

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

## Membership Meeting Minutes September 01, 2021

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup> Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Murray at 1946 hours on September 01, 2021, at Warrenville VFW.

### **Board Attendance:**

Attended	Name	Position
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
Yes	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
No	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 MIA's lost during the month of March from the Viet Nam and, Korean Wars.

### **Jim "Snipe" Murray:**

- Snipe and Knute presented Chappy with a coin of appreciation and a certificate for his contributions to our chapter and his dedication to helping veterans. Chappy was joined by his wife Christine.
- On September 17<sup>th</sup> is the 2nd Annual POW/MIA Ceremony sponsored by the American Legion Post #1944 at the Walter E. Truemper Memorial located in the Sunken Garden's located in Phillips Park in Aurora. The setup is scheduled for 6pm and the Ceremony and presentations are to begin at 7pm. We attended this event last year and it would be nice if as many people as possible showed up for this event. We will meet at the Montgomery VFW and ride there as a group. Watch for the email from Snipe.
- Our chapter was awarded another grant from Inland Bank in the amount of \$7,500.00, which now makes approximately \$25,000.00 that they have donated to our chapter. The board will present Inland Bank with a coin of appreciation and a certificate as soon as arrangements can be made.
- The board is also asking that member try to make as many outside events/rides as possible supporting other organizations so that when we have our events, they reciprocate. The more our name is out there the more other organizations will attend. The board is also asking that members try to make as many chapter events as possible so that we show a good presence at our own events.

### **Election:**

- The annual election was held for seven positions. Nominated was President – Names, Treasurer – Cosmo, Chairman of the Board – Popeye, Board of Director – Knute, Board of Director – Shadow, Board of Director – Stone Cold and Board of Director – Joe. All nominees were elected by majority vote. Congratulations to all.

**Rick “Cosmo” Herr:**

- Rick gave the budget report.
- Rick also gave the totals for BTR/Gun Raffle and despite a bad turnout, the chapter made money from the event.

**Bill “BB” Houghtaling:**

- BB asked that people step up to help with the Gun Bash and he will provide guidance. So far there is one person interested. Anyone else that would like to help with this fundraiser, please contact BB or any other member of the board.

**Kandice “Playground” Jacobs:**

- Playground thanked Snipe for his years of service as our president now that his term is over.

**Don “Stone Cold” Gaylord:**

- BTR – Stone Cold thanked all the members that handled various jobs at the BTR/Gun Raffle and asked for A commitment from those people to handle the jobs next year. He also asked for others to step up and help. He was very thankful that everyone pitched in and did their part. He also would like anyone that has suggestions for next year to send him an email with those suggestions. Also Stone Cold thank Father Guido who designed the image used on the T Shirts sold at BTR and requested he start designing a new one for next year.
- He also reminded everyone that there are two events coming up along with the ride that Popeye supports. Those events are the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, the Combat Vets Save a Joe and Ride for Kids - Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Fund Raiser. Watch for the emails coming out about those rides and check the calendar for details.
- Coming up on 9/19 is RT Chapter 2’s ride and this would be the perfect time to support them as they’ve supported us all these years.

**Gary “Names” Vandenbos:**

- Names thanked everyone that voted for him as president and wants everyone to know that he’ll step up and make us proud. Congratulations Names.

**Open Discussion:**

Mo brought up the tragedy that happened in Afghanistan and was wondering about how our chapter could support military personnel that may be left behind to help others get out and if they are captured what our role would be in supporting them as POW’S. At this time anyone left behind is not active military that we are aware of, but if this would happen, then we would support National in a response. Also, it was brought up by Father Guido that there is one sailor that is a POW and board members said they would look into this. The suggestion was made that we put up a billboard and that will also be looked at as a way to support our mission.

Chappy informed the chapter that since the tragedy that happened in Afghanistan 4 local vets committed suicide. This is a reminder as to why people should attend Mission Warrior HOPE Conference that will be held Sept. 17-19 at the Warrenville VFW Post. Members that sign up will have the conference fee paid for by our chapter.

Meeting was adjourned at 2043 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

Wendy Vach, Recording Secretary