



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

December 2008

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in three events during the month of December 2008: the Georgia Public Broadcasting Pledge Drive, “*Star Trek* Night” with the Atlanta OutWorlders and our annual Christmas Party & Awards Ceremony.

On Saturday, December 6, almost two dozen members and friends of the USS *Republic* answered phones for two hours during Georgia Public Broadcasting’s Pledge Drive at their television studios in Midtown Atlanta. Members of the *Republic* who participated include Ens Naomi Hemingway, Ens Eddie Hines, Ens Chris Jones, ENS3 Sue Lin Lange, ENS2 Zannetta Law, ENS3 Susan Rey, ENS3 Elisa Roper, ENS2 Michael Shipley, Ens Marilyn Teague, Ens Jenilee Trew, Ens Joanne Trew, Ens Julianne Trew, Capt Eric L. Watts, Ens Chris White and Ens “D. W.” Friends of the *Republic* who participated include Kevin Parker, Theresa Parker and James King, all dressed in full Klingon uniform; USS *Atlanta* XO Tonya Spanks, Aaron Dunne, Adrian Havens and Audrey Lynne. All but one member of the *Republic* wore either a *Star Trek* costume or a *Republic* chapter t-shirt or sport shirt; Comm Spanks came in Cheron makeup. All participants arrived at the GPB studios between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m., at which time we were ushered to a classroom for dinner and training. The sumptuous and delicious dinner was provided by Carole Parks Catering and included hot fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, hot rolls and a selection of freshly baked cookies. While our volunteers chowed down, members of the GPB staff conducted a training session which instructed us on how to answer phones, accept pledges, answer questions, describe the thank-you gifts available to donors, handle abusive callers and conduct ourselves while on the air. Shortly before 8:00 p.m., we were ushered to the live set, introduced to on-air announcers Valerie Edwards, Melissa Hampton and Bob Olive, took our seats and given a short instruction on operating the phones. At 8:00, as *Victor Borge: 100 Years of Music & Laughter!* was being broadcast, our volunteers began answering phones and accepting pledges during live breaks that came during the last ten minutes of each half hour. Just before 9:00, Capt Watts was briefly interviewed on the air by Valerie Edwards about the *Republic*, during which time Watts was able to briefly describe the chapter and give out the web site address. At 9:30, after the conclusion of the Victor Borge program, *Yanni Voices* was broadcast, with a new set of thank-you gifts available during that program. From time to time throughout the pledge breaks, the on-air announcers thanked the *Republic* by name and displayed the chapter’s name and logo on the screen. At 10:00, at the conclusion of the *Yanni Voices* program, the *Republic*’s two-hour shift also came to a close. Everyone had a great time during this wonderful opportunity to not only help public broadcasting with our volunteer support, but to also promote the *Republic* to a previously unknown audience. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, would like to thank all our members and friends who participated in this event and helped make it so successful.

On Friday, December 19, members of the USS *Republic* were invited to join our friends, the Atlanta OutWorlders (AOW), for their monthly event: “*Star Trek* Night,” an informal and relaxed social occasion where members watch two or three episodes of a *Star Trek* series and then enjoy some casual conversation about them. Each month features a specific theme; this month’s theme was “Those Wacky Vulcans!” The event was hosted by AOW member Alan Siler in his home in Doraville. It is not known by this reporter how many *Republic* members were in attendance this month; however, we wish to thank the Atlanta OutWorlders for inviting us to participate in their “*Star Trek* Night” event and look forward to future events.

On Sunday, December 21, more than a dozen members and friends of the USS *Republic* gathered in the home of ENS2 Mark A. Ozanick in Decatur, Georgia, for the chapter’s annual Christmas Party & Awards Ceremony. In attendance were ENS3 Tony Cade, Capt Michael Cowart, Ens Naomi Hemingway and her guest, Michael; Ens Eddie Hines, Cmdr Brian Holloway, Ens Chris Jones, ENS2 Zannetta Law, Ens Darrell Ortiz and his guest; Ensigns Jeff, Joanne, Julianne and Jenilee Trew; and Capt Eric L. Watts. Capt Watts provided a 14-lb. turkey, which he prepped and cooked with Ens Ozanick’s assistance. Everyone else brought at least one side dish for the potluck dinner and there was certainly enough food for a small feast. Everyone enjoyed a hearty, plentiful and delicious dinner amid good friends, good conversation and a holiday atmosphere... and there was plenty of food left over.

After dinner and with the assistance of several members, Capt Watts set up a collation table whereupon 35 copies of the *Republic*’s 2009 chapter calendar were collated. Capt Watts had spent the better part of the last three weeks designing, creating and printing the pages of these calendars, and asked for assistance in getting the pages collated so that he could then punch and bind them with his comb-binding machine. Printed in full color and on heavyweight card stock, drilled and comb-bound for easy wall-hanging, these calendars feature twelve photos from the *Republic*’s highest-profile events and activities from 2008, member birthdays, federal holidays, major religious and seasonal observances, and most Atlanta-area science fiction convention dates. After binding all 35 copies, the calendars were made available to the membership for \$10.00 each as a chapter fundraiser.

Throughout the evening, a DVD (recorded by Capt Watts) of the *Republic* answering phones during Georgia Public Broadcasting’s pledge drive was shown on Ens Ozanick’s television. A good time was had by all as members were shown answering the phones and one member in particular—that would be Ens Eddie Hines—was clearly hamming it up for the cameras. There were cheers when the *Republic*’s logo was shown onscreen and good-natured jeers when Capt Watts was interviewed. The members at the party who were also at the pledge drive had fun telling the others “behind the scenes” stories about what was going on off-camera during the live breaks, including phone calls from folks we knew who were watching and conversations with the on-air announcers when the cameras weren’t on. Ever the shameless capitalist, Capt Watts also had copies of the four-hour DVD available for sale for only \$5.00 each, each one with a full-color photograph of the GPB volunteers on the label.

Just before 9:00 p.m., Capt Watts called the assembly to order. He thanked everyone for

coming, expressed his surprise and delight that so many people continue to turn out for the chapter events that he works diligently to plan and coordinate, and assured everyone that he never takes anyone's attendance and participation in club activities for granted. He also remarked that several members had driven a significant distance to attend this evening's party, but none as far as the *Republic's* Executive Officer, Cmdr Brian Holloway, who drove all the way from Charlotte, North Carolina, to attend. Capt Watts then turned the podium over to Cmdr Holloway to announce the results of the Commanding Officer election. Cmdr Holloway stated that on December 2, there were 73 names on the *Republic's* crew roster and of those 73 members, 60 were in good standing (e.g., membership dues were paid and current). Of those 60 members in good standing, 57 had valid email addresses. Accordingly, an electronic Commanding Officer election ballot was emailed to those 57 email addresses. Those ballots listed the names of all members of the *Republic* who were eligible to hold the office of Commanding Officer, regardless of whether or not they had announced their candidacy for the office. Those members included Lt JG David Churvis, Capt Michael Cowart, Capt Matt Ebeling, Cmdr Brian Holloway and Capt Eric L. Watts. Of these five, only Capt Watts had announced his candidacy. After two weeks of collecting responses and with 33 of the 57 ballots returned, Lt Churvis, Capt Cowart and Capt Ebeling received no votes; Cmdr Holloway received one vote (1.7% of all ballots and 3.0% of cast ballots); "None of the Above" received two votes (3.5% of all ballots and 6.0% of cast ballots); and Capt Watts received 30 votes (52.6% of all ballots and 90.9% of cast ballots). Cmdr Holloway confirmed that Capt Watts, 13th Commanding Officer of the USS *Republic*, had been reelected for a second two-year term commencing January 1, 2009, and ending December 31, 2010.

Capt Watts thanked the assembly for their overwhelming support and pledged to continue to do his very best to live up to the trust, expectations and responsibilities that the crew of the *Republic* had placed in him. He then asked for their continued attention as he explained the *Republic's* Membership Participation Awards program. Intended to honor and recognize members who have demonstrated exemplary loyalty and dedication to the *Republic* by participating in chapter events, contributing time and energy to our activities, and making significant contributions to the welfare and operations of the chapter, the program awards points that accumulate during the course of the year. The member with the most number of points in various categories at the end of the year is recognized for their efforts.

Capt Watts then explained what activities earn a point. Any member who, between December 1, 2007, and November 30, 2008, attended any of the *Republic's* two dozen sponsored or endorsed chapter events or activities in the metropolitan Atlanta area, participated in a programming event during the *Republic's* 20th Year Celebration, served as a member of the *TrekTrak* staff at Dragon*Con, was a *TrekTrak* programming participant and introduced as a member of the *Republic*, submitted a named contribution to the chapter newsletter, edited or produced an issue of the newsletter, and/or completed any online STARFLEET Academy course earned one point for each item. In addition to these categories, any member who hosted a chapter activity in their home, attended a *Republic* "away mission" to a destination outside metropolitan Atlanta, and/or made a "significant unreimbursed donation" to the chapter (either a financial or in-kind donation in an amount or value greater than \$25), received two points.

With these explanations made, Capt Watts and Cmdr Holloway presented Certificates of Award signed by both officers to the following members in the 2008 USS *Republic* Membership Participation Awards:

- 1) ENS2 Hal Doby (in absentia), for Donating the Highest Number and Greatest Accumulative Value of In-Kind Donations During Membership Year 2008 (including last year's Member of the Year plaque, a second large-format [11 x 17] color printer, t-shirts to give away at the Region 2 Summit; "party packs" to offer as a 20th Year Celebration special, a variety of valuable items to raffle as door prizes at our 20th Year Celebration, portrait photography services and color prints at our 20th Year Celebration, an engraved brass trophy for the STARFLEET bowling challenge, and a half-dozen new ink cartridges; 16 points);
- 2) Ens Andrea Benton (in absentia), for Successfully Completing the Most Number of STARFLEET Academy Courses During Membership Year 2008 (24 courses; 27 points total);
- 3) Lt JG David Churvis (in absentia), for Attending and Participating in the Most Number of Chapter Activities and Events During Membership Year 2008 (30 points);
- 4) ENS2 Zannetta Law, for Making the Single Highest Financial Donation During Membership Year 2008 for Two New Chapter Banners (amount undisclosed);
- 5) Ensigns Jeff & Joanne Trew, for the Kindness, Thoughtfulness and Generosity Shown Their Commanding Officer During Membership Year 2008 (a special award given at the Captain's discretion); and finally,
- 6) for accumulating the highest number of Membership Participation points across all categories, including attending nine different events, hosting two events in his home, contributing to two issues of the chapter magazine, participating in two programming events and, as noted above, contributing the highest value of in-kind donations (33 points total), the USS *Republic's* 2008 Member of the Year Award was presented to ENS2 Hal Doby (in absentia).

Unfortunately, Ens Doby was unable to attend these presentations following the tragic and sudden death of his son, Jeremy Lloyd, three days earlier. Ens Doby was, in fact, attending a memorial service for Jeremy with his friends and family at that very moment. Following the presentation of this award and explaining the reason for Ens Doby's absence, Capt Watts asked the assembly to observe a moment of silence in honor of the deceased. Following this reverent moment, the presentation of awards was concluded and Capt Watts once again thanked everyone for coming and for being loyal and dedicated members of the *Republic*. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, also wishes to thank ENS3 Mark A. Ozanick for his warm and gracious hospitality throughout the evening and for offering to host this event in his beautiful home.

Photos from the Georgia Public Broadcasting Pledge Drive and our annual Christmas Party & Awards Ceremony can be viewed on the [Republic's web site](#).

On Monday, December 1, Capt Eric L. Watts emailed the ninth issue of the *Republic's* monthly eZine, *The Republic*, to more than 200 email addresses, including members and friends

of the *Republic*, as well as all known Region 2 Commanding Officers and several key STARFLEET personnel. The purpose of *The Republic* is to keep our members and friends up-to-date on our upcoming events and activities, as well as to announce new members, member birthdays, upcoming membership renewals and occasional special offers. The December issue included information about the *Republic's* upcoming participation on Georgia Public Broadcasting's televised pledge drive, "Star Trek Night" with the Atlanta OutWorlders, our annual Christmas Party & Awards Ceremony, and the upcoming Commanding Officer election. Additional information was included about the new *Region Two Update*, preregistration for the 2009 Region 2 Summit; and the *Republic's* participation in the USS *Continuum's* 15th anniversary dinner in Milton, Florida; as well as information about available chapter merchandise, recent chapter event photos, a call for an administrative assistant for the Captain, contributions for *The Sovereign Star*, new partners for our Member Benefits Program, a wish list, relevant hyperlinks, a brief chapter overview, classified ads and an editorial flashback: "17 Years Ago Aboard the USS *Republic*."

Upcoming events include an episode screening of *Star Trek: Phase II: "Blood and Fire, Part I"* on Saturday, January 24; "Star Trek Night" with the Atlanta OutWorlders on Friday, January 30; Valentine's Day Lonely Hearts Dinner on Saturday, February 14; the STARFLEET Region 2 Summit on the weekend of March 6-8; and "Star Trek Bingo Night: Trekkies, Tribbles and Klingons, Oh My!" benefiting PALS Atlanta on Wednesday, April 8.

At the end of November, *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 63 Active members (60 plus Jeff, Alexandra and Anna Pakulski) and 10 Inactive members (Ens Patrick Anderson, ENS3 Russell J. Broomfield, ENS3 Antonio T. Cade, Ens Lee Cox, Ens Joshua Graham, Ens Chris Jones, ENS3 Anita Letendre, Ens Leslie Mele, ENS3 Brooke Perry, ENS3 Susan J. Rey) for a total crew of 73 members. No new members joined the *Republic* during the month of December. Active members whose dues came up for renewal during December include Ens Reginald Franklin, Lt JG David Churvis, Ens Terry Lee West, Ens Naomi Hemingway and Ens Page E. Lewis. Members who reenlisted during the month of December include ENS3 Perry, Ens Franklin and ENS3 Cade. At the end of December, *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 61 Active members (58 plus Jeff, Alexandra and Anna Pakulski) and 12 Inactive members (Anderson, Broomfield, Churvis, Cox, Graham, Hemingway, Jones, Letendre, Lewis, Mele, Rey, West) for a total crew of 73 members.

Respectfully submitted,



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