

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Illinois Chapter 1

Chapter Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2026

Rolling Thunder® Inc. Illinois Chapter 1 Meeting was called to order by President Al Miller at 19:35.

Attended	Name	Position
Yes	Al "Shadow" Miller	President
Yes	Kandice "PG" Jacobs	Vice-President
Yes	Richard "Popeye" Montgomery	Chairman of the Board
Yes	Rick "Cosmo" Herr	Treasurer
Yes	Keith "Stretch" Stengler	Secretary
Yes	Chris "Spyder" Graham	Director
No	John Mihelich	Director
Yes	Philip "Chappy" Ferrer	Director
Yes	Wendy "Dragonfly" Vach	Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Chappy: Rolling Thunder Mission Statement, MIA list for September, Prayer

9/12, Chapter 3, 9/11 remembrance ride

9/13, Annette Keutzer Memorial 15th DeKalb County Toy Run

9/16, DuPage county veterans suicide prevention coalition seminar

9/18, New Lenox American Legion is receiving a Huey, 06:30

9/18, Remembrance table at 18:45 at the Genoa VFW post 8387

9/20, Chapter II ride starts at Captain James Lovell VA

9/27, Fallen member ride, meet at our VFW, KSU at 09:00. Ride to The Pub, 200 Somonauk Rd, Hinckley

Shadow:

- We helped 4 Vets last month. 1 with a mortgage, 1 with rent, 3 with utilities and 2 with auto repairs.
- DuPage Annette Keutzer Memorial 15th DeKalb County Toy Run on 9/13. See our calendar for more information.
- DuPage county veterans suicide prevention coalition is having a seminar on 9/16. It will be at 421 North County Farm Road Wheaton, IL. See flyer below.
- Friday 9/18, we will be doing a remembrance table at 18:45 at the Genoa VFW post 8387. They will be having a spaghetti dinner prior to our table beginning at 17:00. This is for POW/MIA recognition day. 311 S Washington St, Genoa, IL 60135. See flyer below.
- The Chapter II ride is Sunday 9/20. The ride starts at Captain James Lovell VA, 3001 Green bay Rd, North Chicago, 60064. Registration opens at 09:00, Ride Brief at 10:30, KSU at 11:00. The ride is up to Woodstock HD. There will be food, drinks and vendors there. There will also be raffles and music. See flyer below.

Stretch:

- Asked for a motion to accept last months chapter meeting minutes. Tug motioned to accept the minutes, Knute seconded the motion, Passed.
- Asked for a motion to accept last months chapter financial report. Shadow motioned to accept the report, Popeye seconded the motion, Passed.
- Read a condolence letter from the American Legion Riders Post 99 in Sycamore. The letter is below.

Cozmo:

- Read last months financial report.
- BB commented on how great it is in how many Vets we are helping!

Spyder:

- Passed out the latest gun list for the 2027 Gun Bash. It's a good list for the cost. We tried to keep our costs down to make more money. Bill motioned to approve a budget of \$12,159 for the gun bash weapons as the list now stands, Snipe seconded it, Passed.

Popeye:

- Election time! VP PG, Secretary Stretch and 2 Board members Dragonfly and Spider. Popeye nominated BB as an additional Board member, PG seconded it, Passed.
- All positions elected unanimously.

PG:

- Our fallen member ride will be Sunday 9/27. We will meet at our Warrenville VFW at 08:40, KSU at 09:00. We will ride out to The Pub, 200 Somonauk Rd, Hinckley, IL 60520.
- Tug is working with Mooseheart for a stadium chair. They are interested. A location would need to be determined so a foundation and stations around the chair can be built. The timing on this one is up to us.
- Frank in DeKalb wants a monument. They are trying to determine a location for the monument. They are willing to pay for half the cost. The cost for a monument in 2020 was \$4K, just for the monument. I found a monument company that will make a monument, install a concrete pad, deliver and install the monument for \$5,500. Looking to place it in the spring of next year. Shadow motioned to spend the money for the monument, Knute seconded it, Passed.
- Our Thanksgiving dinner box build and delivery will be on 11/22. We would need the list of recipients by 11/9 so we can get the proper amounts of food. We also need people to help pack and deliver these boxes. Last year we didn't have many people so those that did show up had to deliver several boxes.

Tug:

- Chapter 3 is having a 9/11 remembrance ride on Saturday the 12. We will be meeting at Woodman's Friday to ride down. More details will be coming out in an email.
- Friday 9/18, the New Lenox American Legion is receiving a Huey! They are having an escort to meet the Huey in Remington IN. Meet at the Legion at 06:30, KSU at 06:45. More details in the flyer below.
- Thank you for all who attended the MIA return.
- The Mason road dedication in DeKalb was great!
- We are currently working on 3 road dedications for next year.

New Business:

- We have some ideas for a chapter shirt. It will probably be a white button down, short sleeve shirt with the RT-IL1 logo on one sleeve and the POW/MIA logo on the other sleeve.

Moe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tug, Passed.

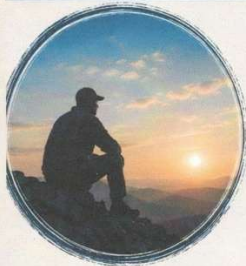
Meeting Close: 20:28

Respectfully – Stretch



DUPAGE COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION SEMINAR

Join us for the DuPage County Veteran Suicide Prevention Seminar—
hosted by the **DuPage County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition**—
a day of education, connection, and hope.



This **FREE** event will feature powerful speakers and discussions on topics including:

-  Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB)
-  Peer-to-peer support
-  Creative community resources
-  Personal stories of suicide loss and survival
-  and more



BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION:
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.



PROGRAM:
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



LUNCH INCLUDED
| CEU's AVAILABLE

DATE:
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

This event is free to attend, however, registration is required to ensure adequate food and seating for all participants.

LOCATION:
421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Register Today! →

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/dupage-county-suicide-prevention-seminar>



TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE LIVES. TOGETHER, WE CAN BRING HOPE.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

Third Friday of September

Genoa Veterans Home, 311 South Washington Street, Genoa, Illinois 60135
sponsored by the Genoa Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8387

Friday, September 18, 2026

Spaghetti Dinner 5:00pm-6:30pm

\$10.00 RSVP Pre-paid by check or \$12.00 pay at the door

Children Ten and under \$5.00

Spaghetti, homemade sauce, salad & garlic bread

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at 6:45pm

(National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the third Friday in September)

Please mail by September 14, 2026 **---CLIP HERE AND RETURN WITH CHECK---** Mail by September 14.

I/we plan to attend the VFW Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, September 18, 2026 from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Name _____ Please give email address _____

Name(s) _____ VFW-SD-POW/MIA-2026-09-18.001

Make **checks** payable to: Genoa VFW – 2026 Dinner (RSVP Pre-paid by **check** is \$10.00)

Mail **checks** to: Frank Beierlotzer, 1384 Omega Circle Drive, DeKalb IL 60115 (Under Ten \$5.00)

Enclosed is **check** number _____ in the amount of \$ _____.00 for _____ # dinner(s) RSVP Pre-paid.

Or buy your ticket direct from the Genoa Veterans Home prior to September 14, 2026.

Rolling Thunder, Inc. IL Chapter 2
RollingThunderIL2.org

POLICE ESCORTED RIDE
10th BIKE 10th PASSENGER

SUNDAY
9.20.2026
Proceeds to benefit POW / MIA
Awareness & Veterans Assistance

Ride STARTS:
Captain James A. Lovell
Federal Health Care Center
3001 Green Bay Rd.
North Chicago, IL 60064
lovell.fhcc.va.gov

Ride ENDS:
Woodstock Harley Davidson
2235 South Eastwood Dr.
Woodstock, IL 60098
woodstockharley-dav.com

700 S. McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60120
www.foxvalleyr.com
630-357-5570

Registration 9:00 am
Ride Brief 10:30 am
Kick-Stands Up 11:00 am
Last Bike In 12:30 pm

Food / Drinks / Vendors
Raffles / Music

Rolling Thunder, Inc. - Illinois Chapter 2 is at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

2 days ago · North Chicago ·

We have our annual Thunder Run, coming up starting at James A Lovell Health Care Center on September 20th, bikers and non bikers are invited.

Please come out and join us.

American Legion Riders Post #99

121 South California Street • Sycamore, Illinois • 60178 • sycamore.alr99@yahoo.com

Date: August 20, 2026

To: the members of Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter1

From: American Legion Riders / Post #99, Sycamore Illinois

Ref: letter of condolences for Gary Vandenbos

Dear members of Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter1:

On behalf of the members of the American Legion Riders post #99 in Sycamore, Illinois I would like to extend our most heartfelt condolences for the loss of Gary "Names" Vandenbos (Dec 7, 1946 – July 5, 2026).

It is with great sadness that we remember and honor the man and his service.

Perhaps his birthday of December 7th, 1946 (the first Pearl Harbor remembrance after the end of World War II) was a prelude to his service in Vietnam, and his patriotic inner spirit. We will do our best to remember him and be thankful for his service.

The American Legion Riders share in the Rolling Thunder Illinois chapter 1 to publicize and educate the public about the POW-MIA.

Best regards, and thank you again for your service ...

David Larson / on behalf of post #99 membership

Chaplain, post #99

American Legion Riders

