

Rolling Thunder® , Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

Oct. 7, 2020

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1930 hours on October 7, 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
No	Gary Stengler	Assistant Treasurer

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Jim Murray. Our mission statement was read by Snipe. A moment of silence was observed for the Illinois MIA's lost during the month of September during the Viet Nam War years. Special remembrance mention went to Robert D. Herreid of Aurora who was lost on October 10, 1968. Sgt. Herreid is the adopted MIA of RTIL1.

President Jim "Snipe" Murray

Joe Toma from Aurora was in attendance as a guest.

Bubba has made RTIL1 facemasks available free to members.

Gravel provided a report on a very moving escort of a repatriated former MIA marine who had been lost in Tarawa during WWII.

Names provided an update on the upcoming ABATE run on October 11th. John Block of ABATE (and member of RTIL1) is looking for veterans to assist with the flag ceremony at Sycamore Speedway at the conclusion of the run.

BB mentioned the Gun Bash Chairperson position is available for the upcoming year. The Gun Bash will be held in conjunction with the BTR 2021.

Snipe mentioned Stretch and Nathan will be working on updating our chapter photos on Facebook and our RTIL1 website. Our mission accomplishment photos should be on our website. Social photos as well as accomplishment photos should be on Facebook.

COB Rick “Popeye” Montgomery

Popeye created a \$3000 motion to fund Thanksgiving dinner baskets to veterans in need as we have provided in previous years. A Jewel gift card, \$25 per family member, will be provided along with a basket of food to cook a Thanksgiving dinner. At this point we do not know how many vet/families we will help as the list will be provided by the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in November. The \$3000 is a maximum amount. Last year our cost was \$1600. The membership approved the motion.

Treasurer Rick “Cosmo” Herr

Cos gave a report on our financial status. There is \$1900 left in the veteran assistance budget. Cos made a motion to add \$5000 to the veteran assistance budget. The motion passed. Snipe noted the chapter wants to spend money and not sit with money in the bank. There is currently \$4900 left in the POW/MIA budget.

Board Member Al “Shadow” Miller

Shadow thanked those who came out to Darian for the dedication of our latest POW/MIA Memorial. The mayor loved us. The table ceremony was well received. We currently have two more monuments in the works. One is for the Warrenville VFW and the other is for the Northlake Legion Post.

We have not received the check from the State of Illinois for the latest Veterans Cash Lotto Grant. In their process of fiscal review, they are asking for a report previously submitted in a timely manner. Shadow will send the report again.

Guest speaker Joe Toma of Dogs for Veterans

Mr. Toma’s organization, Dogs For Veterans, places service/therapy dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD. He has plenty of funding now but is seeking PTSD veterans to place available dogs. His organization has funding available; they just need qualifying veterans suffering from PTSD. It takes 16 months to train a dog along with \$25,000 to \$40,000 per dog. There is no cost to the veteran receiving the dog.

(ed. note: We neglected to mention during the meeting that we received \$600 in donations in the memory of veteran Richard W. Lane of Burlington from his family. This money will be used for the POW/MIA mission as well as veteran assistance).

Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

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