

Rolling Thunder® , Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

June 06, 2018

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1945 hours on May 06, 2018 at the Warrenville VFW.

Board Attendance:

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	President
Yes	Gary Vandenbos (Names)	Vice-President
Yes	Rick Herr	Treasurer
Yes	Wendy Vach (Dragonfly)	Recording Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
No	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
No	Al Miller(Shadow)	Board Member
Yes	Kandice Jacobs (PG)	Board Member
Yes	Knute Weick	Board Member
		Board Member
		Board Member

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Jim Murray. A moment of silence was observed for the Illinois MIA’s lost during the month of June during the Viet Nam War.

President Jim “Snipe” Murray:

- Next month’s membership meeting falls on the 4th of July. Members voted to hold the meeting on Wednesday, July 18th, the same day as the 2nd monthly board meeting.
- VFW Flags – The VFW 8081 has flags left over from the Moving Wall Memorial at a cost of \$25.00. The flags come with a pole and a stake to put in the ground, so it stands upright. Anyone that wants or needs a flag should contact the VFW.
- Our chapter received the grant money from the State of Illinois, which will be used for the Veteran’s Assistance Program.
- Currently our chapter is using 95% of our funds for POW/MIA and our VAP program. The other 5% is used for costs needed to run the chapter.

Richard “Popeye” Montgomery:

- Popeye spoke with Father Guido and he wanted to express his appreciation that members of our chapter showed up to his wife’s memorial service.
- During the meeting Popeye recruited members to put addresses on BTR postcards. In no time all the postcards were done. Thanks to everyone that helped.
- Memorial Day weekend – Three events were well attended over Memorial Day. Members that showed up for the flag raising were surprised to see that the flag was still up from the day before. Since there was no directive from the VFW as to what to do, members held their own flag raising ceremony. The Deerfield Run was well attended and after the bikes led the runners, members met everyone else at the park in Darien. There was a very large crowd and they were very appreciative that we were there to do the ceremony. A problem arose when members that

volunteered to show up did not, almost leaving us short-handed. So, a reminder that if you sign up for events, it is imperative that you show up. We would have had to cancel if LT hadn't stepped in which would have been embarrassing for our chapter. We had 15 sign up and only 11 showed.

- The Allen Force Ride will be held Sun. June 24th from 9am to 5pm @ Bremen VFW Post 2791, 17147 Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park. Details are on the Chapter calendar.

Kandice “Playground” Jacobs:

- 50/50 Tickets are ready and so everyone should contact a board member to get a set to sell.

Gary “Names” Vandebos:

- Members will be going to Marseilles for the Freedom Run to sell 50/50 raffle tickets. Rob Leskovar will lead the riders and Names will man the booth in town. Names will be there around 0700 to set up. We will be in front of the Bowling Alley as usual. You can group up with Rob at the Silver Dollar on Rt47 and Rt 71 @ 0730 with KSU @ 0900. The ride begins at 1030. There will also be a group at the Silver Dollar that plans to go straight in Marseilles after breakfast. This event will kick off our 50/50 campaign as well as advertising our BTR in September.

Rick “Cosmo” Herr:

- Carol Stream is still planning on doing the memorial but are having fund raising problems so there currently is no time frame for the memorial ceremony they are planning. We are still willing to help them by putting up a memorial monument.

Al “Shadow” Miller:

- After the Darien Table Ceremony, Shadow had a conversation with the Darien VFW and after talking to Hawk, Fallout, and Skippy, plans are being formulated to put a memorial monument up at their park. They were very appreciative of our table ceremony as well.
- So far this year, the Veteran's Assistance Program has helped 13 vets in need. And Shadow told us about a new program that opens up help for vets with less than an honorable discharge. Also, Snipe added that the Wounded Warriors have donated 45 million to a new program at Rush St. Lukes specifically for vets suffering from PTSD.
- Also, a reminder that the Chicagoland Ride for Kids, benefitting the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation will be held at Kane County Cougars – Northwestern Memorial Stadium on July 15th. This is a great foundation that help kids and if you want more information about what they do and how to sign up for the ride, search online for Ride for Kids 2018. Once you're on the website, on the bottom left corner there is a list of the rides coming up. Click on View All and look for Chicago on July 15th. Click on that and it takes you to the Chicago website.

Open Discussion – Old Business:

Hardcore informed us we did not get the grant from the Gary Sinese Foundation. He also handed out cards for a free sandwich at the Mission BBQ which opened up in Downers Grove. This is a vet owned and run restaurant so check them out when you get a chance.

LT would like any member that would have any suggestion on how we could make changes to the Memorial table or add something to get in touch with him with any suggestions.

Chappy wants to let everyone know that there will be a Stand by Me Life Rally in Evanston, July 29th @ 7pm. Stand by Me, Life Rallies show support for Veteran's who are not having an easy transition after the military. The idea is to show vets that people care and there are people they can talk to instead of considering suicide.

Recap of upcoming events: for more information go to our event calendar - <https://goo.gl/DA8GcZ>

06/16 - Freedom Run, Marseilles IL

06/24 - Allen Force Charity Ride, Tinley Park IL

07/18 - Membership meeting

07/29 - Stand by Me Life Rally, Evanston IL

Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Vach

Recording Secretary

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