

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

April 6th, 2011

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter Meeting of April 6th 2011 was called to order by Vice President Dominic Ruggiero at 19:30 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag and had a moment of silence for Illinois POW/MIA's that went missing during the Viet Nam War, and are still missing in the month of January, along with POW Bowe Bergdahl still held in Afghanistan, POW Ahmed Kousay Altie, still missing in Iraq, and we recognized Frank Buckles, the last American living WW1 veteran who passed away on February 28th. The Rolling Thunder® Mission Statement was read. The Board attendance is listed below:

| Attending | Name | Position |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | Bill " Hawk" Sharpness | President |
| Yes | Dominic "Hard Core" Ruggiero | Acting Vice-President |
| Yes | Jim "Snipe" Murray | Treasurer |
| Yes | Tony "Clutch" Leone | Secretary |
| Yes | Richard "Popeye" Montgomery | Chairman of the Board |
| Excused | Kristina "Kriss" Sedlacek | Board Member |
| Yes | Richy "Fr. Guido" Zayat | Board Member |
| Yes | Doug "Skippy" Mahar | Board Member |
| Yes | Dennis "LT" Reiter | Board Member |
| Yes | Bill B.B. Houghtaling | Board Member |

33 of 75 adult members were in attendance. We had 1 guest or potential new member that was in attendance.

President Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

Hawk requested the meeting guest to stand up and be recognized. The guest is Dan Labelle, son of member Gene Labelle. Dan wishes to become an active member.

There are still tickets available to the Rolling Thunder® National bike raffle. Cost is \$3 for \$10.00 if anyone is interested.

Bill solicited members to see who will be attending the POW/MIA Protest in Washington D.C. See Bill if interested.

There is a new Rolling Thunder® Chapter 3 in Olney Illinois. They wish to join us on the trip to Washington. Details will be reviewed.

LT was approached by the members of the Wheaton VFW. They are putting their plan together for the Wheaton VFW poker run. We always participate and perform the remembrance table. They are soliciting us for dates that would work around our schedule. We will agree on a date and work with them to make the event a success. This will be a Sunday event. Possibly the 12th or 26th of June.

Just a reminder that Freedom Run is June 18th. This is one of our, if not, the largest venue for us to sell raffle tickets. We need everyone to participate in this run and show support for our Gulf and Iraq war veterans that will NOT be participating in the Vietnam Veterans 25th Anniversary Reunion in downtown Chicago on the 17th, 18th and 19th of June.

Hawk discussed H. Res. 111: 45 that is supported by Roger Hall and Rolling Thunder®. Please get on your representatives to help support this important POW/MIA initiative.

Dominic “Hard Core” Ruggerio

Hardcore made contact with the Director of Veterans Homes in Springfield. She is in the process of putting together her wish list of capital expenditures providing we can procure a grant. Hardcore also talked to the director of the veteran’s home in Anna Illinois and obtained their wish list. Dominic will put a draft together and send it to the board for review. All documentation for consideration must be in by the 30th of April. Dominic’s hard work on the grant was recognized by Hawk as well as a heartfelt applause to Brian Provis for getting the lead for the Grant.

Hardcore brought to our attention that Rob Leskovar and Lisa Fulco will not be able to participate in the procurement of advertisers and participants for the BTR. Personal responsibilities and jobs prevent them from having the time to fulfill this obligation. This position will need to be filled. Rob and Lisa will help transition the new volunteers for that position. Hardcore, along with the membership thanked Rob and Lisa for the great job they did last year.

Secretary’s Report - Tony “Clutch” Leone

We still have 4 patches left remembering Curly Evanovich. They are \$5.00 each and all proceeds are a contribution to our cause.

Rocker and back patches were awarded to James “Snickers” Slenk, John Mikuski, and Rob Leskovar.

I reviewed the 9 outstanding patches still in possession of former members with the membership and asked that if they know the whereabouts of any former members to let me know, or do their part in trying to get the patches back.

There are still members that have not paid their 2011 dues. I will address and remind each member individually by e-mail.

Treasurer’s Report - Jim “Snipe” Murray

We have a balance of \$24,900.00 in our account. There are still some contributions outstanding that have not cleared including \$2000.00 to the Ride Home, \$1000.00 to Roger Hall with the ongoing litigation with the freedom of information issue with regard to POW/MIA’s, and we will be donating \$1000.00 this week to the National Alliance of Families, another POW/MIA organization.

Gary Stengler was recognized for his contribution for again helping with our taxes and forms required by the state. Gary received a heartfelt round of applause for this important need to our organization.

May 20th and 21st is Poppy Seed Day at the Warrenville VFW. They are looking for volunteers to help sell poppies. Show up and they will put you to work.

Chairman of the Board- Richard “Popeye” Montgomery

There is a Wildfire event April 9th and 10th. This will also be solicited to the members to come out and sell tickets for the BTR raffle bike.

There is a Walneck Swap meet on Sunday April 17th at the McHenry County Fairgrounds, Rt. 47 and Country Club Rd. in Woodstock. Hawk will bring the raffle bike to the meet. This is an opportunity for us to sell BTR raffle tickets. This event will take place providing the weather cooperates. We will solicit members to help sell tickets at this event. There was some negative reaction by members who had previously attended this event as not being a successful venue to sell tickets. If we get enough volunteers we will probably do the event to get an early jump on ticket sales.

Board Member-Doug “Skippy” Mahar

POW/MIA shirts are in for those that ordered.

Other Concerns

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Leone, Secretary
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