

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 General Membership Meeting Minutes March 2, 2016

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board, Richard Montgomery at 1930 hours on March 2, 2016 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. The membership pledged allegiance to the American flag.

Board Attendance:

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

Chairman of the Board – Richard Montgomery (Popeye)

Big Thunder Run XV:

BTR discussion continued from previous meetings including number of participants required to cover committees. If insufficient participation, nonessential committees may need to be cut. Members were in favor of continuing with Patriot Ride and agreed to assist other committees when available.

A discussion commenced regarding BTR books. An alternative that would be a significant cost reduction would be a one-page trifold pamphlet. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Rolling Thunder IL 1 Patriot Run is the name for BTRXV.

Treasurer – Jim Murray (Snipe)

Financials:

No change in financials from last month.

Board Member - Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)

Grants:

The board discussed possible recipients and their needs. Among the possibilities were wheel chair busses for Manteno and LaSalle.

Veterans Assistance:

Kane County has added RT IL 1 to their list for directing veteran's in need of additional assistance. DuPage County will be next. ComEd has a CHAMP program that may pay up to \$1,000 for a one-time relief.

Gun Bash:

Approximately 1/3 of gun bash tickets have been sold. Concerns were raised on whether we can sell all 600 tickets by May 7.

BB is in talks with Gander Mountain about the chapter having a table and easel with a Gun Bash poster to sell gun bash tickets at their store. Gander Mountain is expected to have an influx of gun enthusiasts after the DuPage gun show on Sunday, March 6 and Kane County gun show Sunday, March 13.

Member – Manny Lopez

Veterans in Crisis:

Manny talked about a situation regarding a distressed service member and calling the Veterans Crisis Hotline. Calls are routed to New York if 1 is not selected for local assistance and overflow calls are going to voice mail or on hold with music. Manny discussed this situation with the VA.

Veterans Crisis Hotline has been overloaded with calls for the last 2 years. The VA stated they will be hiring additional counselors.

Member – Phil

Veterans in Crisis:

- Phil is the President and founder of Stand by Me Heroes, an organization that provides individualized counseling to veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries. Phil suggested adding the organizations phone number on the chapter's web-site.

Member – Dennis Reiter (LT)

- LT, Names, and Cowboy attended RT IL 2 Chair of Honor dedication last weekend at Woodstock HD. The plaque was dedicated on behalf of all Illinois chapters.

Meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

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