

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

## Membership Meeting Minutes April 07, 2021

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup> Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1948 hours on April 07, 2021 at Warrenville VFW.

### **Board Attendance:**

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	President
Yes	Gary Vandenbos (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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President, Jim Murray. A moment of silence was observed for the Illinois MIAs lost during the month of April from the Viet Nam and Korean Wars.

### **Jim “Snipe” Murray:**

- Ralph and Tim will be organizing the ride and arrangements with FRHD for our annual BTR and Gun Bash. The plan is to set up, KSU for the ride at 1030 hours and upon arrival back from the ride, the band will be playing, and raffles and gun bash drawings will be held sometime after. The exact timeline is still being formulated but watch the website for updates.
- POW/MIA flags have been ordered so if you know of any organizations that are in need of a flag or are approached by an organization, contact Snipe to make arrangements to get a flag to them.
- The Marseille’s Freedom Ride is going to be held this year the Saturday before Father’s Day. The board is arranging to have a table there to sell gun bash tickets and a participate in the ride. Details will be available at the next meeting and on our website.

### **Gary “Names” Vandenbos:**

- Memorial Day Ride – Our group will be doing our ride starting at Kingston Park. From there we will be going to the Genoa Veteran’s Home and then on to Cantigny to meet up with Chapter 2. Gravel will be planning the route and will send out an email to all members. Also, at the May meeting we will update everyone if any changes are made.

- Three-hundred-gun bash tickets have been handed out to members and Names still has 200 if anyone needs tickets. Please remember to hand them in sooner rather than later to make sure we have an accurate record of how many everyone has.
- Names got the window cling stickers for your bike's windshield. He had 25 at the meeting and will order more. The first one is free, there will be a fee for a second one.
- Names also found someone to make our Chapter 1 patches and those are being worked on and should be ready soon.

**Rick "Cosmo" Herr:**

- Financial report was given by Cosmo and Snipe commented that we had less requests for VAP money since the various Vet organizations closed their doors during the pandemic and also because there is a state order that prohibits evictions. Once the organizations open their doors and the order is lifted, we expect to see more VAP activity.

**Richard "Popeye" Montgomery:**

- Popeye informed the membership that both Hardcore and BB have been having health issues and our membership is wishing them a speedy recovery and send our thoughts and prayers to them.

**Al "Shadow" Miller**

- Due to the fact that our VAP are not being used from our grant for the state, we will be asking for an extension so we can use the funds and not have to return them to the state.

**Knute Weick:**

- Knute gave a recap of the bowling his team participated in at the annual Sandwich VFW event. It would seem that Spitfire showed everyone how it should be done and beat all her teammates. Besides the bowlers we had quite a few of our members show up to support them as they bowled. Two attendees each pledged \$500.00 to be added to the money they raised at their event which they then donate to our chapter to benefit the VAP program.

**Kandice "Playground" Jacobs:**

- Playground told membership that she is looking into our chapter volunteering to put flags on veteran's graves at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery the Friday before Memorial Day. She will give an update on this at the next chapter meeting.

**Open Discussion:**

Gravel talk about the need for our group to get more exposure so people know who we are and what our mission is. He will be organizing more rides this summer so watch for his emails. Also, on tap in May is the Desert Storm Traveling Wall which our chapter is planning on escorting from Iowa. Gravel will send out an email with details about the ride and the hotel.

We had a record turn-out at this month's meeting, and everyone was very happy to finally be able to get together again. The meeting was held in the VFW pavilion and as long as the weather is good Snipe indicated that we would try to hold the meetings outside.

Chappy wants everyone to know that as a representative of Stand By Me Heroes, he is available 24/7 365

days a year if anyone knows of a veteran that needs help with suicidal thoughts. He will take calls at all hours and wants our group to be aware of his mission to help veterans in need.

Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Vach, Recording Secretary