



Rolling Thunder® Chapter 2 Florida

Mission Statement

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues: To educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war – missing in action.

We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a non-profit organization. Members donate their time because they believe in the issues we are working on.



President's Message

I want to thank Bob and Darlene Seltz for their input to last month's newsletter. Bob for covering for me while I was on vacation, and Darlene for her inspirational piece on the responsibilities of membership. This is a good time to remind members that the newsletter is an open forum to all members.

The July meeting saw the second reading of the by-laws and comments from the floor. We are presently reviewing the by-laws and comments with the Rolling Thunder National Constitution to remove redundancies. Hopefully, a shorter version will be presented at the next meeting.

The election process for the positions of President, Secretary, and three Board Members has begun. The August meeting will be the second nomination meeting with voting occurring in September. Please be reminded that you must be present at the meetings to be nominated. Based on what I have seen, we should have a good slate of officers for next year.

God Bless America, Schultz

What's inside

- Latest News
- Proposed By-Laws
- Events
- Spotlight - *NEW*
- Calendars



Rolling Thunder® Officers

President Dave "Schultz" Johnson 863-675-4868
VP Bob Seltz 239-849-7824
Secretary Ada Doering 239-834-0003
Treasurer Kaye Caple 239-454-0885

Board of Directors

Chair: Bill Schatzan 239-560-7518
Bill Clark 239-275-4648
Jan Garber 239-542-3030
Frank Miletti 239-772-3690
Al Nova 239-221-8284
Rich Santorico 239-945-6417
Jim Zarb 239-458-9661
Alternate: David "Rock" Rockow 941-255-3435

National Chapter 1

Gary Scheffmeyer 908-369-5439

State Coordinator

Jim Moyer 407-448-1181

Coordinator Directory

Membership/Election

Darlene Seltz 239- 986-5432

Public Relations

Al Nova 239-221-8284

Quartermaster & Asst. Quartermaster

David "Rock" & Joanne Rockow 941-255-3435

Phone Tree

Bill Clark 239-275-4648

Sergeant At Arms

Jim Mozeleski 239-656-4391

Ride Coordinator

Chuck Steinmetz 239-573-1246

Veterans Service Officer - TBD

Blood Bank / Scholarship Committee

Jan Garber 239-542-3030

Adopt A Road

Bill Schatzan 239-560-7518

Meeting of the Minds

Long Tall Patty 239-574-6830

The Deuce

Patty & George Christo 239-437-9043

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Telephone Numbers**

VA Regional office

St. Petersburg:

PO Box 1437
St. Petersburg, FL 33731
1-800-827-1000

**Douglas T. Jacobson State
Veterans' Nursing Home**

21281 Grayton Terrace
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
1-941-613-0919

VA Outpatient Clinic

Fort Myers:

3033 Winkler Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33916
239-939-3939

VA Medical Benefits website:

www.myhealth.va.gov

For questions concerning VA
Medical Benefits:

1-877-222-VETS (8387)

Links

Veterans Administration

<http://www.floridavets.org>

Social Security

<http://www.ssa.gov>

National Rolling Thunder®, Inc.

<http://www.rollingthunder1.com>



Latest . . .

➤ Elections will take place at the September meeting and the positions open are: President, Secretary, and three board member positions. Positions on the board that are up for elections are currently held by Frank Miletti, Al Nova and Bill Clark.

During the July meeting, the following **nominations were made and accepted:**

President: Bob Seltz

Board of Directors positions: Bill Clark, Dan Hurley, Frank Miletti, Dave "Schultz" Johnson

Nominations can be made at the August meeting as well.

➤ Here's a great chance to volunteer, have some fun, and earn money for our Chapter! As you know, on June 28th the Thunder Guard performed the Opening Ceremony at the Miracles Baseball Game. The Manager of Hammond Stadium offered Rolling Thunder the opportunity to work the concession stands for which ten volunteers would be needed. The Manager also stated that he would let Rolling Thunder set up a table to sell Rolling Thunder inventory.

➤ The Rolling Thunder Anniversary will take place on November 7th and 8th in Washington, D.C.

➤ Schultz thanked Darlene for the great job she's doing in preparing the certified letters going out to members that have not paid their dues or returned patches.

➤ Marcie Stirp was given her Boot Patch. Congratulations Marcie.

➤ Bill Clark advised that he had made phone calls regarding the memorial service and flag line for the veteran killed in action that was from LaBelle. He also informed that there will be a barbeque to raise money for the families of two veterans that perished.

➤ Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Florida's next event is a poker run scheduled for September 14. A lot of work goes into planning and organizing these runs. Please volunteer your time and join the committee to help organize this run. Contact Bob Seltz.

➤ New proposed By-Laws have been drawn up by the By-Laws Committee. These By-Laws will be posted for three months in The Deuce allowing members ample time to submit suggestions, ideas and changes.

Please submit your feedback to the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee, Jan Garber, 239-542-3030. The Guidelines and the suggested changes to the By-Laws are posted on the following pages.



Rolling Thunder Constitution Guidelines / Roberts Rules of Order for creating by-laws for Chapter #2, Florida

"Any by-laws created by a Chapter of Rolling Thunder will first be approved by the Board of Directors of that chapter. Upon the Boards approval, the proposed by-laws will be read at three consecutive general membership meetings. The general membership of that Chapter will vote on the proposed by-laws after the third reading." (pg 4, para 13)

"If the by-laws are approved by the membership, it will be sent to the National Vice President. Upon receipt of the by-laws the National Vice President will present it to the National Executive Officers and Board of Directors for their review. If the proposed by-laws are approved by National, then the submitting Chapter will be advised that they may institute the by-laws immediately. At no time will the by-laws of a chapter supersede or circumvent Rolling Thunder's Constitution." (pg 4, para 14)

"All chapters will take direction from National and will comply with the Constitution of this Organization." "Any chapter(s) violating the Constitution will be handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Constitution." (pg 2)

"All chapters ..must follow all federal and state non-profit laws." (pg 2, para 5)

"This (Rolling Thunder) organization is not and never will be a motorcycle club or organization." (pg 7, para 11)



Ideas for By-Laws

Operations of Chapter #2

All financial operations pertinent to Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 will be operated as a business and in compliance with 501c rules and regulations.

Membership: As per para 1, pg 6 - To include: All members must be citizens of the United States or if one joined the military for US citizenship.

"EVERY CHAPTER MUST HAVE AN AGENDA TO RUN A MEETING. EVERYONE MUST GET THEIR TURN TO TALK ABOUT ANY ISSUE THAT CONCERNS ROLLING THUNDER AND ITS MEMBERS." (pg 1, para 3)

Only Rolling Thunder Members may speak on organizational issues.

All members wishing to speak should notify the President prior to the meeting of their desire to speak.

All Rolling Thunder Members will be granted three (3) minutes to speak on organizational issues.

One member can relinquish his/her three (3) minutes of speech time to a member presently addressing the group. But no member can speak more than six (6) minutes.

Guest Speakers: Have no more than ten (10) minutes to address the group.

Decorum in Debate

Also, as per Roberts Rules of Order, Part I, para 36 ***Decorum in Debate*** the following guidelines will be strictly enforced:

"In a debate (voicing one's opinion, etc.) a member must confine himself (ed) to the question before the assembly, and avoid personalities. He cannot reflect upon any act of the assembly, unless he intends to conclude his remarks with a motion to rescind such action or else while debating such motion. In referring to another member, he should, as much as possible, avoid using his(ed) name" "It is not allowable to arraign the motives of a member, but the nature or consequences of a measure may be condemned in strong terms. It is not the man, executive board or board member (underline inserted), but the measure, that is the subject of debate." "If at any time the President or Chairman of the

By-Laws

continued



Board (If he has the floor) rises to state a point of order, or give information, or otherwise speak within his privilege (para 40 Roberts Rules of Order) the member speaking must sit down till the President or Chairman has been heard. If the members remarks are considered to be improper, he cannot proceed." "Disorderly words should be taken down by the member who objects to them, or by the clerk, and then read to the member."

At no time will unsubstantiated acts upon a member's integrity, loyalty and honesty be tolerated.

At no time will a member throw his Rolling Thunder patches on the ground or deface Rolling Thunder's integrity or mission statement. (pg 10, para 46)

If a member refuses to conform to *Decorum in Debate* guidelines he (member in violation) will be escorted from the meeting. At which time the Board of Directors are authorized to convene a special meeting to determine actions to be taken against the expelled member or place on the agenda for discussion and vote at the subsequent Board of Directors meeting. At no time can a special Board of Directors meeting be convened to address this issue without the knowledge of the member in violation being notified by certified mail or direct communication.

Any attempt by a member or a group of members who threaten to "take over" our chapter (Chapter 2, FL) by a majority vote and operate contrary to 501c guidelines and Rolling Thunder's Constitution will be summarily dismissed and required to turn in their patches and logos to Rolling Thunder. (pg 8, para 21 / pg 9, para 26). The members in violation are required to follow procedures set forth in paragraphs 28- 46, pages 10 through 11 respectively .

Expenditures (cap of \$400)

No request for funds can be brought before the board of directors or the membership at large if the request does not meet the 501c guidelines (pg 2, para 2).

All requests for funds / donations must be presented to the Board of Directors before being presented to the membership at large.

All approved items listed in the Operating Budget (which is approved by the members), do not need approval of the membership (pg 11, para 3). However, the membership will be notified of any expenditures, whether said expenditures are budget line items or peripheral expenses proposed by the board of directors or the membership at large.

All requests for donations and funds not addressed in the operating budget must be brought before the board of directors for approval or disapproval. The membership will



be informed as to the Board of Directors vote and they (membership) will vote on the request. A closed ballot vote will be taken if the initial vote on the said funds resulted in a tie. If a second vote results in a tie the request for funds is tabled.

If no request is brought before the Board of Directors and subsequently the membership at large, then no funds will be allocated to a member or group of members for their expenses incurred during a Rolling Thunder local, intrastate, interstate or national activity.

No executive board member or Board of Director can authorize any expenditure approval (i.e., Chapter functions during the normal course of events). They must notify two (2) or more board members for tentative approval, and, only if the expenditure is an operating charge for Chapter 2 noted in our annual budget.

Any request for donations received from any Chapter of Rolling Thunder and National will be considered on an individual basis. Criteria for fund allocation will be the following:

- 1] Has the requesting chapter have a history of support for our chapter (Chapter 2, FL)?
- 2] Does the request meet 501c guidelines?
- 3] Does the request concern a veteran or group of veterans?
- 4] Does the request complement the Mission Statement of Rolling Thunder, Inc.?

Note: Any request for funds must meet the 501c guidelines

Products - Quartermaster

"Before committing any chapter resources, time or personnel, it must be voted on and approved by the membership at a chapter meeting." pg 5, para 22)

Clarification: There is a line item "Product Purchases" in our operating budget which earmarks the annual funds allocated for purchasing products. The membership does not approve or disapprove of said expenditures. Their (membership) approval was during their vote to approve the operating budget. If expenditures exceed the allocated annual funds and/or the balance is in the "Red" the Board of Directors are empowered to cease spending, investigate the problem and inform the membership. The Product Supervisor must operate within these parameters. Furthermore, at the monthly board of directors meeting an explanation of all expenditures will be presented to the board members. The Chairman of the Board of Directors will include these expenditures when addressing the membership during a regular meeting.

All products will be purchased by the Product Supervisor. No products will be paid for if a member, director or executive member purchase items without the Product Supervisor's

By-Laws

continued



approval. If the Board of Directors approve a non-line item purchase of products then the membership at large must also approve the expenditures. If purchase is approved by the board the funds will not be assessed from the Product Supervisors funds.

Under 501c guidelines no products will be sold by any person other than individuals assigned to sell products by the Products Supervisor Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 meetings, events and ancillary operations.

Every quarter, if product funds are in the black, the Product Supervisor will transfer a percentage of the product funds to the veterans donations funds. Amount of funds transfer is depending on product inventory and market factors. Total amount of funds transfer would be from \$100 - \$1,000 and subject to 501c guidelines.

Procedures

Board Meetings (pg 11 & 12, para 5)

"At all times **confidentiality** will be observed." (pg 12, para 5)

Clarification: As per Roberts Rules of Order all sensitive and confidential minutes will not be read to the membership. However, all funds expended, rulings approved or disapproved and the myriad of operating decisions which evolve during operations will be brought to the attention of the membership by the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The President will open the board of directors meeting and hand the gavel (figuratively) to the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Prospective Members and Quests

All prospective members and guests will be cordially invited to attend our meeting after the prior meeting minutes and treasurers report is read to the group.



Events

Date	What	Info
September 14	Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Florida Poker Run	Details to come.
September 19-20	The Ride Home Andersonville, Georgia	Join us to pay tribute to American POWs who have returned, and reaffirm our commitment to those still waiting to come home.

The Ride Home, Andersonville, Georgia

The Ride Home Andersonville, Georgia will take place September 19-20, 2008. The cost for 3 days lodging will average around \$49 to \$65 a night; the cost of sponsoring a POW for three days is \$250 to \$275. Rooms are filling up quickly! The Ride Home website is located at: <http://www.powridehome.org/>

- L [Windsor Hotel](#) 1-888-297-9567 229-924-1555
- O [Americus Garden Inn](#) 1-888-758-4749 /
229-931-0122 Bed & Breakfast
- D [Plains Inn & Antiques](#) 229-824-4517
- G [Holiday Inn Express](#) 229-928-5400
- I Jameson Inn 229-924-2726
- N Hampton Inn 229-924-3890
- G Days Inn 229-924-3613
- Quality Inn 229-924-4431
- A Place Away Cottage 229-924-2558



The Ride Home

September 19-20, 2008
Andersonville, GA

Join us to pay tribute to American POWs who have returned, and reaffirm our commitment to those still waiting to come home

- Escort Ride
- Candlelight Service
- Heroes Dinner
- Fly-Over
- Recognition Ceremony
- Music
- Country Cookout

National POW Museum
10th Anniversary
Open House

info@POWRideHome.org
www.POWRideHome.org

NEW >>> Spotlight of the Month <<<< NEW

Have a story, news, or information you'd like to share? Submit the information to Patty Christo and it will appear in a future edition of The Deuce!

Medal of Honor

(submitted by Ada Doering)

PO2 (EOD2) Mike Monsoor, a Navy EOD Technician, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for jumping on a grenade in Iraq, giving his life to save his fellow SEALs.

During Mike Monsoor's funeral in San Diego, as his coffin was being moved from the hearse to the grave site at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, SEALs were lined up on both sides of the pallbearers route forming a column of two's, with the coffin moving up the center. As Mike's coffin passed, each SEAL, having removed his gold Trident from his uniform, slapped it down embedding the Trident in the wooden coffin.

The slaps were audible from across the cemetery; by the time the coffin arrived grave side, it looked as though it had a gold inlay from all the Tridents pinned to it. This was a fitting send-off for a warrior hero.



Calendar




July 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Dave Motz
6	7	8 RTCh2FL Meeting 7pm	9 Dan Hurley	10 Jimmy Mozeleski	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Rey Gonzalez	25	26
27	28 Gator Mason	29	30	31		

August 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Kaye Caple	4	5	6	7	8 Long Tall Patty Freddie Shepard	9
10	11	12 RTCh2FL Meeting 7pm	13	14 Deby Schaible	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Jerry Joseph	23
24 Larry Kincheloe	25	26	27	28	29 Frank Miletti	30
31						



Sponsors

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Fax:(239)542-8050

MERRICK

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Veterans Service Officer

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WE
WILL
NEVER
FORGET

“When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.”



Rolling Thunder®
Chapter 2 Florida
12300 Anchor Lane SW
Moore Haven, FL 33471

Next Meeting:

**August 12, 2008
7:00 pm**

**VFW #8463
4709 SE 11th Place
Cape Coral, FL 33904**