

Blood drives

Robert and Ginny left behind a legacy

When you joined the Heinlein Society each of you listed Society activities that were of interest to you personally. Many of you included blood drives. Those who did have heard from me already and I thank you for your time.

I want to speak now to all the membership, and to anyone else who may be reading this. We have set a quite a goal for ourselves, and we will need a great deal of help to achieve it. By Robert's centennial we intend to be holding blood drives in cities all across the U.S., possibly around the world. This year we are striving to run at least 10 to 12, mostly at conventions, and to begin expanding into workplaces and the community at large. To do this we need PEOPLE. Not only people who donate blood, but also those who are willing to organize and work the blood drives.

Some of you may not be able to donate blood, but you probably know someone who can. Some of you may choose not to donate. That is a personal decision and I do not fault you for it, but I will respectfully ask you to take a hard look at your reasons. Some of you do not have the time to become involved in running blood drives, but you might be able to suggest to someone who does that they contact us.

The ultimate goal of all this is not just to sponsor a worldwide blood drive, but to help remind society at large of their civic duty. People can generally be counted on to help out in times of disaster. After the World Trade Center tragedy the U.S. experienced a huge glut in the blood supply for the first time in decades, but enthusiasm soon

waned and we are once again suffering a critical shortage. It's all too easy to become wrapped up in our daily lives and forget that help is still needed.

We came together to form the

Heinlein Society because we believe it is our duty to Pay It Forward. This is an ideal way to do just that, and to honor the legacy of a man who inspired us all.



Top photo: Grace Scott, David Jennings, Brad Linaweaver (hidden), Jeri Rivera, Robert James, Bill Patterson, David Silver and Sachiko Yamada dine after the final panel at LosCon in Burbank, Calif., in late November 2002. **Bottom photo:** Brad Linaweaver (in foreground) helped lead a LosCon Heinlein panel discussion to a standing-room-only audience.

-- Photos by Peter Scott