

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2021

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Membership Meeting was called to order by President, Gary “Names” Vandebos at 1935 hours on November 03, 2021, at Warrenville VFW.

Board Attendance: Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Gary Vandebos (Names)	President
Yes	Al Miller (Shadow)	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	Kandice Jacobs (PG)	Board Member
Yes	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Don Gaylord (Stone Cold)	Board Member
No	Joe Peterburs (Dog House)	Board Member
Yes	Felipe Ferrer (Chappy)	Chapter Chaplain

1. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President, Gary “Names” Vandebos.
2. The Rolling Thunder Mission statement was read by Knute Weick
3. The month’s missing in action from all wars was read by Knute Weick
4. A moment of silence was Observed for the Illinois MIA’s lost during the month of November from the Vietnam War.
5. Chappy gave the Invocation before the meeting.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Rick “Popeye” Montgomery:

- On November 10th, the Moving Wall will be in New Lenox. Our chapter has been asked to be part of the escort. Members who show up should be at the New Lenox Commons, 1 Veteran’s Parkway in New Lenox at 700 hours. From there the escort will travel through Abraham Lincoln Cemetery and then on to the American Legion Post in New Lenox. The board is asking all members available to consider doing this event. There will be more information at the November meeting.
- The chapter has 25 Raffle tickets for a motorcycle to sell for Nationals Raffle.
- Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 has a table ceremony at 1100 on Nov. 13th at Woodstock HD. Would like our chapter to show up and support.
- Veterans Resource Fair in DuPage County at the Fairgrounds was noted.
- Manteno annual ride was cancelled scheduled for 11/7/2021.
- A motion by Snipe for \$1500.00 to Manteno was called and passed unanimously by the chapter to donate them that amount.

Gary “Names” Vandebos (President):

- President asked if there were any new persons at the meeting, one person stood up and gave his name.
 - His name was not captured by the scribe.
 - Brought up the Sandwich AL ride event and what we received as a donation.

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- Mentioned that he and COS were traveling to Rolling Thunder National on Friday for the annual convention.
- Reminded the chapter that all request for donations must go through the board first to be vetted and then will be presented to the chapter if acceptable.

Al “Shadow” Miller (Vice President):

- Brought up the money received from the Sandwich AL riders of \$1400 to be used for the VAP program.
- Getting final list for the chapter’s Christmas party from Midwest Shelters by 12 NOV.
- VAP helped 4-veterans for the month of October 2021.
- He is looking to add the county of DeKalb into the area of Veterans that we will assist. Currently it is Kane, Will, DuPage counties.

Rick “Cosmo” Herr:

- Cos gave budget report
- Gave the total of donations received for the month.
- Noted that Spitfire/Greg will update the names on the Wall link on our website to reflect the new donors to RTC1.

Wendy “Dragonfly” Vach:

- Working with Spitfire and Greg on being new administrators to our Chapter’s Facebook page.

Knute Weick:

- Gave approximate cost for Billboards to advertise former American service personnel, but are civilian contractors, not POW/MIA’s and locations for higher viewership.
- Cost is almost triple from when Fallout did it 7-years ago.
- It was suggested by Manny to make it about the 22-suicides a day. This will be reviewed more.
- Knute debated the funding of Wreaths Across America for Lincoln National Cemetery as it has nothing to do with our Mission Statement, does not support Veterans in need and may be taking monies away from others that need it to sustain.

Bill “B.B.” Houghtaling:

- Looking for missing minutes on the below dates:
 - *Board minutes from Sept 1, 2021*
 - *Membership minutes from Jan 6, 2021*

Kandice “Playground” Jacobs:

- Need help from the whole chapter to pack boxes for Thanksgiving on 21st Nov., @ 0930 at Warrenville VFW.
- Need cash advance for food and gift cards. \$3500 was approved.
- Wreaths Across America Discussion (Dec 18th)
 - Should we make a donation?
 - Should we offer our services to place them?
 - Should we offer both?
 - This was put to a vote for \$500 to donate for it.

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- There were 2-No votes from the chapter as it is not a part of the POW/MIA mission.

Christmas Party

- Is to be on 1 Dec., at 1900 hours.
- Bring a gift for Toys-4-Tots for Fr. Guido
- Who to invite besides Chapter members to the Christmas dinner: (Additional headcount)
 - Save-A-Joe 4-people
 - Sandwich AL 4-people
 - VFW Montgomery 4-people
 - FRHD 2-people
 - Midwest Shelter 6-people
 - RTC2IL 4-people

Remembrance table song solicited to be updated. Below are the current submitted suggestions.

- American Remember Me Britt Small
- American Soldier Toby Keith
- America the Beautiful Ray Charles
- The Ones that didn't make it back home Justin Moore
- Empty Chair Trace Adkins
- Sounds of Silence Disturbed
- NEW?

Don "Stone Cold" Gaylord:

- Stone Cold brought up if the BTR event should be a Poker Ride or a point-to-point ride.
- The current date for the BTR event at Montgomery is: AUG 28th, 2022

Felipe "Chappy" Ferrer:

- Rolling Thunder letter for the SBMH newsletter (Names to have Snipe's letter used)
- VAP story for the newsletter (Shadow to provide)
- 11/10 – 11/14 @ noon the Traveling Wall (New Lenox)
- Asking for volunteers to work with horses as part of a PTS initiative (Hubber Ranch?)

GUN BASH 2022 Discussion:

- Rob Leskovar will be the coordinator for the Gun Bash this year with the help of Pockets.
- Rob presented three options and locations to be voted on by the chapter.
 - Fox River Harley Davidson
 - Law Weapons & Supply in Naperville
 - Montgomery VFM
- Rob presented the Pro's and Con's for each location, amount of traffic, band vs. DJ, etc.

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- Rob presented sheets to vote on which was the favorite and which should be considered as an alternate.
- Unknown how the vote turned out.
- Rob Re-establish communication with Brian Rapier at FRHD, and they would love to have us back in May 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

- Knute, **NOT THE Recording Secretary**