

**Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter One
General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2014**

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter Meeting of February 5, 2014 was called to order by Bill “Hawk” Sharpness at 19:45 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 Vietnam War, and are still missing in the month of February 2014. Mission Statement was read by Dominic “Hardcore” Ruggerio.

The Board attendance is listed below:

Attending	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
Yes	Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)	Vice-President
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	Treasurer
No	Alen Zdralic	Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Kristina Sedlacek (Kriss)	Board Member
No	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Dan Thomas (Cage)	Board Member
Yes	Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)	Board Member
Yes	John Mikuski (Raffles)	Board Member
No	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member

22 of 75 adult members were in attendance.

Guests were introduced.

Tom Borsley, a friend of Names

Nancy Wells, a visitor from ILCH2

Dina Derman and Kandice Jacobs from Inland Bank

Don “Spoiled” Pugh was welcomed back after a long absence.

Nancy Wells and Dina Derman have joined Chapter One. We are excited to have them both in our chapter.

President Bill “Hawk” Sharpness

Welcomed everyone out on this cold February night.

Hawk introduced Dina and Kandice (who no longer really need an introduction). Dina talked about the Hometown Heroes program that Inland has. When someone opens a new account with Inland they have an option of which hometown group to support. That group will get a \$25 gift from Inland. Our chapter has received \$275 as a result of this program. Dina also wanted to present us with monies raised at various fund raisers held by Inland. Kandice put together a “Bowling Thunder” event which many of us enjoyed. There were also several bake sales held by various branches of Inland. The donation to our chapter as a result of these events was \$3871.22. We sincerely appreciate the generous donation on behalf of Inland bank and their fund raising efforts.

Our CTA Ad project is still in the works. We are having trouble creating an ad that fits the rules of the CTA advertising committee. Hardcore is working with them to better understand the requirements.

Our January membership meeting was cancelled and Hawk apologized to those members who did not get the word in time. The board is looking at ways to notify all members of schedule changes. The possibilities of a phone tree and texting have been discussed.

The chapter makes several annual donations during January of each year. Hawk let the chapter know that to date, Task Force Omega - Kentucky (<http://www.greasyonline.com/>), acknowledge our donation and sent us a nice thank you letter.

Initial discussion was given to this year’s trip to Rainelle West Virginia and Washington DC. Wolfie will be going to DC and Hawk will be leading a group to Rainelle. There will be several that are going to Rainelle that will continue on to DC. We have hotel names and phone numbers available for those who plan on making the ride and need some help identifying where to stay. Please contact Hawk, Wolfie or Raffles for further info.

There is a group looking to ride to Hailey, Idaho in late June, the hometown of Bowe Bergdahl. If interested in that ride contact Hawk.

The change in the Illinois State Law regarding Poker Runs and Charitable fund raising has caused concern for the chapter as far as what is legal and what is not. The board needs to take a close look at the new rules. Kriss led some discussion on how we can approach these new rules. Suggestions were made from the membership and future discussion will be required.

Vice President-Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)

Hardcore mentioned that we are once again eligible for a grant this year. In the past we have been able to secure grants for over \$150,000. We will need to work with veteran support facilities within the state to determine the need and then apply for the grant. If members are aware of a need within the state's veteran support structure (i.e. Hospitals, Homes, Temporary Housing, etc.), let the board know.

Treasurer's Report - Jim Murray (Snipe)

Snipe mentioned that there was a request for our chapter to accompany a 5K run on July 27 in Burr Ridge. A show of hands was requested and it would seem we have a sufficient number willing to lead off that run. Snipe will contact the organizers and let them know we will be involved. BB is requested to add this event to the chapter calendar.

Snipe presented the financials for the first month of the year. The chapter made their annual January donations to Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets, The National Alliance of Families and Task Force Omega - Kentucky.

All of our banking is now done through Inland Bank with the final close out of our old account was completed in early January.

All financial details of the chapter are available to all members. Contact Snipe for more info if desired.

During February all Federal 990 forms will be filed with the Federal and State governments. This is also the time for our chapter to file all required National Reports along with final dues renewal. We still have 12 members that have not let us know their intentions for this year.

Chairman of the Board - Rick Montgomery (Popeye)

Popeye thanked those members that were able to work the Motorcycle show at Pheasant Run. We were able to sell 34 Gun Bash tickets and 9 books of motorcycle raffle tickets at the show. Also appreciation was shown for those that were able to show up at Fox Valley Harley to sell some tickets to our raffles.

We have been invited to join the Kane County Cougars at their annual Veterans Game. We will have a booth at the stadium as well as perform the Remembrance Table Ceremony. This will be the largest audience we have ever had for that ceremony. We need everyone's cooperation to make this work. BB will coordinate with the Cougars and LT for the Table Ceremony.

There is a Veteran's History Project being put together by the Library of Congress. The Westchester Public Library is a conduit for this activity. This project is seeking first hand experiences from veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan. The intent is to make these accounts available to our future generations in hopes that there would be a better understanding of the realities of war. If you are interested in participating contact the Adult Reference Department at 708.562.3573 or email AskUs@westchesterpl.org.

Meeting was adjourned at 2030hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Jim "Snipe" Murray Treasurer
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
For Alen Zdralic - Secretary