

Rolling Thunder® , Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

Sept. 02, 2020

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1900 hours on September 02, 2020 outdoors at the Warrenville VFW Pavilion.

Board Attendance:

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Jim Murray. Our mission statement was read by Don Gaylord. A moment of silence was observed for the Illinois MIA’s lost during the month of September during the Viet Nam War years.

We had a guest from ABATE, John Block, who briefly spoke about the ABATE Toy and Food Run occurring Oct. 11th this year. <https://dukaneabateil.org/events/tfr/> RTIL1 has had many members support this run for years. Your support this year is encouraged.

President Jim “Snipe” Murray

RTIL3 inherited 4 empty residential lots in Springfield, IL. The intention of the deceased donor was that the lots be used for veteran residences. RTIL1, at this point, has only pledged moral support. RTIL3 is beginning a relationship with Tunnels To Towers <https://tunnel2towers.org/> T2T has funding to build custom residences for veterans in need per the donor’s wish.

COB Rick “Popeye” Montgomery

Popeye thanked the members for supporting the Ride For Kids. Members of RTIL1 have been long time supporters of this struggle against pediatric brain tumors.

Treasurer Rick “Cosmo” Herr

Cos gave a report on our financial status after the Gun Bash. Our budget for the RTIL1 Veterans Assistance Program has \$4000 available and our POW/MIA budget has \$4900 available.

Board Member Bill “BB” Houghtaling

Our 11th annual Gun Bash was a success despite a very unpredictable year. BB commended the membership for all their collective efforts that created a successful chapter fundraiser. All 600 tickets were sold out and we had four side raffles as well. We need to pick a date for 2021 and also consider if

we want to combine the BTR and Gun Bash together. The Gun Bash chairpersonship is available for 2021.

Board Member Al “Shadow” Miller

The really big news of the night was the grant award letter from Connie Watson of the State of Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs. Due to Shadow’s hard work and perseverance, RTIL1 is being granted \$40,000 for our RTIL1 Veterans Assistance Program from the State of Illinois Veterans Cash Lotto Game. The term of this grant period is one year. Qualifying and receiving a grant like this certainly conveys the credibility of RTIL1 as an Illinois charity organization and our RTIL1 Veterans Assistance Program effectively helping veterans in desperate need. In the period from May 2019 to May 2020 our VAP assisted 56 Illinois veterans while spending \$53,249.

Snipe complimented Shadow on this success for the chapter. Snipe also suggested we all check out the “Where the Money Goes” page on our website. <https://rollingthunderil1.com/nMoney.html> This grant will push RTIL1 north of \$700,000 in money spent on veterans and the POW/MIA mission since the founding of our chapter. (ed. I also suggest reviewing our Charitable Pedigree page on our website <https://rollingthunderil1.com/nCharitablePedigree.html>).

The Darien POW/MIA Monument Dedication will be at 2:00 pm on Sept. 20th in Darien, IL. A flyer and full details will be available on our RT website calendar. This is a Chapter Event, rain or shine, outdoors with a POW/MIA table ceremony. Social distancing will be in effect. LT has the table sign up sheet. Attire will be white shirt, black pants, black shoes.

New and Old Business

Don Gaylord presented a \$500 donation check from the Edgewater Veterans Group comprised of Del Webb vets who like what we do for veterans. Snipe will send a thank you letter.

Gary Stengler, our Assistant Treasurer and Auditor, complemented the chapter on keeping our expenses extremely low, typically less than 4%. This is virtually unseen in the charity/non-profit world.

Steve “Gravel” Wosniack will be leading a ride out to Psycho Silo on Saturday.

Meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Houghtaling, Board Member
for
Wendy Vach, Recording Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1

