

1 **12th Annual General Membership Meeting of The Heinlein Society**
2 **Held at LoneStarCon 3, 71st World Science Fiction Convention**

3
4 By Geo Rule, Secretary Pro Tem

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6 The 12th Annual General Membership Meeting of The Heinlein Society was held at
7 LoneStarCon 3, the 71st World Science Fiction Convention, on Sunday, 1 September 2013, 1:30
8 PM CDT, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, TX, USA.

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10 17 members, including Directors, officers, and specifically assigned proxies, were
11 present. Directors in attendance were Keith Kato (Vice-President Secretary), Joe Haldeman,
12 Connie Willis, Deb Houdek Rule, and Geo Rule (as Secretary pro tem). All members were given
13 a “token” to use in voting. Several non-member guests also attended.

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15 In the absence of President Sheffield, Vice-President Secretary Kato chaired the meeting,
16 and appointed Director Geo Rule to act as Secretary pro tem, without objection from the other
17 members present.

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19 The Annual Meeting was conducted pursuant to Article I, Section 3, of the Bylaws of
20 The Heinlein Society.

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22 At 1:40 PM, CDT, Chairman Kato called the meeting to order.

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24 Chairman Kato noted that four proxies had been received and duly certified, and that no
25 other proxies had been received by the time of the meeting. Chairman Kato noted that the
26 Society’s current Bylaws gave the Chair proxies for all members not present or duly proxied
27 otherwise, but that President Sheffield had decided as a matter of policy this should only be used
28 for quorum purposes and would not be voted on any substantive issue before the meeting.
29 Chairman Kato inquired of the audience if anyone felt qualified to act as parliamentarian for the
30 meeting, but no volunteers forthcoming, determined to “muddle on”. Chairman Kato next
31 determined, without objection heard, that the meeting was small enough to not require “election
32 inspectors”, as the Bylaws would allow, and would proceed without them.

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34 Chairman Kato next noted that the annual meeting had been duly noticed on July 31st in
35 the Society’s electronic newsletter sent to all members.

36
37 Next the meeting proceeded to consideration of the previous annual meeting’s minutes.
38 Geo Rule moved to waive reading of the minutes, and was seconded by Deb Houdek Rule.
39 Motion passed unanimously.

40
41 The Treasurer’s report was next discussed, with Chairman Kato going over the summary
42 of Treasurer Tilden’s report, noting roughly a \$2,000 surplus for the current fiscal year. Director
43 Geo Rule noted the presence of a bequest in the current year that the board split between
44 supporting the Society’s Scholarships, Heinlein for Heroes, and the general fund. Chairman Kato
45 noted that total paid membership was somewhat down, and is an area of concern for the future.

46 Chairman Kato next turned to reporting on the Society's Blood Drive, noting the passing
47 of our late chair, Scott Hann, and replacement by new chair John C. F. Hodges. Chairman Kato
48 noted with pride that the Society's cumulative blood drive totals had recently surpassed 15,000
49 pints collected. The election of John Tilden to the Society's board and appointment as first
50 Treasurer pro tem, and then election as Treasurer, was also noted.

51
52 Director Deb Houdek Rule was invited by Chairman Kato to discuss the Society's new
53 "Heinlein For Heroes" program to provide Heinlein and other golden age sf author books to
54 active duty military and their families, which she did, noting that US Naval Academy Professor
55 Herb Gilliland was chairing the effort. Director Houdek Rule, in the absence of blood drive chair
56 Hodges, also made a pitch for volunteers for organizing/shepherding blood drives at conventions.

57
58 Chairman Kato next noted that the Society's 501c3 tax status had finally been
59 straightened out as well. Chairman Kato then thanked Director Haldeman and his wife, Gay, for
60 "waving the flag" for the Society on a recent trip to Japan. Chairman Kato also reported on the
61 Society's presence at a libertarian convention, "Freedom Fest", in conjunction with the Heinlein
62 Prize Trust and The Virginia Edition of Robert Heinlein's collected works, with whom the
63 Society shared a booth.

64
65 Discussion next turned to the Society's Scholarship program, with Chairman Kato and
66 Director Rule noting the Society had awarded three scholarships this year because it was so
67 difficult to choose between three excellent applications, and so the board agreed to award a third
68 scholarship when only two scholarships had been previously announced as available. The Chair
69 also introduced member Betsey Wilcox, and thanked her for being our "boots on the ground" in
70 San Antonio prior to the convention.

71
72 Chairman Kato asked for volunteers to help Director Houdek Rule with the Society's
73 electronic newsletter. Director Houdek Rule made a plea for members to supply content most of
74 all, as the procedures and tools were now good enough and automated enough that technical
75 know-how is not a limiting factor. Good quality Heinlein-related content is the limiting factor.

76
77 The Chair then next discussed the Society's current ebay auction of Robert and Virginia's
78 bed frame that has been in the Society's possession for a number of years and taking up space
79 and costing considerable monies cumulatively to store in the Society's rented storage facility.
80 Director Rule noted that should the winner manage to recover any of Robert A. Heinlein's DNA
81 from the bed frame, the Society could not in good conscience encourage them to attempt any
82 Howard Families-like cloning experiments.

83
84 Discussion then turned to the State of Missouri's program to elect famous residents of the
85 state to a "Hall of Fame", and members were encouraged to support Robert A. Heinlein's
86 election of that Hall of Fame. Director Geo Rule then discussed the US Postal Service's pending
87 program for postage stamps honoring several science fiction authors, and disclosed that he had
88 seen the proposed stamp honoring Robert A. Heinlein, but did not know when USPS would
89 make an official announcement and release the stamp. At this point, Director Houdek Rule
90 decided to actually show those attending the meeting the proposed stamp, which she did upon

91 her laptop screen. Those in attendance were sworn to secrecy regarding details until such time as
92 USPS made an official announcement.

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94 The next item on the Agenda was election of directors. Chairman Kato noted that three
95 directors seats were up for re-election, and all three directors were present and had indicated their
96 willingness to continue serving –the three being Geo Rule, Joe Haldeman, and Connie Willis.
97 Chairman Kato invited the three to “say a few words”. Directors Willis, Haldeman, and Rule
98 gave brief statements. Directors Haldeman and Rule were then nominated from the floor, and
99 Director Haldeman nominated Director Willis from the platform. No other nominations were
100 offered. A motion was then offered, seconded, and passed unanimously to close nominations. A
101 motion was then offered to elect all three “by acclamation”, seconded, and also passed
102 unanimously. Chairman Kato then congratulated the three re-elected board members.

103

104 Next the meeting turned to “the Good of the Society”. The possibility of tiered
105 memberships was then discussed, along with possible ideas for premiums that could be
106 associated with them. Chairman Kato showed off some sample Zazzle THS-branded items that
107 could be used for such purposes, but noted the pricing premiums are a significant hurdle at low
108 volumes. The possibility of bundling The Virginia Edition with THS lifetime memberships was
109 also discussed. Director Houdek Rule noted that the influx of cash that lifetime memberships
110 might bring in would be used to support Society programs like Heinlein for Heroes and
111 Scholarships.

112

113 Chairman Kato next turned the Good of the Society discussion towards hypothetical
114 proposed changes to the Society’s Bylaws currently under discussion by a committee, including
115 changing the requirement that the Society’s annual meeting be held at Worldcon unless the board
116 otherwise provides, and instead moving to some kind of “virtual” online meeting where those
117 Society members who do not typically attend a Worldcon can still attend. Chairman Kato
118 discussed the possibility of having some sort of “supreme court” of prestigious Heinlein fans that
119 could not be overridden by the board without a unanimous vote. Director Willis asked if we
120 really would have to call such a hypothetical entity “The Old Ones”. Director Rule offered to call
121 it “The Pretty Ones”. Chairman Kato discussed ways in which to make Heinlein fans aware of
122 the existence of the Society. Member Wilcox noted that she had had trouble finding the Society
123 initially, though found it easy enough to join via the Society’s website and PayPal once she had.

124

125 Chairman Kato began to wrap up the meeting, and as a suitable “going away present”,
126 showed those assembled the video produced by Jim Gifford for the 2007 Heinlein Centennial of
127 Ginny and Robert edited together reading Robert’s radio piece “This I Believe” originally
128 broadcast by Robert for Edward R. Murrow’s radio show in 1952, and read again by Ginny at
129 Robert’s posthumous award of a medal for Distinguished Service by NASA in 1988.

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131 At the conclusion of the video, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Director Rule
132 so motioned. Director Haldeman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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134 The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM CDT.

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136 Respectfully submitted,

137 /s/ George E. "Geo" Rule
138 Secretary pro tem
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