

# Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Illinois Chapter One General Membership Meeting Minutes June 4, 2014

The Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter Meeting of June 4, 2014 was called to order by Bill “Hawk” Sharpness 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 Vietnam War, and are still missing in the month of June 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
Yes	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member

38 of 69 members were in attendance.

## President Bill “Hawk” Sharpness

Welcomed everyone.

Hawk discussed the Freedom Run coming up on June 21. We will be in Marseilles from 0730 to 2200 or so. This is a chapter event do to the effort required. We will need folks not only in the morning for setup but in the evening for tear down as well. This is a rain or shine event. We do

not have a lead for the ride itself. If you are interested in the ride send out an email to [rtmembers@gmail.com](mailto:rtmembers@gmail.com), I am sure others will join. Our booth will be in the same location as last year, in front of the bowling alley.

Hawk gave a brief wrap up of the Memorial Day rides to Rainelle, West Virginia and Washington DC. Both rides consisted of great weather and companionship. We even enjoyed the company of Bob "JB" Youngman, Chairman of the Board for Iowa Chapter One. We could not come up with a handle over those few days so we called him JB (Just Bob). For more details of the ride, talk with those that went. Pictures are up on our web site.

Hawk also discussed the Bowe Bergdahl issue. He made it clear that our mission is POW/MIA accountability and to work to get all POWs home. We were successful in the mission that we laid out for ourselves. Bowe is now safe under the umbrella of the USA. What happens now is up to the authorities.

### **Vice President-Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)**

Hardcore talked with us regarding the Volunteers of America and HOPE MANOR Veteran's home. When they decided to build a second Hope Manor on Chicago's south side they came to one of our board meetings and showed us their plans. After review, the board decided to assist, and offered to buy the benches required in the peaceful gardens surrounding the manor. We have been asked what we wanted on the donor plaques and decided that they should name all those Illinois POWs from Vietnam. The same names that we have on our sleeves.

### **Treasurer's Report - Jim Murray (Snipe)**

Snipe reviewed the financials from GunBash 2014. We did very well as an organization. Everyone played a hand and it allowed us to return \$2.24 for every dollar spent.

The transactions for the month of May were also reviewed along with our current bank account balance.

Snipe gave a review of our efforts with the Walter and Connie Payton foundation and Concord Place in Northlake. We rehabbed two rooms in 2013 for homeless veterans and we were able to send them another check in May for two additional rooms to be refurbished for homeless veterans.

The chapter acknowledged donations from Mrs. Dibble of Elburn as well as Chief Phil Smith of Berkley Police department.

### **Chairman of the Board - Rick Montgomery (Popeye)**

Popeye thanked those that were able to make the Deerfield ride over the Memorial Day weekend. We impressed and were invited back again next year.

Popeye also reminded us of two rides coming up in the next couple of months. Please see our calendar for these events.

Ride for Kids is an event that the chapter has been involved with for years. This run is coming up on July 20<sup>th</sup>. It is an escorted ride starting out from the Elgin Community College parking lot. Popeye will send out more info as we get closer.

The “Sweetness” run for the Walter and Connie Payton foundation is coming up this Saturday. Contact Al Preseren if you have not already signed up.

Popeye also reminded the chapter that now that we are done with the GunBash we must concentrate on selling tickets for the 2014 bike raffle. If you need tickets please contact Popeye and arrangements will be made.

## **Director - Kriss Sedlacek**

Kriss told the chapter that we have accepted Boombox Heros generous offer of playing at our BTR for free.

We are also working on a stage for that event.

## **Director - Bill "BB" Houghtaling**

BB reviewed the GunBash success. We added ten side raffles to the event this year. The most of the past events. All winners have been notified. Winning ticket numbers are available on our website.

BB also talked about Military Appreciation Night and the Kane County Cougars game on July 2. We will be performing the Remembrance Table at this game. We will also have the opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the motorcycle. BB is handling the list of tickets. Chapter will pay for members using our 50/50 money. Guest tickets will be \$16.00 if purchased after June 5, 2014.

## **Director - Dan "Cage" Thomas**

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## **Director - John "Raffles" Miskuski**

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## **Directory - Bill "Fallout" Atkinson**

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## **Member - Dennis "LT" Rieter**

LT reminded all that there will be a practice session or two regarding the Remembrance Table. Times and dates to be determined. As a reminder, all those involved in the ceremony must wear black jeans and the white long sleeve POW/MIA chapter t-shirts. Additional shirts have been purchased. Contact LT if you need one.

## **Member - Philip "Chappy" Ferrer**

Chappy informed the membership that he has a group from American Legion that plan on visiting Hines hospital on the second Saturday of every month from 1300 - 1500. Anyone can come along, just meet in the parking lot outside of the blind ward. For questions call Phil at 847-708-8725.

## **REMINDERS**

Please check the chapter calendar for upcoming events.

July 2 Chapter Meeting will be held at the Cougars game. We will NOT meet at the Warrenville VFW on July 2.

Meeting adjourned at 2020 hours.

Respectfully submitted

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