**Constitution of the USS Abraham Lincoln NCC 71809-A**

**PREAMBLE**

 We, as dedicated fans of Star Trek and other science fiction in Garnerville, N.Y., Region Seven, hereby establish an interactive Star Trek and science fiction fan organization. This organization is devoted to the promotion of the ideals, philosophies, and concepts set forth by Gene Roddenberry in Star Trek television and movies. We do ordain and establish this Constitution and the following by-laws for the formation of our organization.

**DEDICATION**

 This organization is dedicated to the memory of Eugene Wesley Roddenberry (1921-1991). Without the vision of the Great Bird of the Galaxy, none of this would be possible.

**Article I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. NAME

 The name of this organization is the USS Abraham Lincoln NCC 71809-A, herein referred to as "USS Abraham Lincoln", located in Garnerville, N.Y., USA.

2. STARFLEET INTERNATIONAL

 The USS Abraham Lincoln, as of Stardate 021209, is a chapter of STARFLEET International (STARFLEET). Membership in STARFLEET is required to be a part of the USS Abraham Lincoln. The USS Abraham Lincoln must maintain ten (10) members in good standing to retain its status within STARFLEET. The Commanding Officer (President) and Executive Officer (Vice President) must be members in good standing of STARFLEET.

3. SANCTIONS

 The USS Abraham Lincoln is not a sanctioned organization of Paramount Pictures Corporation, nor of its parent company, Viacom. Any reference to Star Trek, its characters, or intellectual property relating to Star Trek is (c) Copyright 1996 by Paramount Pictures, Inc., a Viacom company. No copyright infringement is intended.

**Article II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

* To unite fans of Star Trek and other science fiction from all walks of life, including those of various ages, religions, and ethnic groups.
* To promote fellowship with people in our area who have similar interests.
* To have fun in our chosen hobby, including attending science fiction conventions, collecting
memorabilia, costuming and role- playing characters from science fiction.
* To perform civic, charity, and community service in our area.
* To cooperate with other organizations which subscribe to purposes and activities similar to our own.
* To affiliate with local and national organizations having similar interests and objectives.
* To publish a periodic club newsletter on club activities and Star Trek and science fiction fandom in our area.
* To disseminate information on matters concerning Star Trek and other science fiction fandom through speeches, discussions, publications, mass media, or the Internet.

**Article III: ACTIVITIES**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION
* Activities of the USS Abraham Lincoln will include sharing knowledge, expertise, experience, and enthusiasm through fellowship with other Star Trek or other science fiction fans in our area.
* The USS Abraham Lincoln will hold no fewer than one (1) monthly business meeting to discuss club business and to plan social events.
* Charitable activities will always be a part of the USS Abraham Lincoln.
* Social activities will be open to any and all members, their families, and friends.
* If an event is held at an establishment that serves alcohol, the event may be limited to the age requirements of the activity location.
1. PROPOSING ACTIVITIES
* Any member of the USS Abraham Lincoln may propose any activity that he/she feels would be suitable for the ship to participate in.
* The proposal in question would be voted on by the ship’s crew and, if passed, the crew member who proposed the activity becomes its default coordinator and may utilize any needed resources to organize, facilitate, and complete the activity successfully. This includes the involvement of any crew members who possess skills which would assist in the successful execution of the activity.

**Article IV: MEMBERSHIP**

1. MEMBERSHIP

* Membership shall be open to any individual regardless of age, ethnic background, religious beliefs, gender, economic status, political views, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender orientation, species, or planet of origin.
* This organization shall not discriminate for or against anyone in any way, shape, or form.
* This organization will not accept invitations from or participate in any activities with any organization that discriminates on the bases noted above.
* Members of our organization have a common goal of providing fellowship and FUN.

2. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

 A. Active members

* All active members are members in good standing with Starfleet.
* Active members are full voting members of our organization and represent the core decision making body of the USS Abraham Lincoln.
* A member’s active status will be terminated should their membership in Starfleet lapse and not be renewed.

 B. Associate members

* Associate members are members wishing solely to socialize or correspond with the organization, not wishing to play an active part in the day-to-day operations of the USS Abraham Lincoln. Associate members have no voting rights and may not seek a club position unless they meet the requirements to become an active member.

 C. STARFLEET Membership

* Membership in STARFLEET is mandatory in order to be a member of the USS Abraham Lincoln. All members of the USS Abraham Lincoln agree to conduct themselves according to the regulations of STARFLEET as well as those of this Constitution and its by-laws.

 D. Age of members

* Active Members may be of any age. All active members under the age of eighteen (18) must have a parent or legal guardian as a member in order to become members themselves, until they reach the age of eighteen (18), at which point they may have their own membership. They may also be required to have a parent or guardian present at some social events at the discretion of the Executive Committee (CO, XO, and Department Heads).

 E. Application for membership

* Anyone may apply for membership by contacting any member. In turn, the member will inform the Executive Committee that someone would like to join the organization. An application will be completed, and the applicant will then be directed to the USS Abraham Lincoln website to view copies of the ship’s Constitution and its by-laws, membership handbook, and any other needed materials.
* Applicants shall understand that the USS Abraham Lincoln does not have liability insurance. This organization will not participate in any high-risk activities.
* Neither the USS Abraham Lincoln, nor its individual members, will be held liable, responsible, or accountable in any way, shape, or form in the event of personal loss or injury at a club meeting, function, or activity. Applicants, members, and guests shall understand and agree to this policy before membership in this organization will be granted.

 F. Termination of membership

* There is no set term of membership in this organization. Membership may be terminated at the member's written or verbal request to any Executive Committee member. Membership may also be suspended by the Executive Committee for just cause, under the terms listed in the by-laws. Membership is also terminated if a member does not keep his/her STARFLEET membership current. A terminated membership will be restored once the STARFLEET membership is renewed.

 G. Guests

* Guests may be of any age. Guests must be accompanied by any member and must abide by all rules and regulations of this organization.

3. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of USS Abraham Lincoln are responsible for the following:

* Actively participate in USS Abraham Lincoln activities.
* Lend their time and talents to club projects when called upon.
* Conduct themselves in a manner which is neither abusive nor offensive while participating with or representing the USS Abraham Lincoln.
* Read and follow all rules and regulations listed in the Constitution and its by-laws.

**Article V: FINANCE**

 Note: The USS Abraham Lincoln’s fiscal year shall run in accordance with its calendar year, which runs from September 1 through August 31.

1. POLICIES

 A. Treasury

* The USS Abraham Lincoln will be self-sustaining. The treasury shall be the responsibility of the treasurer. The treasurer will make a monthly report of expenditures and income of the USS Abraham Lincoln.

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES

* There are no set monthly dues for the USS Abraham Lincoln. Any monetary contributions to the ship’s treasury is up to each individual member.
* Membership in STARFLEET is mandatory. STARFLEET membership dues are posted on the Starfleet International Website SFI.ORG. All monies will be paid directly to STARFLEET.

3. EXPENDITURES

* Expenditures will be limited to those required to support the activities of the organization. Expenses such as printing recruiting materials and defraying costs for social activities for members are acceptable.
* Any single transaction in excess of $50.00 must be pre-approved by the members when possible.
* The Commanding Officer (CO) has a monthly discretionary budget of $50.00, which does not carry over from month to month if not used.

4. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

* To guarantee mutual gain of benefits by members, no member shall have any interest in, or right to, the property and assets of the USS Abraham Lincoln. All property and assets shall be subject to direct control of, and expenditure by, the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and/or the Executive Committee. Should the USS Abraham Lincoln be dissolved or liquidated, or otherwise cease operation, the property and assets shall first be used to pay any outstanding debts, in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Also, members, according to the laws of the State of New York, may be liable to any creditors if the assets of the USS Abraham Lincoln are insufficient to discharge liabilities. Any remaining assets shall be contributed to a worthy charity, as determined by the Executive Committee.

**Article VI: GOVERNING BODY**

* The primary ruling body of the USS Abraham Lincoln, the Executive Committee, shall consist of the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer, Secretary, and all Department Heads.
* The Executive Committee shall make many of the day-to-day decisions of the organization. All financial operations must be approved by the Executive Committee.

**Article VII: CHAPTER OFFICERS**

 The requirements and duties of the ship’s officers are described below:

1. COMMANDING OFFICER (PRESIDENT)

 A. The requirements for Commanding Officer are:

 1. Minimum age of twenty-one (21)

 2. Must be a member in good standing of STARFLEET

3. Must be eligible under STARFLEET regulations to hold the office of Commanding Officer.

 B. The duties of the Commanding Officer are:

 1. Conduct regular business meetings.

 2. Conduct executive committee meetings.

 3. Make monthly reports to STARFLEET regarding club functions.

 4. Organize events and panels at local conventions.

 5. Communicating and coordinating activities with other organizations.

6. Responsible for the actions of the membership, with special attention to members under the age of eighteen (18).

2. EXECUTIVE OFFICER (VICE PRESIDENT)

 A. The requirements for Executive Officer are:

 1. Minimum age of eighteen (18)

 2. Must be a member in good standing of STARFLEET

3. Must be eligible under STARFLEET regulations to hold the office of Executive Officer.

 B. The duties of the Executive Officer are:

1. In the absence of the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer will assume the duties of the Commanding Officer.

2. Coordinate with Department Heads and report all department activity to the Commanding Officer.

 3. SECRETARY

 A. The requirements for Secretary are:

 1. Minimum age of eighteen (18)

 2. Must be a member in good standing of STARFLEET

 3. Must be eligible under STARFLEET regulations to hold the office of Secretary

 B. The duties of the Secretary are:

 1. Maintaining club records

 2. Recording the minutes of business meetings

 3. Mail or e-mail correspondence with other organizations

 4. Maintain mailing lists and assist with the newsletter

 4. TREASURER

* Responsible for all monies and assets received through donations, fundraisers, or dues.

 5. DEPARTMENT HEADS

 A. The requirements for Department Head are:

 1. Minimum age of eighteen (18)

 2. Must be a member in good standing of STARFLEET

3. Must be eligible under STARFLEET regulations to hold the office of Department Head

 4. Must hold the minimum rank of Ensign

 B. The duties of the Department heads are:

 1. Contact members of their team to notify them of meetings and activities

 2. Keep the Executive Officer apprised of the status of the members of their team

5. HONORARY OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

 A. Any celebrities granted honorary status within the organization

**Article VIII: REVISION AND RENEWAL**

 The Constitution shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but not less than every two (2) years. A committee of no less than three (3) crew members will be formed for this process at the appropriate times. All reviews and revisions shall be completed within ninety (90) days after the formation of the committee. All revisions shall be presented at the next official ship business meeting after they are completed. This Constitution, however, should be considered a final document and should never be rewritten unless the volume of approved amendments reaches unmanageable proportions. Any revisions should always be accomplished through the amendment process.

**Article IX AMENDMENTS**

1. GENERAL

* Constitutional amendments may be submitted by an active member in good standing at any time.

2. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

* The Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. An assembly of fifty percent (50%) of the active members would constitute a quorum. The amendment must also be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be presented for vote. A request received at a later date can be acted on only when its urgency has been determined by the Executive Committee. A late request to amend the Constitution may also be handled as a matter of urgency by unanimous vote of the general membership assembly present. All amendments shall take effect immediately.

**Article X APPROVAL**

 This Constitution will take effect immediately upon a majority vote in favor of its implementation. Said vote will take place one month after all parties have been given an opportunity to speak as to any changes or additions they desire to see in the draft text presented.