold)

Nov. 11 **Abraham Lincoln Cemetery Wreaths on Graves**

Dec. 02 Christmas Party