Minutes of the 17th Annual General Membership Meeting of
The Heinlein Society
A 501(c)(3) charitable and educational corporation
Conducted as a phone-in teleconference via
FreeConferenceCall.com
Sunday, September 9th, 2018, 12:05 p.m. PDT / 3:05 p.m. EDT

Pursuant to written notice, the 17th Annual General Membership
Meeting of The Heinlein Society was called to order on Sunday, 9
September 2018, 12:05 p.m. PDT / 3:05 p.m. EDT, as a phone-in
teleconference via FreeConferenceCall.com. The meeting was the
Society’s fifth consecutive Annual Meeting conducted online as
permitted by the Bylaws.

Directors present:
Keith Kato (President and Chairman of the Board of Directors)
Geo Rule (Vice President-Secretary)
John Tilden (Treasurer)
Betsey Wilcox
John Seltzer
C. Herbert Gilliland
Beatrice Kondo
Walt Boyes
John G. Kato, Ph.D.
President and Chairman
Geo Rule
Vice President-Secretary
John Tilden
Treasurer

Committee Chairs Present:
Online Electoral Processes (Betsey Wilcox/Will Hamilton)
Membership Services (Ken Walters)
Education (Geo Rule)
Scholarship (Mike Sheffield)
Academic/THJ (Marie Guthrie)
Blood Drive (Carlin Black)
Heinlein For Heroes/Balticon RAH (C. Herbert Gilliland, Ph.D.)

Other Members and Additional Persons Present: In addition to
those members named above, the following Members of the
Society were in attendance: Michael Booker, Michael Buck, Tim
Caddell, Kevin Ellingwood, Edward Finneran, Andrew Hindle,
John Hodges, Daniel Kurtz, Fred Moulton, Deb Houdek Rule,
Sharon Sheffield. No non-members were present.

Total attendance was 24 members, of which 8 were Board
members.
Proceedings: The meeting was conducted pursuant to Article IV, Section 1, of the Bylaws of The Heinlein Society, ratified by the Board of Directors on 14 April 2014, as amended. The viewgraph briefing for the 2018 Annual Meeting can be found at http://www.heinleinsociety.org/2018/09/2018-annual-meeting-slides/ The Agenda of the meeting can be found on page 4.

President Kato called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. PDT.

Meet the Board: Those directors and officers present (see above) gave brief introductory remarks.

Meet the Committee Chairs: Chairman Kato introduced the committee chairs, noting which were present, and allowing them to introduce themselves.

Board of Advisors: Chairman Kato invited Treasurer Tilden to introduce the Society’s Board of Advisors, including new advisor Sarah Hoyt.

Timely Notice of Meeting: Chairman Kato reviewed the steps taken by The Heinlein Society to ensure the provisions of the Bylaws related to “Timely Notice of Meeting” had been followed.

Roll Call and Certification of Quorum: Treasurer Tilden, acting as Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentarian, confirmed the attendees at the meeting, and certified a quorum was present as defined by the Bylaws.

Minutes of 2017 Meeting: The Minutes of the previous year’s meeting were accepted as submitted on a unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Tilden reported current unreserved capital balance at $30,549.61, versus $20,4355.89 a year earlier. Income for FY 2016 was $29,580.87 and expenses were $19,547.93. Treasurer Tilden concluded by noting that the Society’s “Operations to Programs” ratio (10.38%) position the Society as very efficient by traditional non-profit measurements.
Vice President-Secretary’s Report:

The Vice President-Secretary reported on the Society’s new ability to deliver the 1941 RAH Guest of Honor speech digitally. He further reported on editing (with spouse Deb Houdek Rule) the new Citizen of the Galaxy graphic novel, and being honored to accept two Retro Hugos (Beyond This Horizon and “Waldo”) at the recent Worldcon on RAH’s behalf.

President’s Report: Chairman Kato reported on his attendance at Loscon, Slusser Conference, San Jose Worldcon and “El Dia H” (pre-recorded). He noted he is leading a study effort to see what the Society can do to create “bang for the buck” support for non-US based Society members in their home regions. He further reported on pursuing potential grant opportunities. Lastly, he reported on the physical exhibit of the Heinlein Archives at UC Santa Cruz and accompanying Heinlein-themed comic book.

Committee Reports:

Academic/THJ: Chair Dr. Marie Guthrie, introduced herself, and continued with her efforts to continue The Heinlein Journal after the passing of the late William H. Patterson, Jr. She is soliciting “young scholars” papers for the new THJ.

Archives: President Kato noted this Chair is currently vacant and asked for possible volunteers to contact the Society.

Blood Drive: Chair Carlin Black reported that THS had 4,156 donors to the blood drives in FY17, for a total of 35,300 donors in the life of the program. He further reported that Dragon Con (post-FY) yielded 3,167 donors. He urged members who attend cons that don’t currently have a blood drive to contact us to see if one can be arranged.

Education: Committee Chair Rule reported that the Society’s education materials continued to be delivered electronically to those who request them, and hoped to increase awareness of their availability to the homeschooling resource websites. He further reported he expected to begin transitioning this committee to Director Walt Boyes in the future.
Ensign’s Prize: Committee Chair Wilcox reported on her efforts to auction off the remaining volumes on ebay.

Heinlein For Heroes/Balticon RAH Awards: Committee Chair Gilliland reported on the 2018 Balticon Heinlein Award. He further reported that THS had shipped 3,533 books in H4H shipments to veterans and their families in the fiscal year, and 19,102 books overall since the program began. He thanked the Heinlein Prize Trust for their support in paying for shipping expenses for the program.

Membership Services: Committee Chair Ken Walters reported current membership at 358 active members, for a total increase of 38% from the previous year. Efforts included 39 new members at conventions, Social Media outreach, and a successful inactive member mailer campaign.

Newsletter Committee: President Kato reported that current chair Lisbet Weir has announced her resignation. Director Boyes will be helping out Caroline Lynch, and agreed with President Kato as to the importance of the newsletter being regular.

Scholarships: Committee Chair (and President Emeritus of the Society) Mike Sheffield, reported that 301 scholarship applicants were received, thanked the other members of the committee, and reported on the three recipients for 2018-2019, Carson Butler (a repeat winner), Reese Caldwell, and Emma Sebesta. He also reported the rest of the top ten finalists. Lastly, Chair Sheffield reported on the results of a poll of the membership as to whether they think the Society should focus on increasing the amount of the scholarships or increasing the number of scholarships awarded – THS members preferred continuing to increase the amount by 56.7% to 44.3%.

Webmaster: VP-Secretary Rule reported on the much-appreciated activities of our webmaster, Rob Hays, and the fact that he donates hosting and domain registration fees himself.

Electoral Processes: Committee Co-Chair Will Hamilton reported that 55.6% of eligible members voted in the Society’s recent elections for Board of Directors for a total of 179 votes. Director Walt Boyes was ratified to finish out the balance of the late Dr. Pournelle’s term. For the “usual” three seats from the 2018 class, Betsey Wilcox and Herb Gilliland were re-elected, and Mike Sheffield (returning to the Board after an absence of four years) was elected to the open seat created by Dr. Kato’s retirement.
Ahead in 2019, 2020, 2021:

President Kato talked about future conventions that the Society might attend.

Just for Fun:

President Kato reviewed rumored/reported Heinlein film projects that might appear in theaters in the future.

Good of the Society:

President Kato talked about the need of the Society to continue to grow, and the need for additional volunteers to make that happen. He also noted the “BACH Concerto” (Bradbury, Asimov, Clark, Heinlein) movement of legacy organizations for these authors to continue to work together cooperatively.

VP-Secretary Rule, noting chairing this meeting is Dr. Kato’s last official action as President of the Society, moved a vote of thanks from the membership for Dr. Kato’s long service on the Board of Directors, Vice President-Secretary, and President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. The motion was carried by acclamation.

“Open Mic” Member Feedback:

Member Ed Finneran thanked the Society volunteers for their service and accepting Retro Hugos on RAH’s behalf.

Member Michael Buck thanked Society volunteers for reaching out to former members to bring them back to active membership, and wondered if *Virginia Edition* volumes might show up individually or in smaller batches than a full set. VP-Secretary Rule explained *Virginia Edition* limitations with publisher rights prohibited sales of individual component volumes separately.

Member Andrew Hindle wanted to know if there would be a mailing list for Dublin Worldcon and was assured there would be a Newsletter outreach.
HSSWT Graphic Novel & Virginia Edition Raffle:

Treasurer Tilden explained the procedures of using the random.org random number generator to do the Society’s raffles. Three proctors were in charge of confirming the results as generated by random.org. Member Cathy Lynn Carlson was the member who joined at Worldcon to receive the Have Space Suit – Will Travel graphic novel.

New member Jonathan Darer was drawn as the winner of the Virginia Edition raffle once the result of random.org was cross-referenced to the eligible entries.

Adjournment: Chairman Kato entertained a motion to adjourn, said motion was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. PDT / 4:35 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Geo Rule

President and Chairman
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Attest: Chaska, Minnesota, on September 3rd, 2019