

P00000000178+

NEW OFFICE OF
MCGEE & MASON

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
101 SOUTH MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1900
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34605-1900

TELEPHONE: (352) 796-0795
FACSIMILE: (352) 796-0235
E-MAIL: JMMASON@INNET.COM

4074 COMMERCIAL WAY
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA 34606-2397
TELEPHONE: (352) 686-1028

PLEASE REPLY TO:
BROOKSVILLE

JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.*
RICHARD E. MCGEE, SR.

*ALSO ADMITTED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 29, 1999

900003085019-
-12/30/99--01082--014
*****78.75 *****78.75

Department of State
Division of Corporations
Post Office Box 6327
Tallahassee, Florida 32314

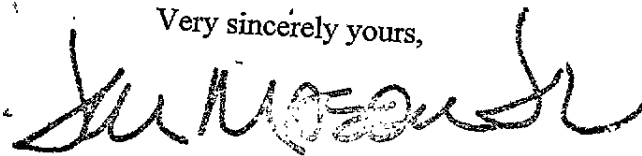
VIA UPS
OVERNIGHT

Re: Ascend Enterprises, Inc.

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed for filing *Articles of Incorporation* together with a check in the amount of \$78.75 to cover the filing fee, designation of resident agent, certified copy and certificate under seal.

Very sincerely yours,



JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.

JMM/km
BLA12299.A-1
Enclosures

FILED
1999 DEC 30 PM 2:39
SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

A. Howell JAN 6 2000

FILED

1999 DEC 30 PM 2:

SECRETARY OF STA
TALLAHASSEE, FLOR

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
ASCEND ENTERPRISES, INC.

The undersigned incorporator desires to form a general business corporation under the laws of the State of Florida, including, but not limited to, Chapter 607, Florida Statutes, and, by execution of these Articles of Incorporation, does hereby accept all of the rights, privileges, benefits, and obligations conferred and imposed by said laws, and, further, does hereby adopt these Articles of Incorporation as the Charter of the Corporation hereby organized.

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1.1 **Designation**. The name of the Corporation shall be **Ascend Enterprises, Inc.**, and said name shall be so registered with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations.

ARTICLE II
DURATION

Section 2.1 **Perpetual Existence**. This Corporation shall have perpetual existence, commencing upon the filing of these Articles of Incorporation with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSES AND POWERS

Section 3.1 **Purposes**. This Corporation is organized for the purpose of engaging in all lawful businesses permitted to a corporation organized under Chapter 607, Florida Statutes, the Florida General Corporation Act, as in effect from time-to-time.

Section 3.2 **Powers**. The Corporation shall have all the powers set forth in Chapter 607, Florida Statutes, the Florida General Corporation Act, as in effect from time-to-time, including, but not limited to, the following powers:

3.2.1 **Structures and Personal Property.** To construct, erect, repair, and remodel buildings and structures of all types for itself and others; and to manufacture, purchase or otherwise acquire, and to own, mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, and to invest, trade, and deal in and with, goods, wares, merchandise, personal property, and services of every class, kind and description.

3.2.2 **Agent.** To act as broker, agent, or factor for any person, firm or corporation.

3.2.3 **Real and Personal Property.** To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property and leaseholds thereof and interests therein, and to own, hold, manage, develop, improve, equip, maintain, and operate, and to sell, convey, exchange, lease, or otherwise alienate and dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber, any and all such property and any and all legal and equitable rights thereunder and interests therein.

3.2.4 **Borrow and Mortgage.** To borrow or raise money for any of the purposes and permitted activities of the Corporation, and from time-to-time without limit as to amount to draw, make, accept, endorse, execute, and issue promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, warrants, bonds, debentures, and other negotiable and non-negotiable instruments and evidences of indebtedness; and to secure payment thereof and of any interest therein by the mortgage, pledge, conveyance, or other assignment in trust of, or the creation of a security interest in, the assets, in whole or in part, of the Corporation, real, personal, or mixed, including contract rights, whether at the time owned or thereafter acquired.

3.2.5 **Guarantee.** To guarantee, endorse, purchase, hold, sell, transfer, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise acquire or dispose of the shares of any class or series of the capital or preferred stock of or any bonds, promissory notes, security, or other evidences of indebtedness created by any other corporation of the State of Florida or of any other state or government, and to exercise all of the rights, powers, and privileges arising therefrom, including the right to vote with regard to the affairs of such other corporation.

3.2.6 **Contracts.** To enter into, make, perform, and carry out contracts, agreements, and arrangements of every sort and kind which may be necessary or convenient for the business of the Corporation with any person, firm, corporation, association, or syndicate or with any private, public, or municipal body existing under the law of any local, state or national government so far as or to the extent that the same may be done or performed pursuant to law.

3.2.7 **Partner.** To enter into or become a partner in any agreement for sharing profits, union of interests, cooperation, joint venture, or otherwise with any person, firm, or corporation now carrying on or about to carry on any business which this Corporation has the direct, indirect, or incidental authority to pursue.

3.2.8 **Restrictive Covenants.** To include in its Bylaws any regulatory or restrictive provisions relating to the proposed sale, transfer, or other disposition of any of its outstanding stock by any of its Stockholders, including by death or operation of law. The manner and form as well as all relevant terms, conditions, and details of such provisions shall be determined by the Stockholders of the Corporation; provided, however, that no such provision shall affect the rights of third parties without actual knowledge thereof, unless such provision or notice thereof is noted upon the certificate evidencing ownership of the stock for which disposition is sought.

3.2.9 **Same as Natural Persons.** In general, to do any and all of the acts and things herein set forth to the same extent as natural persons could do in any part of the world as principal, factor, agent, contractor, broker, or otherwise, either alone or in company with any entity or individual; to establish one or more offices, both within the State of Florida and in any part or parts of the world, at which meetings of stockholders and directors may be held and all or any part of the Corporation's business may be conducted; and to exercise all or any of its corporate powers and rights in the State of Florida, and in any and all other states, territories, districts, dependencies, colonies, or possessions in the United States of America, and in any foreign country.

3.2.10 **All Legal Acts.** To do everything necessary, proper, advisable, or convenient for the accomplishment of any of the purposes or the attainment of any of the objects or the furtherance of any of the powers herein set forth, and to do every other act and thing incidental thereto or connected therewith, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Section 3.3 **Prohibited Activities.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article III, the Corporation may not operate: a banking, safe deposit, trust, insurance, surety, express, railroad, canal, telephone, telegraph, or cemetery company; a building and loan, mutual fire insurance, or other cooperative association; a fraternal benefit society; or a state fair or exposition.

ARTICLE IV

CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDENDS

Section 4.1 **Capital Stock.** The amount of capital stock which the Corporation is authorized shall be Ten Thousand (10,000) shares of Capital Stock having a par value of One Dollar (\$1.00) per share payable in lawful money of the United States of America or in other property, tangible or intangible, or in labor or services actually performed for the Corporation at a just valuation to be fixed by the Board of Directors or the stockholders of the Corporation. The authorized and/or issued Capital Stock of the Corporation may at any time be increased or decreased as provided by the laws of Florida.

Section 4.2 **Options and Warrants.** The Board of Directors may, from time-to-time and upon such terms as it may determine, cause to be issued or granted such options, warrants, or other

rights to purchase authorized but unissued shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation, or shares thereof held as Treasury Shares by the Corporation, as it deems advisable.

Section 4.3 **Dividends.** The holders of the outstanding Capital Stock shall be entitled to receive, when and as declared by the Board of Directors, dividends payable either in cash or in property solely out of the unreserved and unrestricted earned surplus of the Corporation, and dividends payable in shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation solely out of any unreserved and unrestricted surplus of the Corporation, as provided by Florida law.

ARTICLE V

CLASSES AND SERIES OF SHARES PROHIBITED

Section 5.1 **No Classes or Series of Stock.** The shares of Capital Stock of the Corporation may not be divided into either classes or series.

ARTICLE VI

ISSUANCE OF SHARES, CONVERTIBLE OBLIGATIONS, OPTIONS, AND WARRANTS

Section 6.1 **No Preemptive Rights.** No holder of any of the shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation shall have any pre-emptive or preferential right of subscription to any new or additional issue of;

6.1.1 **Shares of Stock.** Shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation, regardless of whether now or hereafter authorized;

6.1.2 **Convertible Obligations.** Obligations convertible into shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation regardless of whether same are now or hereafter authorized;
or

6.1.3 **Rights, Options, and Warrants.** Rights, options, or warrants to purchase shares of the Capital Stock of the Corporation regardless of whether same are now or hereafter authorized.

Section 6.2 **Discretionary Subscription Rights.** Nothing herein shall prohibit the Stockholders, in their discretion, from time-to-time and at such price as it may deem appropriate, from granting subscription rights to holders of the Capital Stock of the Corporation, or to holders of convertible obligations of or rights, options, or warrants to purchase the Capital Stock of the Corporation, or to the holders of all of same, in any proportion or mix as the Stockholders, in their sole discretion, shall determine.

Section 6.3 **Convertible Obligations, Options, and Warrants.** The Stockholders are specifically authorized to issue obligations convertible into authorized but unissued shares of the Corporation's Capital Stock, or shares thereof held as Treasury Shares by the Corporation.

6.3.1 **Definition.** As used herein, the expression "convertible obligations" shall include any notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness to which are attached or with which are issued options, warrants, or other rights to purchase or to otherwise convert said obligations into Capital Stock of the Corporation.

6.3.2 **Grant.** The Stockholders are hereby expressly authorized, in their discretion and in connection with the issuance of any Convertible Obligations or Capital Stock of the Corporation (but without intending hereby to limit its general power so to do in any other case), to grant rights, warrants, or options to purchase Capital Stock of the Corporation upon such terms and during such periods as the Stockholders shall determine, and to cause such rights, warrants, or options to be evidenced by such instruments as they may deem advisable.

ARTICLE VII

INITIAL CORPORATE ADDRESS AND INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

Section 7.1 **Initial Business Address.** The initial street address of the principal place of business of the Corporation is 14975 Brookridge Boulevard, Brooksville, Florida 34613.

Section 7.2 **Registered Address and Agent.** The street address of the initial registered office of this Corporation is 101 South Main Street, Brooksville, Florida 34601 and the name of the initial Registered Agent of this Corporation at that address is Joseph M. Mason, Jr., Esquire.

ARTICLE VIII

INITIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 8.1 **Designation.** This Corporation shall have one (1) Director initially. The number of directors may be increased from time-to-time by action in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation as from time-to-time adopted by the Board of Directors. The name and address of the initial Director of the Corporation, whom shall serve until his respective successor is elected and has qualified pursuant to the Bylaws of the Corporation, is:

Ron A. Bland
14975 Brookridge Boulevard
Brooksville, Florida 34601

ARTICLE IX **INCORPORATION**

Section 9.1 **Incorporator.** The name and address of the Incorporator of this Corporation, who has executed these Articles of Incorporation, is:

Joseph M. Mason, Jr.
101 S. Main Street
Post Office Box 1900
Brooksville, Florida 34605

ARTICLE X **INDEMNIFICATION**

Section 10.1 **Officers, Directors, and Employees.** The Corporation, by the adoption of appropriate provisions in its Bylaws, may indemnify any officer, director, or employee of the Corporation, or any former officer, director, or employee of the Corporation, to the full extent permitted by and as set forth in the Florida General Corporation Act.

ARTICLE XI **AMENDMENT**

Section 11.1 **Procedure.** Unless otherwise set forth herein, the Corporation reserves the right, in accordance with the Florida General Corporation Act, to amend, alter, modify, or repeal any provision or provisions contained in these Articles of Incorporation, or any amendment hereto, and any right conferred upon the Stockholders is subject to this reservation.

ARTICLE XII **GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CORPORATION**

Section 12.1 **Regulation of Business and Affairs.** For the regulation of the business and for the conduct of the affairs of the Corporation, and to create, divide, limit, and regulate the powers of the Corporation, of the Directors, and of the Stockholders, provision is made as follows:

12.1.1 **Consideration for Stock.** The Board of Directors of the Corporation, in its sole discretion, except as the Stockholders may otherwise from time-to-time specifically and expressly provide or direct, shall have the authority to fix the consideration for which the shares of Capital Stock of the Corporation may be issued

or other disposition thereof made, and to provide when and how such consideration shall be paid.

12.1.2 **Meetings.** Meetings of the Incorporators, of the Stockholders, and of the Directors of the Corporation, or any committees of any of same, for all purposes, may be held at any place, either inside or outside of the State of Florida, and Members of any such group may be counted in attendance at such meeting and may participate fully therein from locations other than that of the meeting through the use of communications equipment which will allow all participants therein to at all times hear all other participants therein.

12.1.3 **Corporate Powers.** All corporate powers, including the sale, mortgage, hypothecation, and pledge of the whole or any part of the corporate property shall be exercised by the Stockholders in their sole discretion, except as otherwise specifically and expressly provided by law.

12.1.4 **Use of Corporate Funds.** The Stockholders shall have the power to fix and determine and vary the amount of the working capital of the Corporation and direct and determine the use and disposition of any surplus or net profits over and above the paid-in capital of the Corporation, and in its discretion the Stockholders may use and apply any such surplus or accumulated profits in purchasing or acquiring bonds or other obligations of the Corporation or shares of its own Capital Stock to such extent, in such manner, and upon such terms as the Stockholders in their sole discretion deems expedient.

12.1.5 **Compensation.** The Stockholders shall have the power to fix the compensation by way of fees, salaries, bonuses, pensions, profit sharing contributions, or otherwise, or any mix of one or more or all of same, of the employees, agents, officers, and directors, all or each of them, in such sum, form and amount, and pursuant to such contracts as may seem reasonable, in and by its sole discretion.

12.1.6 **Executive Committee.** The Board of Directors may designate from among their number an executive committee which, in the intervals between meetings of the Board and to the extent provided by the Bylaws of the Corporation and authorized by law, may have plenary authority to exercise the powers of the Board of Directors in the management of the affairs and business of the Corporation.

12.1.7 **Removal of Directors.** Pursuant to such reasonable procedures as may be established by the Bylaws of the Corporation, any one or more or all of the Directors may be removed, either with or without cause, at any time by the vote of the Stockholders holding a majority of the stock of the Corporation and entitled to vote at any regular or special meeting of the Stockholders, and thereupon the term of each Director or Directors who shall have been so removed shall forthwith terminate and there shall be a vacancy or vacancies in the Board of Directors, to be filled as provided by the Bylaws.

12.1.8 **Removal of Officers.** Any officer of the Corporation may be removed either with or without cause, at any time, by vote of a majority of the Stockholders.

12.1.9 **Conflicts of Interest.** No contract, act, or transaction between the Corporation and any other corporation shall be affected or invalidated by the fact that any one or more of the Stockholders, Directors, or officers of the Corporation is or are interested in or is a stockholder, director, or officer or are stockholders, directors, or officers of such other corporation, nor shall any contract, act, or transaction of the Corporation be affected by the fact that any of the Stockholders, Directors, or officers of the Corporation are personally interested therein. Any Stockholder or Stockholders, Director or Directors, or officer or officers of the Corporation, individually or jointly, may be a party or parties to or may be interested in any contract or transaction of or with the Corporation or in which the Corporation is interested; and no contract, act or transaction of the Corporation with any person, firm, association, or corporation shall be affected or invalidated by the fact that any Stockholder or Stockholders, Director or Directors, or officer or officers of the Corporation is a party or are parties to, or is or are otherwise interested in such contract, act, or transaction, or is or are in any way connected with such person, firm, association, or corporation. Each and every person who may become a Stockholder, Director or officer of the Corporation is hereby relieved, as far as is legally permissible, from any disability which might otherwise prevent such person from contracting with the Corporation for such person's benefit or for the benefit of any firm, association, or corporation in which he may be in anywise interested.

Section 12.2 **Bylaws.** The Stockholders shall have the sole authority to make bylaws for the Corporation and from time-to-time to alter, amend, or repeal any such bylaws adopted by them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above-named incorporator has hereunto subscribed his name on December 29, 1999.

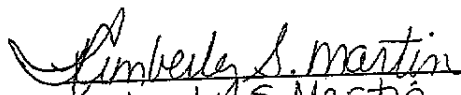


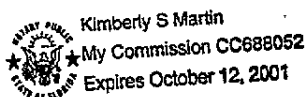
JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.
Incorporator

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HERNANDO

BEFORE ME, the undersigned officer, on December 28, 1999, personally appeared **JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.**, to me well known and well known to me to be the person described in and who subscribed his name to the foregoing *Articles of Incorporation of Ascend Enterprises, Inc.*, and he acknowledged before me that he executed said Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

My Commission Expires:



Kimberly S. Martin (Print Name)
Notary Public, State of Florida

FILED

1999 DEC 30 PM 2:38

**CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS OR
DOMICILE FOR THE SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN FLORIDA,
AND NAMING AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED**

In compliance with Section 48.091, Florida Statutes, the following is submitted:

ASCEND ENTERPRISES, INC., desiring to organize or qualify under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business at 14975 Brookridge Boulevard, Brooksville, Florida 34613, has named Joseph M. Mason, Jr., located at 101 South Main Street, Brooksville, Florida, 34601, as its agent to accept service of process within the State of Florida.

Signature: _____

JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.

Title: Incorporator

Date: 12/29/99

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIDENT AGENT

Having been named as resident agent to accept service of process for Ascend Enterprises, Inc., at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby agree to act in such capacity, and I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relative to the proper and complete performance of my duties as such officer.

Signature: _____

JOSEPH M. MASON, JR.

Date: 12/29/99

JMM/km\BLA12229.A-1