

# Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup>, Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 General Membership Meeting Minutes February 3, 2016

Rolling Thunder<sup>®</sup> Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Board Meeting was called to order by President Bill Sharpness at 1930 hours on February 3, 2016 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American flag. The mission statement was read by Bill Atkinson. A moment of silence was observed for MIA's.

## Board Attendance:

Attendee	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
No	Dominic Ruggerio (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
No	Howard "Weebles" Bushnell	Assist. Secretary/Communications
Yes	Kandice Jacobs	Assistant Secretary/Membership
Yes	Gary Vandebos (Names)	Activities Chairperson

## **President - Bill Sharpness (Hawk)**

### Visitors:

- John Kurtis (Navy) attended the membership meeting in consideration of joining the Chapter.
- Gary Gibula, Chicago Tribune reporter, attended the membership meeting and talked with several members for an article he is writing on Rolling Thunder IL 1.

### MIA Memorials:

- A trip to Paris, Illinois to honor an Illinois MIA serviceman and bring awareness of the POW/MIA issue will be a Chapter event. Date to be determined.
- The Chapter is expected to have two of these events each year.

### Big Thunder Run:

- Discussion of where to have BTR resulted in one of two locations, either Montgomery VFW or Browns.
- Shadow suggested starting at Knuckle Heads, stop at Hinks, then end at Browns. Have 2-3 members at each stop. Hold a gun raffle at Browns with no poker run and limit the number of vendors.
- Fallout motioned, several seconded, motion passed.

### **Chairman of the Board – Richard Montgomery (Popeye)**

Chair of Honor:

- Chapter 2 is working with the Chicago Cubs and White Sox to install Chairs of Honor at their respective parks.

### **Treasurer - Jim Murray (Snipe)**

Patches:

- Snipe presented Kandice Jacobs and Patches with their eagle and rockers.

Membership:

- Annual membership dues are due by tonight's membership meeting.
- Currently 24 members have not renewed, this is 35% of the Chapter's membership.

Financials:

- Snipe covered 2015 financials as well as current financials.
- Donations have been made to the following:
  - \$3k Midwest Shelter
  - \$2k Task Force Omega
  - \$1k Warrenville VFW

### **Board Member - Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)**

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.

Chair of Honor:

- Members who took pictures at the Chair of Honor dedication at Soldier Field were encouraged to send BB copies to be posted to the Chapter's web-site.
- Pictures taken by Evan, Cage's Nephew, will be copied to CDs and will also be

posted on the Chapter's web-site.

- Knute suggested including a symbol on the back of Chairs of Honor corresponding to the plaque.
- BB commented on the outstanding speech Erica Jeffries, from the VA, gave at the dedication. He recommended inviting her to other events.

Veterans Assistance Program:

- Several members weighed in on the Veterans Assistance Program.
- BB produced a document that confirms the legality of a 501C4 to provide assistance directly to veterans in need.

Grants:

- BB informed the members we will be applying for grants in 2016.

### **Assistant Secretary/Membership - Kandice Jacobs**

Bowling Thunder:

- Kandice discussed the possibility of having Bowling Thunder in late spring. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Board Member - Dan Thomas (Cage)**

Veterans Assistance Program:

- Cage informed the members of a 92-year-old WWII veteran who may lose his home due to delinquent property taxes. Victor, a member of Villa Park VFW, drives other veterans to Hines.

### **Member – Dennis J. Reiter (LT)**

Donation:

- LT presented a check for \$1,000 to the Chapter from Jacquelyn Dibble. Jacquelyn has donated several times and the Chapter has voted in favor of presenting her with a plaque to show our appreciation.

Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

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