

# Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

## Membership Meeting Minutes

### February 06, 2019

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup> Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1945 hours on February 06, 2019 at the Warrenville VFW.

**Board Attendance:**

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President, Jim Murray.

A moment of silence was observed and a prayer was said by Chappy for the Illinois MIA’s lost during the month of January during the Viet Nam War.

Joe Tomy from the Aurora Veterans Advisory Council visited our chapter this meeting. Tthe AVAC advocates for all veterans of all generations and all conflicts. Joe explained how his group is raising money to provide service dogs to veterans in need. If you’d like to find out more about AVAC go to [avacaurora.org](http://avacaurora.org).

**Richard “Popeye” Montgomery:**

- Thanks to all who showed up to sell tickets at the swap meet. Our chapter sold 3x the number of tickets we sold last year.
- Bike tickets are for sale for Rolling Thunder Inc. bike raffle. Call Popeye if you’d like a ticket.
- Gun Bash tickets are also available to be sold by chapter members. Contact Popeye, Names, or Snipe.
- Dues are being submitted February 15<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t paid up, do it now. Contact Popeye.

**Knute Weick:**

- Flyers are being printed for BTR and will be available next meeting.

**Jim “Snipe” Murray:**

- Snipe read the list of events that our chapter either ran or participated in this past year, which will be submitted in the report to National, which included 3 grants and our 2 major fundraisers: BTR and the Gun Bash.
- Currently National is saying this will be the last year for the Ride for Freedom Demonstration, and the expectation is that each state will organize their own ride. The final decision on this being the last ride organized by National will be known no later than the actual ride itself Memorial Day weekend.
- There is a new chapter that is trying to form out of Marseilles, which will be Chapter 4.

**Open Discussion:**

- LT presented Snipe with the check from our benefactor, Mrs. Dibble.
- Chappy informed our chapter about a Couples Vet Retreat that is happening in Barrington the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. This retreat is designed to help couples communicate when one or both are suffering from PTSD. This retreat is being hosted by Military Outreach U.S.A. To see more of what this organization does, go to: [militaryoutreachusa.org](http://militaryoutreachusa.org).
- A patch was presented to Al "The Marine" Preseren by Snipe for the Repatriation Ride.

**Upcoming Rides and Events:**

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Gun Bash

Memorial Day Weekend – D.C. Ride

August 25<sup>th</sup> – BTR

Meeting was adjourned at 2024 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Vach, Recording Secretary

Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1



## Rolling Thunder Inc.

### 21 Annual National Conference Hyatt Regency Hotel Crystal City.

Report Summary from John (Raffles) & Philip (Chappy): Wednesday, November 7, 2018 7:30 PM CT

#### Friday - NOV 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Arrived, registered (should arrive Thursday night to attend events)
- Meeting Start 1:30 – General Speakers Forum
  - a. Each Chapter is reminded to update member names and contact information.
  - b. RT Charities - 100% of donations go back to the Chapter, but, should first go to RT Charities.
  - c. Chapter leaders are now required to know the RT Constitution and Mission, no exceptions.
  - d. Record events and attendees to XL event sheet, see thumb drive.
  - e. All elections in RT must have a clear and concise process and all must be aware of the responsibilities to each position before accepting nomination/position.
  - f. Members are required to attend 3 meetings and 3 events per year, exception, those that live 50 miles from Chapters must minimally attend 3 events, meetings not required.
  - g. Presentation of Freedom Farm to assist PTSD & Trauma using Wild Mustangs, individual can adopt a Mustang if approved or just visit the farm and help.

#### Saturday - NOV 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Meeting start 8 AM ET – Focus on National Issues

##### Joe Bean

- All derogatory patches will be removed from vests. Arty reluctantly removed a specific patch, from a person I will not name, to comply as representing RT to community must include discipline on our part and we must remember our mission.
- President/VP or any in leadership cannot just take Chapter information when leaving the Chapter. The replacement(s) are to notify National and fill out a police report with local authorities and retrieve Chapter information.
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- Constitutions changes have been approved expect a new Constitution document shortly.
- Request to have Chapter award for the most impactful action and present during National.
  - Example. KY5 had a member in an accident where the bike was destroyed and member ran over by tracker trailer. No one asked but folks immediately pitched in to recover bike, visit member in the hospital while recovering from many surgeries, visited families and made dinners. A Go fund me page was set up and as other local Chapters heard of what occurred they assisted as well.

#### Joe Bean (continued)

- Recommendations of subjects Chapters may want to cover during National must be sent a minimum of 60 days out, prefer earlier. Example: Advertising, engaging corporations, other.
- Reemphasis of 'No alcohol' at any Chapter meetings as there have been issues from those external to RT looking to sponsor or join our organization. Joe stated we need to improve our representation to our communities.
- Gold Star mothers are members for life and keep their patches, Gold Star fathers do not keep their patches.
- Washington DC Harley Davidson, where the RT Bike is kept for the public, is under new management.
- Chapter leadership should know 990 Form, turning in reports has improved but not at 100% future excuses for being late will no longer be accepted.
- Chappy recommended Chaplain Team to address/support the 22+ issue, Arty/Joe stated there would be liability, this has been checked and there are no liabilities to speaking on faith.

#### TOP 5 Chapters highlighted for their fund-raising efforts 2018 includes:

- 1 - IN1 = \$62K
- 2 - OH2 = \$44K,
- 3 - NY2 = \$43K,
- 4 - IL01 = \$40K,
- 5 - NJ2 = \$30K

#### State Liaison/Chapter 1 Representation

- To be added to the RT Constitution are State Liaisons, however, should your state not have a state Liaison Chapter 1 President will be the State representative/Liaison.
- State Liaison (if utilized) can choose their own assistant.
- The State Assistant Liaison expenses will be reimbursed to all approved travel.
- New State Liaison can choose their own Liaison and does not have to be previous individual chosen by previous Liaison.

#### Street Signs Initiatives recommendations:

- a. RT Chapter may want to work with City/County to rename streets after POW/MIAs.
  - b. Consider more advertising as 60% of adults do not know the 5 military branches, 49% of 17-35 age group know the military branches.
  - c. Consider Billboard to advertise who we are and mission.
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### **Arty**

- 97 Chapter with inconsistent paperwork, templates on the thumb-drive.
- Chapter Presidents, if very ill, will be replaced by the VP and upon recovery can run for office when elections are held again.
- NO applications where part is retyped will no longer be accepted. All membership applications will be in original ink no exceptions.
- Member transfers will require a letter, from the member, requesting change and copy will go to existing Chapter and Chapter one is transferring to.
- All inquiries sent by National will be responded to by President and/or VP.
- Patches:
  - Review the requirements concerning patches to include recovery of those no longer associated with RT Chapter. The patches will have a value of \$1,500 - \$2,000 if the Chapter pursues recovery through court system. Prices for patches remains the same \$150.
  - The whole Chapter should be clear RT requirements by knowing them.
  - If patches are damaged no refunds will be forthcoming, no exceptions.
- Member information should be in alphabetical order to assist the admins at National.

### **Gus Donte**

- POW/MIA Chair has been installed at the state capital in Emancipation Hall please go on line and see, recommend down URL to Chapter sites.
- All Chapters should know what bills RT co-authored and part of our presentations to the communities.

### **Debra**

- If there are any issues only contact Debra no other.

### **Annual DC RT event**

- The Last DC Rolling Thunder Run will be held in DC MAY 2019; Freedom Runs will be held at State levels and smaller states can combine with others via Liaison(s).
  - Pentagon Police have become aggressive to all RT participants drawing weapons to include Arty and Staff.
  - RT Leadership met with Pentagon officials and they were not receptive nor concerned.
  - National will release a letter soon to all Chapters detailing the issues and reasons. Today would be a good time to start planning 2020 with your State Liaison(s).
  - Philip raised a concern about other organizations that may attempt to fill in our event but Joe & Arty emphasized we own the name and this is a great opportunity.
  - Time to start planning RT Run in the states is now!
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