

**Minutes of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Illinois Chapter One
General Membership Meeting**

October 7, 2009

29 of 81 members were in attendance

President Bill Sharpness called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

New members were recognized. Gene Labelle from Crete, along with Joe Jans and Bruce Trawle, ambassadors from VFW Post 1197 Batavia. Joe and Bruce were acknowledged and thanked for bringing the group of Veterans to the Big Thunder Run.

Secretary- Tony "Clutch" Leone

Mission Statement was read.

President - Bill "Hawk" Sharpness

Introduced himself as the new president and described his background and his mission as a member. Hawk also introduced the board members.

Treasurer - Jim "Snipe" Murray

Snipe gave us a rundown of the results of the Big Thunder Run (approximately 569 bikes registered, but more showed up that did not register) and motorcycle raffle, which netted the chapter just under \$. Our bank account balance currently is \$. Discussions will be coming up in future meetings as to how we can spend this money.

Chairman of the Board - Rick "Popeye" Montgomery

Announced 2 more honor flights on the dates of 21st-Oct and 28th-Oct. 01-Nov is The 11th Anniversary Manteno Veterans Ride. (Flier attached). Motion was made for donation of \$1000.00 to the Illinois Veterans Home as was passed. A motion was also made to make this a chapter event and this motion was also passed.

Member Open Discussion

Milan "Mo" Kondich suggested an increase in registration fee to \$20.00 and provide a kickstand puck. This will be a discussion for the BTR committee and will be taken into consideration.

Rudy “Big R” Dubis suggests that we need a media coordinator. Open discussion followed. Concerns about the POW/ MIA issue losing attention and a general disinterest is an issue.

Jim “ Snipe” Murray states that we are also in need of an education coordinator. Both are full time positions that require a lot of volunteer time and effort, along with a skill set that includes the ability to communicate to the proper media and education outlets.

Bill “Hawk” Sharpness suggests that having a celebrity involved could open an avenue for recognition to the cause.

Robert “Boz” Hall volunteered for the Education Coordinator Position.

A request was put out by Snipe to the members to find smaller organizations that so we can start distributing money. Larger national Vet organizations are well funded and we agree that is not the type of organization that we want to donate to

Skippy stated that we need to get any donation information to Popeye in advance as far as you can so we can research and screen them before agreeing on a donation.

Mo stated that as an organization we are losing touch with the POW/MIA issue, the core of the reason Rolling Thunder was founded. We are placing too much emphasis on the veterans issue and we need to keep in our thoughts and minds the POW/MIA issue. Mo stated he feels that a certain amount of dollars be set-aside for this important cause. LT and Hawk agreed as well as the consensus of members.

LT stated we need to have an emphasis on POW/MIA issues at all out functions. A board with names and pictures will be made of the POW/MIA’s that will bring emphasis to our cause.

President - Bill “Hawk” Sharpness

Rolling Thunder will volunteer to place 2000 flowers on graves at Abraham Lincoln Veterans Cemetery on Wed. 11-Nov. Details will follow. Motion was made to make this a chapter event and passed.

Issues with Supporting Illinois Chapter 2 were discussed. This detail can be addressed with Hawk and Snipe if you have questions.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Leone, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1
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Upcoming Events: (Chapter events in **Bold**)

Oct. 11 IL Ch 2 Never Forget Thunder Run and Toys for Tots Parade,
rollingthundeilch2events@yahoo.com

Oct. 21 Honor Flight

Oct. 28 Honor Flight

Nov. 1 Manteno Veterans Run, Oak Lawn H.O.G.
Nov.11 Abraham Lincoln Cemetery Flowers on Graves