

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Membership Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2016

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1, General Membership Meeting was called to order by Chapter President Bill Sharpness at 1950 hours on July 6, 2016 at the Warrenville VFW. Membership pledged allegiance to the American Flag. Treasurer Jim Murray recited Rolling Thunder's mission statement and a moment of silence was observed for those who remain MIA.

Board Attendance:

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
No	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
Yes	Dan Thomas (Cage)	Board Member
Yes	Gary Vandebos (Names)	Board Member
No	Knute Weick	Board Member
Yes	Howard "Weebles" Bushnell	Assist. Secretary/Communications
Yes	Kandice Jacobs	Assistant Secretary/Membership

2016 Events:

- Apr 20 DuPage Homeless Veterans Taskforce Seminar.
- Apr 21 Veterans Job Fair at Soldier Field
- Apr 30 Giving Back Poker Run
- May 7 Gun Bash
- May 28 Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom
- May 30 Essence of Freedom Run (contact Popeye for additional information)
- Jun 18 Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run
- Jul 02 Military Appreciation Night at Kane County Cougars
- Jul 09 Remembering Our Heroes Ride
- Jul 13 Homeless Veteran Stand Down
- Jul 13 Honor Flight
- Jul 23 Forest Park Vet Fest
- Jul 30 Welcome Home Vets (contact Cage for additional information)
- Jul 31 Turning Back Time Car and Bike Show
- Aug 13 Goodstock Music Festival-Operation Restoring Hope
- Aug 27 Warrior Brotherhood Vet Fest
- Aug 21 Hines Visit
- Sep 11 Patriot Run - Rolling Thunder IL1
- Sep 24 Plaque Dedication, Paris, IL

BTR/Patriot Run:

Names received confirmation that Montgomery VFW will have the street blocked off for the 9/11 Patriot Run, this year's food supplier may be the BBQ restaurant next door and police and fire departments are invited to BTR.

Veterans in Crisis:

Our next Veterans in Crisis billboard will be located on the northbound side of the tri-state (I-294) north of LaGrange Road. This location has an expected 350,000 views per week. The billboard will be up for 4 weeks beginning on August 8.

Veteran Assistance:

Kandice has a stair climber valued at approximately \$2,500 that was donated by a friend to a veteran that Shadow knows. The veteran in need cannot afford the \$650 installation cost. Shadow will have the veteran vetted through Kane or DuPage County Veterans Assistance Program. A volunteer with a pick-up is needed to transport the chair climber from Western Springs.

BB notified the group of a veteran in need of assistance with rent. His landlord raised his rent from \$650 TO \$900. He could not afford the high rent and needs help with the first month's rent at another apartment.

Grants and Donations:

The chapter is expecting a grant of \$17,000 that is earmarked for washing machines for the LaSalle Veterans Home.

Financials:

Snipe gave chapter financials to the membership. For details see Snipe.

Memorials and Dedications:

Chairs of Honor are slated for Joliet Slammers stadium and LaSalle Veterans Home. Joliet Slammers will be required to pay for the plaque and shipping costs. A vote is pending for the chapter to pick up the plaque and shipping costs for LaSalle.

The board is in favor of a memorial at Glenbard West High School, awaiting a vote from the membership. It would be placed in a park located across the street from the school that was dedicated in honor of four local Vietnam veterans with a tree planted for each of them.

Memorial dedication in Paris, IL is September 24. This is a chapter event and all members are encouraged to attend. Motel for Illinois Chapter 1 members staying overnight will be covered by the chapter. We will also be performing the Table Ceremony. Be sure to pack black pants, long sleeve white shirt with MIA names on the sleeves and black boots. Illinois chapters 2 and 3 are invited.

Other Chapter Communication:

Please welcome our newest member Tim Kearney. Tim currently has two children serving.

BB thanked everyone for making the Gun Bash successful. All 600 tickets were sold.

Elections for president, treasurer, chairman of the board and 3 directors will be held at the September membership meeting. Weebles read the qualifications from the by-laws. Nomination committee currently consists of Kandice and Cage and they will request nominations at the membership meetings through September. Current nominations for President are Bill Sharpness (Hawk) and Jim Murray (Snipe), Treasurer Tom Woosley (Fester), COB Richard Montgomery (Popeye), and Directors Gary Vandebos (Names), Knute Weick, Al Miller (Shadow) and Richard Zayat (Father Guido).

Military appreciation day at Kane County Cougars on July 2 was outstanding. Hawk lead the motorcycle procession around the track. At a particular section, fans stood-up and gave the procession an ovation like a wave around the stands as the bikes passed by, as described by Weebles. LT did an outstanding job, as always, with coordinating the Table Ceremony. As the table ceremony concluded, the participants had a quick meet and greet with Governor Rauner. By the end of the night, the chapter received many favorable comments from the baseball fans as well as the Cougars staff. Names received a letter of appreciation from Alex Miller of the Cougars. The event was such a success that Hawk suggested that next year we make Military Appreciation day at the Kane County Cougars a chapter event.

Several members will be attending the Honor Flight reception at Midway Airport on Wednesday, July 13. Those not attending Homeless Veteran Stand Down are encouraged to go, as it is an amazing display of patriotism. We will be meeting at Bass Pro Shop in Bolingbrook at 1930 and departing for Midway Airport at 1945.

Fallout and Hard Core have an entertainer who sings and plays guitar and will be providing entertainment at Hines on Sunday, August 21 at 2pm. Volunteers are

needed to visit with the veterans and help resupply the geriatric ward with toiletries. Fallout requests the board to make this a chapter event.

Two officers/board members are needed to attend Rolling Thunder National Conference November 4-6. Attendees will be determined at the next Board meeting.

Carol Hrdlicka is the wife of a Col. David L. Hrdlicka, USAF, who was shot down over Laos on May 18, 1965. Col. Hrdlicka was a high profile POW and was last reported alive in 1990. Carol is requesting all chapters of Rolling Thunder to take action by going on-line at change.org or www.powhrdlicka.com to sign a petition to force President Obama to take action for all POW's (enter search word Hrdlicka). This will be brought to the membership.

Knute needs 5 members to run the motorcycle contest at Vet Fest on July 23. Names and Ghost have volunteered and will be there at 0930. This is an opportunity to sell 50/50 tickets. Knute will send out an email with additional information.

The 17th annual Fizz Ehrler memorial Turning Back Time Car and Bike Show will take place in Sycamore on July 31. The chapter will have a booth at the same location as last year, southwest corner of California and Elm Streets. This is an opportunity to sell 50/50 tickets. Names will send an email with additional information

Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

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