

Rolling Thunder[®], Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 General Membership Meeting Minutes September 7, 2016

Rolling Thunder[®] Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Bill Sharpness at 1945 hours on September 7, 2016 at the VFW in Warrenville, IL. Membership pledged allegiance to the American flag. Vice President Dominic Ruggerio read Rolling Thunder's mission statement and a moment of silence was observed for MIA's.

Board Attendance:

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Bill Sharpness (Hawk)	President
Yes	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
No	Bill Houghtaling (B.B.)	Board Member
Yes	John Mikuski (Raffles)	Board Member
Yes	Dan Thomas (Cage)	Board Member
Yes	Gary Vandebos (Names)	Board Member
Yes	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 (Popeye)
 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 (Cage)
 Jul 30-31 Turning Back Time Car and Bike Show
 Aug 10 Honor Flight
 Aug 13 Goodstock Music Festival
 Aug 20 LaSalle Chair of Honor dedication
 Aug 21 Hines VA Hospital
 Aug 27 Warrior Brotherhood Vet Fest
 Sep 11 Patriot Run - Rolling Thunder IL1
 Sep 24 Plaque Dedication, Paris, IL
 Oct 1 Villa Park Vet Fest (Cage)

9/11 Patriot Run:

Names stated everything looks good for the Patriot Run. Set-up will start at 0900 on Saturday, September 10th and 0700 on Sunday for the event. Parking behind the VFW is reserved for patrons of the VFW. Patriot Run parking is available across the street and at the village hall. Shadow has the route set-up. We will allow riders and passengers to sign-up at the stops.

Kandice stated 11 vendors are signed-up for the Patriot Run. Tuttle will be sewing patches. Hard Core is expecting the stage to arrive at 0630. This year's band is Black Swan. They will play from 1300-1600 hours. The drummer's son served 2 tours in Afghanistan.

Cage covered the schedule of events for this year's Patriot Run.

Veterans in Crisis:

Fallout reported the next Veteran's in Crisis billboard goes up tomorrow on I-294.

Veteran Assistance:

Popeye joined the chapter's veteran assistance committee and is working with Will County VAC.

Weebles read a letter from a veteran who was in need of assistance with a gas bill that was on the verge of being shut off. The veteran's heartfelt letter of gratitude was reaffirming to the chapter that our veteran's assistance committee is making a positive effect on veterans lives.

Grants and Donations:

The chapter received a \$17,000 grant check earmarked for washing machines for the LaSalle Veterans Home.

Memorials and Dedications:

Hardcore thanked those who attended the September 4th Chair dedication at the Joliet Slammers baseball stadium. There was a good turnout of members and bikes.

Paris, IL monument dedication will take place on September 24. Hawk has arranged for rooms at Panelle and Super 8 motels in Paris for the chapter. Fallout has ordered the POW/MIA flags to be passed out at the dedication. We are meeting at Casey's gas station in Chrisman, IL. The procession from Chrisman to the memorial park in Paris will be by police escort at 1230.

Other Communication:

Ron Provenzano is a visitor at tonight's meeting. Ron was at the Joliet Slammer's stadium and observed the chair dedication.

Weebles informed the members of the art show at Hines, 0900-1500 hours, on Thursday, September 8th. Fr. Guido will have his art on display.

200 hats were purchased with the chapter's emblem. Fallout passed out hats to members in attendance.

October 1st is the Villa Park VFW's Welcome Home Vet's event. This is a chapter event, we will be performing the Table Ceremony. A sign-up sheet was passed around for table participant volunteers.

Hawk thanked everyone for all the accomplishments over the last 6 years. He will not be running for president at tonight's election. Hawk requested the creation of POW/MIA committee and that he take the lead. Cage made the motion for a vote, Names second, the vote was unanimous.

Elections:

Elections were held for President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board and 3 board members. Election committee was lead Cage. Voting was by show of hands. Results are as follows:

President – Jim “Snipe” Murray

Treasurer – Tom Woosley

Chairman of the Board – Rick “Popeye” Montgomery

Board members – Gary “Names” Vandebos

Al “Shadow” Miller

Richard “Fr. Guido” Zayat

Hawk received a standing ovation for his 6 years of leadership.

Meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours.

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