

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes May 05, 2021

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1945 hours on May 05, 2021 at Warrenville VFW.

Board Attendance:

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	President
Yes	Gary Vandenbos (Names)	Vice-President
No	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	Don Gaylord (Stone Cold)	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 May from the Viet Nam and Korean Wars.

Jim “Snipe” Murray:

- BTR – Due to changes at Fox River Harley Davidson, our Chapter had to move the BTR/Gun Raffle over to the Montgomery VFW this year, slated for August 29th. Don “Stone Cold” will be organizing the event and as soon as we have more information we will be letting chapter members know more details.
- We were contacted about helping fund one of the Gold Star Families Memorial Benches that will be installed in Springfield. All Rolling Thunder chapters in Illinois will donate equally to fund the bench (\$575.00) and the Patriot Guard will fund the other one. A vote was taken and the motion passed to donate the funds.
- The Sandwich Legion Riders bowling event was a success and our chapter was the beneficiary of the funds raised. Our chapter was presented a check for \$2,400.00 and in return our chapter presented them with a chapter coin.
- The Memorial Day run was discussed, and Gravel will be organizing the run. Watch for his email with details. Gravel will also be organizing the ride to escort the Moving Wall from Iowa to Oswego. He has already sent out emails and will send more to inform members how they can participate.
- With BB recuperating and multiple openings on the board, Stone Cold was added to the board until the next election. Welcome Don, we look forward to working with you.
- The Marseilles Freedom Ride will be held on June 19th and we once again will have a booth to sell any remaining Gun Bash tickets and 50/50 raffle tickets.
- Snipe and LT will be organizing a trailer clean up day/BBQ. A date, time and location will be announced in the near future.
- With Cosmo absent, Snipe gave a quick financial report on funds.

Richard “Popeye” Montgomery:

- Popeye reported that BB is on the mend and doing much, much better. Wishing him all the best as he recuperates.

- Three sets of Eagle/Rocker patches were presented to members: Christine Ferrar, Stone Cold and Gravel. Congratulations!

Knute Weick:

- Knute will be creating stickers to put on any unsold tickets changing the location of the Gun Raffle from FRHD to the Montgomery VFW. If you need stickers let him know and if you know who you sold tickets to try to contact them and let them know of the site change.

Kandice “Playground” Jacobs:

- Kandice gave a health update on Hardcore and the news was all good. Way to go Hardcore, we hope you’re feeling better.

Al “Shadow” Miller

- Shadow worked out the logistics for the BTR ride. From the Montgomery VFW, riders will go to the Sandwich VFW. From there the next stop will be the Yorkville American Legion and then the Aurora VFW. We will be needing chapter members to be at each stop so let Shadow know what stop you will be able to work.

Gary “Names” Vandebos:

- Names had the window clings remade as the first batch didn’t seem to work well. If you need one, see Names at the next meeting.
- There are still a few tickets left for the Gun Raffle if anyone needs some to sell. Please remember to turn in your money and ticket stubs ASAP so we have a handle on what was sold so far.

Open Discussion:

Chappy gave a brief talk about how suicide rates have increased with the pandemic isolating people and how important it is to reach out to someone who may be in danger of committing suicide. Military Outreach USA.org puts out newsletter and in it they explain how to deal with someone who may be at risk. Moving forward there will be a link on our chapter website to the newsletter for anyone who is interested. Veteran suicides during the pandemic are believed to be in the 30’s and 40’s as opposed to the 22 that is normally quoted.

Gravel talked about the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery and our efforts to help put flags on graves. At the time of our meeting he was still waiting to hear details. Watch for the email.

Meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Vach, Recording Secretary