

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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recruitment program that two or three, or four or five, or ten members can use at any convention, any size, held anywhere to come back with one percent, or more, of attendees as new members recruited. We found these past two years that new members will join if our appeals include certain things: the crucially important support of blood drives, educational panels and approaches that are attractive and display that our programs have worthwhile goals and entertain the convention audience, and include enjoyable social contacts, new members will join. Expect the CD-ROM before the end of the year.

Also expect something else. You'll receive contact, by mail and e-mail, and likely, by telephone, from the Society — all designed to form local geographically-proximate groups. We've actually reached the point where conventions are contacting us, asking for our help to support and organize blood drives and panels. To do that we'll need your help, a little of your time and your willingness which we know we already have to help pay the debt forward. Expect to hear from us, again and again, this next year to enable you to do that.

Also, it's time now to expand our efforts from SF conventions to other areas where Robert Heinlein's influence lies. This month offers the springboard for that effort. When Ginny Heinlein died, a lot of people thought, and some outright asked: Where's the money going? The Heinleins had no children — unless we can claim to be "Heinlein's children" — nor close relatives. This answer formally comes tomorrow, Monday, September 29th, as I write this. The Heinlein Prize Trust was established by Ginny well before her death to use the wealth that

Robert's writings and Ginny's conservation generated to Pay the Debt Forward. It will award a Prize, currently set at half a million dollars, annually, to individuals who achieve practical accomplishments in the field of commercial space activities. It is intended to be worldwide in scope. It will be formally announced tomorrow, September 29, at the 54th International Aeronautical Congress underway in Bremen, Germany.

That means there will be renewed interest in the activities of Robert Heinlein in aeronautical professions and industries. His writings inspired many of those active in those professions and activities. This month, we begin an aerospace recruitment program to attend aerospace science meetings and seminars and explain our goals to candidates for membership in those fields.

If you're interested in helping, please drop me a note, by e-mail or postal mail. Use "agplusone@heinleinsociety.org," and I'll pass on your offer to help this new critical effort to our new membership subcommittee formed to start up efforts in that area.

And Thanks:

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone, board members, committee chairs, and all our members, old and new, for all their efforts these past three years; and to thank especially Bill Patterson for his inspiration in forming the Society from the beginning and passing on to all of us a vital growing charitable organization to Pay Our Debt Forward.

And to thank Ginny, always Ginny.

Here's to our past, and here's to next year!

David M. Silver

President and Chairman of the Board
*"The Lieutenant expects **your** names to shine!"*

PATTERSON

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be revised to take newly discovered research material into account. By this time, I was working on the biography essentially full-time, and I had come to the point where, to take on any new task meant that some older commitment had to be jettisoned. When it became clear that Ginny's health had become dangerously unstable, I accelerated the writing and finished 180,000 words, just after the start of her final hospitalization. I got him up to the end of his failed 1938 political campaign. Things had to stop there, while I moved back to civilization, to look for work.

Ginny's death, sad thing that it was, re-created my original research-versus-writing problem, since about as much new material came to the Archives as was

already there, and much of it important to the biography. It was there, for example, that I found almost all the factual material that let me write the next chapter, about the creation of Heinlein's Opus 1, the soon-to-be-published For Us, the Living. Years earlier, I had been scheduled to see this material, but Ginny's health had begun to fail and forced cancellation of my twice-yearly trips to Florida.

Between the important and time-consuming organization and design tasks I am performing for the Archive as this year's Heinlein Scholar and the now again ongoing writing of the biography, I am no longer able to serve effectively as the Society's Chair. I am relieved to be able to turn it over to David and not have to worry about the health and continued existence of the Society. It is in good hands because it is in the hands of its members.

Share water: Pay it forward.