



## MEETING MINUTES

### USS *Republic* NCC-1371

Sunday, May 7, 2006

The May 7, 2006, meeting of the USS *Republic* was called to order at approximately 3:15 p.m. at The Dragon's Horde comic book and gaming store in Stone Mountain, Georgia. In attendance were (in alphabetical order) SFI/*Republic* members Michael Henigan, Kelly Hilliard, Roderick Jennings, Jeff Kirkland, Martha Kirkland, Tonya L. Spanks and Eric L. Watts; non-SFI *Republic* members Tony Cade and Joe Campbell; and non-member Sue Phillips. Absent was Commanding Officer Matthew D. Ebeling.

With the CO absent and the XO position vacant, there was some initial confusion on how to proceed with the meeting. Eric claimed to know what business Matt had intended to conduct at the meeting had he been present, but acknowledged that Mike was the ranking officer and deferred the conduct of the meeting to him. Mike, in turn, in recognition of the impending business at hand, deferred the conduct of the meeting back to Eric.

Eric first introduced and welcomed Joe Campbell, who officially joined *Republic* in March, to the meeting, as well as his friend and guest, Sue Phillips.

Eric then announced that had Matt been present, he would have had three items of business to conduct. The first item was the recognition of recent achievements by a member of the *Republic*; specifically, Eric. Eric passed the Starfleet Academy Officers Training School exam on 3/25/06 and the Starfleet Academy Officers Command College exam on 5/2/06. Eric furnished his certificates of completion for both exams as evidence of these achievements, which qualified him to hold an officer's position in Starfleet.

The second order of business that, according to Eric, Matt had intended to conduct was the appointment of an XO, a position that had been vacant since last year. Eric claimed that, following his completion of the OTS and OCC exams, Matt had intended to appoint him as XO. However, due to Matt's absence, that appointment could not take place.

The third order of business that, according to Eric, Matt had intended to conduct was the submission of his resignation as CO, which would have left Eric, as the just-appointed XO, in interim command of the ship. However, due to Matt's absence and with neither a written letter of resignation or a recorded statement available, there was no way to confirm these intentions. Further, Mike pointed out that the ship could not accept an imaginary resignation. One last attempt was made to reach Matt via cell phone at that moment, so that he could confirm these claims and submit a verbal resignation; the call went into voice mail. It was then stated that according to the Starfleet Constitution, a CO serves at the pleasure of his crew and that the crew had the right and the authority to remove the CO from command. A vote was called on how to proceed: to either 1) accept Eric's word that Matt had intended to resign as CO and to accept that resignation on Eric's proxy; or 2) to vote on whether to remove Matt from the CO position. The vote to accept Matt's resignation on Eric's proxy was unanimous.

Nominations for the CO position were then opened. Eric nominated himself, with Kelly seconding; Tonya nominated Mike, with Jeff seconding. Mike conceded that he was not especially interested in the CO position and, since Eric desired the position, asked Tonya if she would support his (Mike's) nomination to the XO position instead. Tonya replied that as long as the lines of communication remained open, she could support that ticket. Mike then withdrew his nomination

for CO and nominated himself as XO. A joint vote was then called for Eric as CO and Mike as XO. The vote was unanimous in favor of these elections.

Eric's first order of business as CO was to announce a meeting and activity calendar for the remainder of the year. Generally speaking, "business meetings" will be held in odd-numbered months at the Dragon's Horde in Stone Mountain, while "activity meetings" will be held in even-numbered months. "Activity" meetings for 2006 will include Sci-Fi Summer Con in June, Dragon\*Con in September (as the August activity), a Halloween Party in October and a Christmas Party in December. Specific times and dates for future business meetings will be announced at a later date.

Eric's second order of business was to announce a comprehensive membership recruitment drive. For the rest of this year, every chapter activity should be directly or indirectly related to member recruitment. Eric announced his intent to create a new web site for the *Republic* to use for marketing purposes and to recruit new members through the online Fandom Directory. He also offered his fan table at Sci-Fi Summer Con to the *Republic* for marketing and recruitment purposes, and asked Mike to identify and locate nonaffiliated SFI members in metro Atlanta for potential recruitment.

Eric's third order of business was to remind the membership that *Republic* established an annual dues policy last summer of \$10 per year, and that to encourage members to pay their dues, he was working to develop a program of membership benefits. A short list of benefits to be included with membership include: 25% off the price of any future *Republic*-branded merchandise; 10% off any TrekTrak merchandise (not including shipping); 10% off any Dragon's Horde purchase under \$100 and 15% off any Dragon's Horde purchase over \$100; and a \$250 commission for buying or selling a home through Alex Thomas, a Realtor with ReMax of Buckhead at Brookhaven. Additional discounts with other businesses and retailers will be negotiated in the future. These discounts and offers will be available at the time of sale upon the presentation of a valid *Republic* membership card, which will be designed and created by Eric.

The floor was then opened for general discussion. Among the topics discussed were the importance of each member being subscribed to the ship's YahooGroups mailing list for the purpose of being able to vote in any future polls and online voting; whether or not the new *Republic* logo introduced last year had been officially adopted by the ship; Eric's desire for future chapter activities to have more to do with some aspect of *Star Trek* than some recent activities that had no relation to the franchise at all; the availability of a printing resource through Kelly for some types of printed materials; Eric's intent to establish a PayPal account for *Republic*, so that online payments can be received for dues payments and other online purchases; Tonya's desire to publish a chapter newsletter, what such a newsletter might include, how such a newsletter might be published and how it could be used for recruitment purposes; Mike's desire to either find the old or to write a new set of chapter bylaws, required per SFI policy; and Mike's willingness to serve as chapter liaison with SFI, including the prompt and timely filing of MSRs and ensuring that *Republic* complies with all SFI policies and regulations.

Eric accepted the payment of \$20 for chapter dues from Jeff and Martha Kirkland, as well as their SFI chapter assignment cards.

The May 2006 meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

— eric!

Cmdr Eric L. Watts  
Commanding Officer, USS *Republic* NCC-1371