

TORCON3

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presentations, filling in for Robert and Deb. Dr. Hull had a few interesting approaches to the subject; and Larry gave a great overview of Heinlein's women characters.

Later that evening, my sister Jane, our Membership Services chair, arrived with more newsletters and relieved Sam and me at the fan table; and, yet later, Deb and Geo Rule arrived with all sorts of great pre-printed items Deb had created to promote our events, which they set up. I was so jet-lagged, I don't even remember going to dinner with Sam, but know I did; for I got back to the hotel, and awoke the next day ready and raring to go.

Sam Kramer, Peter Scott, and Mike Sheffield started manning the fan table early Friday morning with Geo and Deb while Jane, board member Alan Milner (who had arrived Thursday night) and I attended to a few logistic details.

Jane and Alan set out to the banks to change the large amount of US dollars we needed to prepay for the dinner into Canadian, while I arranged with the printer Phil had lined up to print up quickly a few things — the big sign we use to advertise the panels we'd scheduled, the financial statements and reports for the Society's annual membership meeting, and a great looking full color flyer for "For Us, the Living," that Simon & Schuster art and advertising department had made up and e-mailed a PDF to me in Toronto.

Phil had dropped off the remaining black-and-white dinner advertisements for Sam and Mike to use; and an author named Keith DeCandido had brought out from New York for Simon & Schuster some nice tasteful table

signs announcing "For Us, the Living" when I arrived at the fan table. We were able to use both at the fan table and later at the dinner. By the time I got to the fan table with the sign and flyers, etc., I was happy to see that Sam, Mike, Peter and the rest who had helped out were doing great on selling tickets to the dinner, and beginning to feel a little relieved about finances — for we needed to sell about thirty dinner reservations more than we had sold before leaving for Toronto just to break even. Sam, who is now appointed membership recruitment committee chair, also reported a large amount of new membership applications. Alan and Jane arrived with the Canadian cash during the noon hour; and we left a note on the fan table and all left for our 1 p.m. corporate meeting in the Royal York Fairmount.

We held the Annual Corporate General Membership Meeting on time, with 18 members, and three directors, Alan Milner, Charles N. Brown, the publisher of *Locus*, and myself physically and one, Dr. Yoji Kondo, present by power of attorney to me, and one non-member visitor.

Joe Haldeman, who had been scheduled by Torcon for a panel and a luncheon that conflicted before he had been elected as a director, had expressed his deep regrets at not being able to attend this, his first general meeting; and I expressed his regrets to those present.

Bill Patterson had gotten hung up in a transportation glitch, so I expressed his apologies for missing Torcon as well, and I presided as pro tempore chair at the meeting.

The Minutes were approved as read. My Secretary Treasurer's Financial Report was given and commented upon. We conducted our annual Election of Directors

for those positions for which the 3-year terms were expiring. Charles N. Brown was unanimously reelected to a three year term. I surrendered the gavel to Mr. Milner, and while he presided I was reelected to another three year term as well. Both Mr. Milner, before he surrendered the gavel, and I introduced and commended all those Committee Chairs who were present, including Mike Sheffield, who has done a wonderful job overseeing and organizing more than ten convention blood drives this year, Peter Scott, who equally has worked hard to develop plans for the 2007 Centennial celebration, Geo Rule, whose efforts to organize the academic committee are laudable, Keith Kato, who has saved us much time in arranging for social activities, and Jane Silver, whose membership services efforts have been especially fruitful, as demonstrated by the much improved dues payments situation once she took over the job.

We also introduced, thanked and commended Dr. Amy Baxter, Ginny Heinlein's "adopted" granddaughter, who was present with her husband, Dr. Louis Calderon, also both members of the Society, and who did so much to ease Ginny's last illness. After thanking those present, I adjourned the meeting and we made the trek back to the Convention Center for our next panel, "Heinlein 101: All You Ever Wanted to Know About Heinlein But Were Afraid to Ask."

Robert "Doc" James was all ready to go when we arrived, passing out the prepared outlines he had made for the audience which was already filling up the room. Our panel, very lively and well-presented, was once again given to a standing room only crowd, just as it had been at

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