

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 General Membership Meeting Minutes January 6, 2016

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Board Meeting was called to order by President Bill Sharpness at 1930 hours on January 6, 2016 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American flag. The mission statement was read by Dominic Ruggiero. A moment of silence was observed for MIA's.

Board Attendance:

Attendee	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
Yes	Dominic Ruggiero (Hard Core)	Vice-President
Yes	Jim Murray (Snipe)	Treasurer
No	Gary Stengler	Assistant Treasurer
Yes	Tom Woosley	Secretary
Yes	Richard Montgomery (Popeye)	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)	Board Member
Yes	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
No	John Mikuski (Raffles)	Board Member
No	Don Pugh (Spoiled)	Board Member
Yes	Dan Thomas (Cage)	Board Member
Yes	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Howard "Weebles" Bushnell	Assist. Secretary/Communications
Yes	Kandice Jacobs	Assistant Secretary/Membership
Yes	Gary Vandebos (Names)	Activities Chairperson

Chairman of the Board – Richard Montgomery (Popeye)

Pheasant Run:

- Pheasant Run is this weekend. The Chapter will have a table January 8-10 and provide door security Friday and Sunday.
- We will have assistance from the Christian Motorcycle Association.
- Do not wear vests while working.

President - Bill Sharpness (Hawk)

MIA Memorials:

- A discussion took place regarding a table ceremony and plaque dedication to MIA's in small towns with no existing memorials.

- Fr. Guido could design the plaque for a park or municipal building.
- Local police and fire departments should be invited as well as RT Chapters 2 and 3.

Rainelle, WV:

- Hawk will supply contact information for those who will be going to Rainelle in May.
- Motels should be reserved by 1st week of February.

Vice President – Dominic Ruggerio (Hard Core)

Chair of Honor:

- Chair of Honor dedication at Soldier Field will be January 28, 2016 at noon.
- Press release was sent today.
- Invitations have been sent to several dignitaries, Walter and Connie Payton Foundation, and Rolling Thunder Chapter's 2 and 3.

DuPage Rivers Fly Tyers at Hines:

- Hard Core informed the group of a non-profit organization that teaches blind veterans to fly fish and various other activities associated with it.
- Hard Core requested the Chapter make a \$1,000 donation for equipment.
- Membership voted to make the donation.

Concorde:

- Concorde received a commemorative vest with airbrushed patches for display.

Treasurer - Jim Murray (Snipe)

Financials:

- Snipe covered current financial information and proposed budget for 2016.

Big Thunder Run:

- Chapter needs to determine where the BTR will be and notify Montgomery as soon as possible. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Board Member - Bill Atkinson (Fall Out)

Veterans in Crisis:

- Fallout requested the Chapter purchase advertising for "Veterans in Crisis Hotline" on 1 billboard for 30 days at a cost of \$1,500, recurring each quarter. End date to be determined.
- Membership voted unanimously in favor of the billboard.

Assist. Secretary/Communications - Howard "Weebles" Bushnell

Photos:

- Weebles requested members to take photos at events to add to the web-site photo album.

Board Member – Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)

Bowe Bergdahl:

- Email was sent to members with a serial podcast of Bowe Bergdahl's thoughts. Highly recommended listening.

Gun Bash:

- Gun Bash will be May 7, 2016. Tickets are available, take as many as you can sell in 1 month.
- Unsold tickets are to be returned at February meeting to better gauge ticket sales.
- In addition to BB, Snipe and Popeye will also have tickets available for distribution.

Assistant Secretary/Membership –Kandice Jacobs

Big Thunder Run:

- BTR vendor application has been revised.

Board Member - Dan Thomas (Cage)

Chair of Honor:

- Cage's Nephew will be the Chapter's designated photographer for the Chair of Honor dedication at Soldier Field on January 28, 2016.

Activities Chairperson – Gary Vandenbos (Names)

Kane County Cougars:

- Names suggested a Chapter event at Kane County Cougars on Saturday, July 2 for Military Appreciation Night. Tickets are \$4 each.

Chapter Member – Wolfie

Donation:

- Wolfie presented the Chapter with a donation check for \$1,000 from the Palace Masonic Lodge.

Meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Woosley, Secretary
Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 1