



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

December 2006

The USS *Republic* held its annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16, hosted by and in the home of *Republic* member Ens Hal Doby in Conyers, Georgia. *Republic* members in attendance included Commanding Officer Eric L. Watts, Ens Marq Collins, Ens Zannetta Law, Ens Mark A. Ozanick and Ens Susan Rey. Also in attendance were Friends of the *Republic* Chris Jones and Mike Antol, as well as Ens Doby's house guest, David McDonald. Ens Doby provided ham, turkey, several side dishes and ample soft drinks; other guests (most notably Ens Rey) also provided a variety of potluck hot and cold hors d'oeuvres which collectively made for a delicious holiday feast, which everyone enjoyed throughout the course of the evening.

Early in the evening, Ens Doby screened the newly remastered *Star Trek* episode "The Corbomite Maneuver" on his widescreen television for the assembled guests, followed by the recently released *Star Trek: New Voyages* episode, "To Serve All My Days," provided by Commanding Officer Watts. A spirited discussion followed this episode regarding its controversial ending and the overall merits of its production values, special effects and actors' performances.

A chapter business meeting was held next, conducted by Commanding Officer Watts. Watts informed the assembled members and guests that he had invited several representatives from Starfleet International to attend the Christmas Party, including recently elected Regional Coordinator Jack Eaton and Vice Regional Coordinator Lucy Ferron, but that for various reasons, none were able to attend. In the absence of any other Starfleet authority to make the announcement, Watts informed the crew that he had recently been promoted by Starfleet from Commander to Captain.

Following that announcement, copies of the first issue of the *Republic's* brand new, full-sized, full-color, eight-page quarterly newsletter, *The Sovereign Star*, was distributed to chapter members in attendance. *The Sovereign Star* was coproduced by Editor-in-Chief Ens Marq Collins, who handled publication design, content acquisition, page layout and prepress production; Managing Editor Watts, who wrote most of the narrative content, approved the final draft and handled finishing, circulation and distribution; and Ens Hal Doby, who printed the entire press run of 25 copies in full color on tabloid-sized paper. This issue of *The Sovereign Star* is the first newsletter that the *Republic* has published in at least three years (e.g., since before Captain Watts joined the chapter in 2003) and probably much longer than that.

Captain Watts then conducted the presentation of awards of recognition to several chapter members for outstanding service to the *Republic* over the last several months. A signed and framed Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ens Mark Ozanick for hosting the *Republic's* "Halloween Spooktacular" in his home in October; to Ens Marq Collins for handling the design and creation of the *Republic's* new newsletter, *The Sovereign Star*, in November and December; and to Ens Hal Doby, for hosting the *Republic's* Christmas Party in his home in December.

Following the presentation of awards, a discussion regarding the planning of upcoming chapter events was held, including events as near as the Galactic ConQuest III event in Buford on New Year's Eve Day to as distant as a summer pool party and barbecue at Ens Doby's home in June. Some of the discussion involved the financial commitment some suggested activities might require (i.e., admission prices) and how much is too much to ask chapter members to pay. It was generally agreed (without a formal vote) that the cost of future chapter activities should not exceed \$10 per person per event unless there

is an especially compelling reason to justify a higher price.

Captain Watts also informed the assembled crew that the position of Executive Officer was vacant following his receipt of an email notification of current XO Admiral W. Michael Henigan's resignation from the *Republic* and his intent to transfer to the USS *DaVinci* in Columbus, Georgia. Watts stated that Starfleet regulations require a chapter to have both a Commanding Officer and an Executive Officer in office, and that in order to be eligible for the XO position, candidates must be members in good standing of Starfleet International and must have taken and passed two SFI courses, Officers' Training School and Officers' Command College. As of December 16, no other chapter members met those requirements. Ens Marq Collins expressed interest in the position and stated that he would be willing to take the required SFI classes to meet the eligibility requirements. Captain Watts appointed Ens Collins as Acting XO effective immediately and instructed him to pursue completion of the OTS and OCC classes as quickly as possible. This appointment concluded the business meeting, and all members and guests thanked Ens Doby for his generous and gracious hospitality.

On Sunday, December 31, Captain Watts and Ens Mark Ozanick travelled to Buford, Georgia, around noon to attend Galactic ConQuest III, a three-day mini-con, and set up a fan table, shared with *TrekTrak*, to promote the USS *Republic*. Captain Watts prepared three gift baskets, each containing various *Star Trek*-related books, magazines and videotapes valued at over \$70, as new member recruitment incentives: join Starfleet and the *Republic* for \$25, and receive a gift basket for free. Also on the table were chapter brochures, chapter business cards, copies of *The Sovereign Star*, a photo display depicting recent chapter events and, thanks to Ens Ozanick, a wifi-enabled laptop computer to display the chapter web site (and access PayPal links). Captain Watts also brought a variety of *TrekTrak* merchandise to display and sell. Arriving mid-afternoon was Ens Zannetta Law, who helped man the table, promote the chapter and recruit new members. Also in attendance at this mini-con were Ens Theresa Parker and longtime Friends of the *Republic* Kevin Parker and Chris Jones. The recruitment efforts of Captain Watts, Ens Ozanick and Ens Law, combined with the appeal of the free gift baskets, exceeded our expectations and the *Republic* signed up four new members during the afternoon: Lea Hepler of Hickory, NC; Eric Koske of Smyrna, GA; and Sean Anderson and Stephanie Wallace of Lawrenceville, GA. These four new members are in addition to Sheryl Parsons of McDonough, GA, who joined the *Republic* earlier in the week. The command and crew of the USS *Republic* warmly welcome these five new members to our chapter.

After attending the *Republic*'s fan table for approximately six hours, Captain Watts, Ens Ozanick and Ens Law packed up and loaded the merchandise and equipment around 6:30 p.m. and declared the day a success. December 2006 now ties with September 2006 as being the month with the most new members signed up since Captain Watts took command of the *Republic* in May 2006. In that time, the *Republic* has signed up 17 new members, reactivated three previously expired memberships, and accepted the transfer of two members from other Starfleet chapters, for a total membership increase of 22 members in 2006.

As of the date of this report, *Republic* command has still not received change of chapter assignment request forms from Admiral W. Michael Henigan, SCC #13692; Admiral Kelly S. Hilliard, SCC #11231; or "Rosie" Hilliard, SCC #62861.

Photos from the 2006 Christmas Party and Galactic ConQuest III can be viewed on the [Republic's web site](#).

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