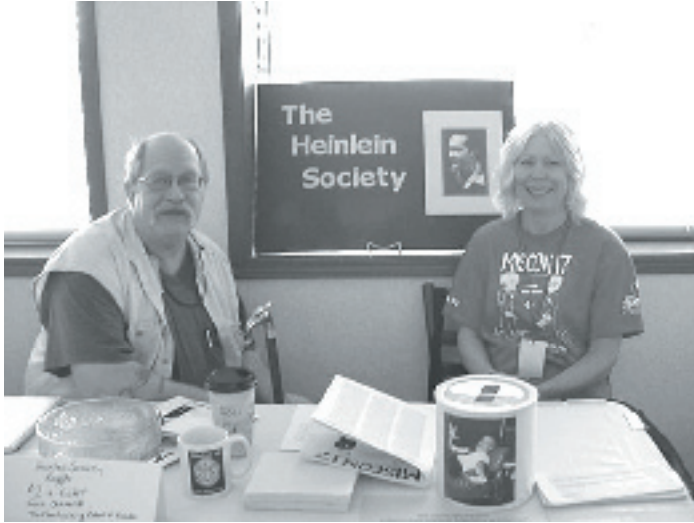


Society Activities Reports

Greetings, From MisCon 17 Or How To Run A Heinlein Society Table

by Elizabeth Youmans, R.N.

Back in February I decided I wanted to support The Heinlein Society at our local SF Con, here in Missoula, Montana. So I e-mailed THS Secretary-



New members Charlie Youmans and Linda Guens start off right at work at the fan table at MisCon17.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Youmans.

Treasurer David Silver and he sent me lots of information and ideas. Please don't ask him for a Mission Statement, though ... "Mission statements! We don't need no stinkin' mission statements!" was the reply I got. Seriously, David is a gold mine of information. I think he just hates writing mission statements!

I am writing to let you know what went right, what went wrong and my plans to make it even better next year. Perhaps they'll help you organize your first trip to a convention for The Heinlein Society. Not much went wrong, the custard fruits tarts went nowhere, due to a refrigeration problem, so I made some cookies (ten dozen) and they went over well. Right off the bat ... don't get all excited about the food, Fen descend on food like locusts and hardly notice what they are eating. However, anything you serve should be homemade, by you or someone you know -- it shows you care.

Let me tell you, the biggest problem I came up against was lead-time.

Four months was not enough to do everything

right. Especially living in a relatively small community in a state with low-ranking income and budgets. Not only did I have a hard time setting up a blood drive, but also the fans were not prepared to make large donations. The folks who did come through for us, as I know the types of jobs they have and an idea of how much (or little) money they make, impressed me.

The Blood Drive:

The first thing to remember, even if you're a medical or nursing professional, is: don't assume you know how your local blood collection facility runs things. This first time I came up against budget problems I didn't expect. Our local Red Cross didn't have the staff or the budget to send out its Bloodmobile on a holiday weekend on such short notice. It also took me almost a month and a half to find the correct person to talk to. His name has gone into my Con building kit. Start real early with any blood collection agency, especially the Red Cross.

I will be talking soonest with the Red Cross and getting set up for next year. They have a bit of warning now and are ready to help me.

Lesson learned: some things will not come to pass. Don't let it discourage you. Improvise!

I handed out 'pin vouchers' as I did not have any blood donor pins. These I created myself with instructions to donate in RAH's name and how to report to THS their donation along with my address and to please make the donation within the next two weeks. When they return the voucher to me, I will send them a pin. Mike Sheffield, our Blooddrives Chair, has ample supplies, and will mail them out to you if you host support for a blooddrive; but you have to give him enough lead time. But that wasn't my main problem; most of the fans interested in donating (our local Vampire LARP) had already donated in the recent past and were unable to donate so soon. I gave them exceptions as to the timing of their donations. They will receive pins for their next donation, as long as I get the voucher back.

You Must Have a Raffle:

Yet another instance of no lead-time: I spent \$20 and only made \$8 on the raffle. Tickets were