

Secretary-treasurer's report

Paying dues just became more urgent

Paying your dues suddenly became more urgent than ever last Saturday morning.

It didn't take any of us more than a second or two to conclude that when Virginia kept asking some Heinlein aficionados over the years to create and build a Heinlein society to honor Robert, his works and his principals, that she intended as long as she lived to support any society that acted in accord with his values.

And she did. She provided the inspiration, the leadership, the guidance as to her views of his values and, knowing what any business knows, she provided a little seed money, when needed. Over the past three years, that money has always been there — or its potential. It wasn't used to finance trips to conventions. That came out of our officers' own bank accounts. No one draws a salary, wages, and no one who is a society member benefits one dime from providing goods or services to this Society. Her donated money went to pay for publicity, pay for advertising, pay for printing and mailing newsletters distributed, paid for all the humdrum needs to recruit, to encourage conventions to hold blood drives, all that stuff.

All that stopped Saturday morning. Ain't gonna be no more Heinlein Society. *Unless you pay your dues.* We've been light on pressure to pay dues up to now. If you forgot, or didn't make the effort, you still you got the mailings and the newsletter. You had the opportunity to attend events, volunteer your services for the Society, observe from the inside. You didn't get your membership card and didn't get the CD-ROM of the 1941 speech at DenCon III; but we kept you on the rolls.

All that stops after this issue of this Newsletter. *Unless you pay your dues.* This isn't a fan club. It's a charitable corporation. It has to run like a business. It cannot run otherwise; and it won't run at all. *Unless you pay your dues.*

Dues are payable on Jan. 1, each year. They are modest in amount. You cannot dine comfortably in an average chop house on \$35, unless you've discovered a time warp to maybe the year 1970. We've tried to keep them modest. We've tried to make it easier this year. We've installed PayPal as well as PayByCheck on the website. If you have a checking account or a credit card, that should be all you should need. And, if it isn't,

there's the postal mail box, P.O. Box 1254, Venice, CA 90294-1254. I would really like to see it become necessary for me to visit it more frequently than I do. This year we're going to incur additional expense and go to the effort of the reminders you'll be receiving in the postal mail and by e-mail. Remember when Maureen tried to help her father collect accounts? Try to make the effort a little more effective than hers was, please.

There was a reason you registered to join and support The Heinlein Society. If you want to Pay It Forward, if you want to see it come true, then pay your dues. Every year since this Society was founded, the first check I received was signed Virginia Heinlein. That's the way it should have been. Why wasn't yours the second? I won't be receiving any checks from Virginia Heinlein anymore. Please, let's see if I can expect to receive yours, timely and regularly.

"The Lieutenant expects your name to shine!"

*David M. Silver
Secretary-Treasurer
The Heinlein Society*

The
Heinlein
Society

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