

Minutes of the Rolling Thunder – Florida Chapter 7 meeting held January 13, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 10:13am by President Thompson. All were present except COB Orr. A quorum was present and declared an official meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance recited, a moment of silence of our POW/MIAs was held, mission statement was read, members and guests were welcomed.

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 09, 2006 meeting as presented by Director Parker and seconded by Director Dumont. **Passed.**

Treasurer's report was presented.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and file for audit by Director Parker and seconded by Director Ealey. **Passed.**

President Thompson informed the members of the Robinson funeral that several members (8) attended on January 12, 2007. Robinson was a Vietnam Veteran and his son a member of RT TN3. The son requested that RT escort his father from the funeral home in Brandon to Bushnell National Cemetery.

Director Ealey reported that Will is doing much better and his wounds are healing well. Vicki Gooding was in the hospital and Steve Melnyk will be having surgery.

Members were informed that if they want personal information deleted from the chapter roster, they need to contact Secretary Stepanek. The information is not provided to anyone other than chapter members.

Our chapter membership stands at 83 but several people have not paid their \$30.00 annual dues.

The VA Donut Program continues to be going well.

The embroidered golf shirts have arrived.

Vicki Gooding wasn't present to discuss her findings with the "Adopt a Squad" program. Input from members steered the group towards trying to take care of our own first. We have some members whose sons are presently in Iraq or going back soon. The chapter will adopt their sons and provide items for them and the other members of their squads.

Members were asked to turn off their cell phones during the meetings. Consensus was to fine members \$5.00 if their phones ring during a meeting.

Three (3) of our four (4) fundraisers were sponsored by chapter members – not the community. The Board suggests having one (1) fundraiser a year and that it not necessarily be a poker run. Poker runs are for bikers. A committee will investigate different ideas for a fundraiser. That committee will consist of Rick Parker (chair), Don Garnett, George Harris, Penny Thompson, and Linda King will report their findings/suggestions to the Board by the March 2007 meeting.

The Board would like to look at a different venue(s) to publicize the POW/MIA issue and veterans. A veteran's symposium might be one way to go.

There are additional businesses out there that would like to fly a POW/MIA flag. Kathy Whitley volunteered to be the chapter's POW/MIA Flag Raising Committee Chairperson.

The chapter website has been redesigned and our web mistress, Marcia Stepanek, has added a blog. Everyone can read the blog and everyone can add comments to the blog. If any RT officers, directors, or committee chairs would like access to write to the blog, contact Marcia and she'll provide the login and password. The chapter website is <http://www.rollingthunderfl7.com/> and the blog is <http://rollingthunderfl7.wordpress.com/>

Former POW Steve Raymond (our guest at the last POW/MIA Awareness Run) will be at the Central Ridge Library on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

The Board is looking at a proposed calendar for 2007 activities.

The chapter Christmas party was held December 23, 2006 and all went well with plenty of good food. The 2007 chapter Christmas party will be held on December 08, 2007 and is planned to be at the Margarita Grill.

A new year brings new committee people –

Quartermaster

- Steve & Norann Melnyk

Federal Legislative & Governmental Affairs

- Linda King

Security/Sgt of Arms

- Howard Potts
- Dave Rinnier

Membership

- Jim Stepanek

Media & Public Relations

- Ray Thompson
- Cynthia Henderson

Sunshine

- Bill & Nancy Ealey

Government Relations – POW/MIA Affairs

- Patrick Bailey
- Denise Garnett
- Ray Dumont

State/Local Run Coordinator

- Archie Gooding
- Steve Melnyk

Education

- Connie O'Brien

POW/MIA Flag Raising

- Kathy Whitley

Website

- Marcia Stepanek

Meeting adjourned at 12:06pm.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 10, 2007 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS VFW AND WILL START AT 10:00AM.

Submitted by

Jim Stepanek