

Centennial committee report

Ideas needed for celebration

By PETER SCOTT

As you probably know, the Heinlein Society intends to stage a convention commemorating the centennial of Robert Heinlein's birth, which will occur July 7, 2007.

The Society would like your assistance with its deliberations concerning the form of that event. Right now we are considering a proposal for a mostly conventional type of event to be held in Kansas City; some board members and I received a presentation from facilities representatives during Torcon3. Without prejudice to that proposal, the Society feels its members deserve the benefit of the board exercising diligence in considering additional choices and more creative thinking.

Therefore, we invite your input on alternatives. Be as creative as you like whilst remaining practical. We will not be gathering on the international space station. However, a commemorative cruise along routes described in "Tramp Royale," for instance, would be an entirely appropriate proposal provided you can put some flesh on those bones based upon specialized knowledge of the cruise business.

We are looking for suggestions as to form and location; if you wish to propose a conventional event in a city with which you have experience, please detail the advantages of that location and

what facilities it provides. We require not only brainstorming, but also concrete information that will allow us to evaluate the proposal as a business proposition.

Please give attention to what the Society would have to commit to and what assurances would be provided to it. Do you propose an event to be run by volunteers, in which case, what group and what is their track record? Or do you propose something run by professional staff, in which case the same questions apply, along with some idea of what they cost. How much would attendees pay?

This solicitation presupposes a broad spectrum of possible responses, and we are comfortable with that. We realize we are not providing guidance as to how large an attendance we are looking for, drawn from what demographics, paying what attendance fee and neither are we being specific about the goals of the event. In part, the Society's decisions on those parameters will be determined by the choices available to it. In other words, you may have considerable power here if you have a suggestion for us.

Please direct your responses to CentennialChair@HeinleinSociety.org. We would like to evaluate ideas by the end of October.

Thank you.

Remembering Ginny: There wasn't a dry eye in the house at the Heinlein Society Dinner when a video was played of Virginia Heinlein accepting the NASA Distinguished Service Medal in 1988, shortly after Robert's death. It was at this ceremony where she read Robert's essay: "This I Believe."

