



## MEETING MINUTES

### USS *Republic* NCC-1371

Saturday, June 10, 2006

The June 10, 2006, meeting of the USS *Republic* was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. at The Stage Door Bar & Grill in Tucker, Georgia. In attendance were Commanding Officer Eric L. Watts; SFI/*Republic* members Jeff Kirkland, Martha Kirkland and Tonya L. Spanks; former *Republic* members Ian Letendre and Anita Letendre; and Friends of the *Republic* Hal Doby, Pete Wentzell and Darren Mitton. Arriving after adjournment was Friend of the *Republic* Chris Jones.

The first order of business was the state of the crew of the *Republic*. Commanding Officer Eric L. Watts reported there are currently six members that have paid chapter dues. He also reported that he had recently built an online mailing list of more than 80 email addresses culled from The Fandom Directory, his own TrekTrak address book, online resources such as *Star Trek*-related YahooGroups and the SFI database, some former *Republic* members and other people who have expressed a possible interest in joining the chapter. Eric stated that he had begun to email announcements about upcoming *Republic* activities to this list, generating both awareness about the chapter's revival as well as interest in joining. He felt that while there was still much to be done, the *Republic* was indeed coming back to life after nearly a year of being pretty much inactive. Steps were being taken to actively bring inactive members back into the *Republic* as well as to recruit new members into the ship.

Tonya brought up the need for the collection of medical information of the membership. This was a subject that had both supporters and detractors. The supporters contended that this would be a positive to have in the event of a member becoming injured or ill during a group meeting. In such an event, the information could be handed over to doctors or paramedics should the member not be able to speak for him or herself. The detractors contended this would be an invasion of privacy as some members would find giving this information was too intrusive or even embarrassing. Hal spoke of a related incident involving car clubs that described how certain actions could make a club legally liable and should we keep these records, the *Republic* and Starfleet could be held potentially liable should a member have a health crisis and feel the need to sue someone over it. The discussion was tabled when Eric made the decision not to keep any medical records.

Eric reported to the membership that he had ordered new chapter t-shirts that had the *Republic*'s new logo in full color on red shirts. Because the shirts were ordered three days prior to the meeting, the vendor was not able to have the order completed in time for this meeting, but they would be ready the following week in time for Sci-Fi Summer Con.

The next topic of discussion was the membership of "Rosie Hilliard," the pet dog of two *Republic* members. It was explained by Tonya that it was not uncommon for members to enroll their pets as SFI family members for two reasons: first, because they are life forms and beloved family members; and second, some chapters find it necessary to pad their rosters in order to fulfill their membership requirements under the Starfleet Charter. Eric stated that had contacted SFI to determine whether there was policy regarding the enrollment of animals as family members and was informed that the "spirit" of the SFI constitution is that only humans are allowed to be members<sup>1</sup>.

The subject of a chapter newsletter was discussed. This was mainly a discussion between Eric and Tonya, who volunteered to relaunch the *Republic*'s old newsletter. Eric stated that he would like to see a chapter newsletter published again but that the design and format of the draft copy sent to him by Tonya needed some work before that could be done, and

that because he had extensive experience in corporate newsletter design and production, he would be happy to assist and train Tonya in newsletter production.

Hal asked what the benefits of becoming a member of Starfleet are. Tonya explained that in addition to being able to vote in local and national elections, members receive a quarterly newsletter and a membership card. It was also stressed that members become part of a greater community that, on occasion, helps other members in need.

Eric stated that he had been hard at work developing a member benefits program that were exclusive to members of the *Republic*. Among the benefits confirmed to date were discounts at The Dragon's Horde in Stone Mountain, The Stage Door Bar & Grill in Tucker and online TrekTrak merchandise, as well as a \$250 cash rebate for buying or selling a home with Alex Thomas, a local Realtor.

Future events were discussed. On July 9, there will be a barbecue cookout and viewing party of *Star Trek: New Voyages* at the home of *Republic* member Joe Campbell. The *Republic* will also share Eric's TrekTrak table at Sci-Fi Summer Con the following week. Other possible events were discussed. Eric mentioned his preference that *Republic* events should have some form of tie-in to *Star Trek*, but other events for fun and charity were also discussed.

Hal suggested having a fundraising campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association before and during Dragon\*Con. Then, towards the end of Monday during the con, a group of "uniformed" *Republic* members would carry the raised funds to where the local telethon was going on in order to make the donation in person in hopes of making the donation live on local television in order to bring more awareness to the group. Several ways to raise money was brought up and discussed. Eric stated that Dragon\*Con policy does not allow for on-site fundraising for any charity other than the convention's designated charity.

Before the meeting was formally adjourned, those in attendance walked outside to have a group photo taken in front of a lighted sign that welcomed the *Republic* to the Stage Door. (The photo was later posted on the group's web site.)

The business meeting was officially adjourned at 8:30 p.m.; however, Chris Jones arrived shortly afterwards and conversation with several remaining members regarding *Republic* business continued off the record for another hour or so.

— eric!

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

<sup>1</sup> Re: SFI policy on pets as members: In a message dated 5/12/2006 9:57:42 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, haisecapt@yahoo.com writes:

I checked "up the ladder" and this is what I got:

A. Though the membership handbook may not SPECIFICALLY say so, the "spirit" or intent is that members are only human, not canine or other life form.

*These meeting minutes transcribed and submitted by Friend of the Republic Hal Doby;  
revised and appended by Eric L. Watts.*