

BLOOD DRIVES

from page 7

merits of setting aside space for the drive, and to add a Heinlein panel to convention schedule. A very persuasive fellow is

Mr. Linaweaver.

There were still more hurdles to clear. The blood drive hadn't had much pre-convention advertising apart from a brief mention on the website and it didn't appear in the printed program, so we had to get the word out. Alan, who had brought his whole family with him to help, and Wendell Broadwell — another Heinlein Society member — engaged

in some very effective guerilla advertising as well as running a fan table for the Society. Brad mentioned the drive on all of his panels. And, of course, fans can sense a blood drive a mile away (they can sense chocolate two miles away, but that's another story).

The end result was better than we could have hoped for given the circumstances. One hundred and thirty people tried to give blood and 92 units were collected. Donor demand was so high that the blood drive, originally scheduled for six hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday, was continued on Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kudos to everyone involved. LifeSouth was a great organization to work with, even producing a special t-shirt for the blood donors and running the drive on multiple days to accommodate the con-goers' schedules. The Dragon*Con committee really came through in the end, making space inside an already crowded convention, which always results in a better turnout than the bloodmobile. Thanks to David Brin for

supplying signed bookplates for Dragon*Con, as well as Torcon3 to reward our blood donors.

Thanks to Wendell and the Koslow family for all their hard work. And thanks to the fans for lying down on the job, so to speak.

I want to bring attention also to a convention that has been paying it forward entirely on their own for a great many years. Robert Heinlein attended San Diego Comic Con (now Comic Con International) in 1977 and helped them run their first blood drive. And they have held a Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive every year since then (this was their 27th year). This year the San Diego Blood Bank collected more than 300 units of blood in the two days of the drive (they had an attendance of over 70,000). They have a

great deal of support from vendors, publishers and studios and each donor receives a whole bag of stuff and a ticket for the raffle of around 100 items. This is a very impressive accomplishment that is worthy of notice.

We also want to extend a special note of thanks to the Southern California Institute for Fan Interest (SCIFI) and the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) for their generous donations to help with cost of producing the cloisonne pins we give to each blood donor. For those of you who don't know, these pins were designed by Robert Heinlein for the first Science Fiction convention blood drive at MidAmerican in 1976. Last year the Los Angeles Science Fantasy

Continued on page 9



Heinlein's jewels: Deb Houdek models Robert Heinlein's Naval Academy class ring during The Heinlein Society Awards Dinner on Friday, August 29, at Torcon3.