

Paying it forward

Fundraising report

By Alan Milner

The fundraising committee is looking for people, ideas and, well, money. Your money, as a matter of fact.

The founders of the Society have been funding the development of the organization out of their own pockets, but we are rapidly reaching the point where the continued growth of the Society will require infusions of revenue far beyond our individual capacities.

If we all agree with Robert's belief that one should pay the generosity one receives forward to the next recipient, unto the next generation, it becomes incumbent upon us to put our money where our mouths are; and the more who give, the less we need from each individual donor. Take that as a hint. In fundraising, as in misery, we love company.

We are now in the process of finalizing the operating budget for the year 2003, which will help us define the goals and objectives for the coming year and several years to come, culminating with the 2006-2007 centennial anniversary of Mr. Heinlein's birth. As soon as that task has been completed and the budget has been voted and approved by the Board of Directors, we will be in a position to kick off the Society's first annual fundraising campaign and, guess what? You're all invited to participate!

Membership dues will get us only so far, but dues alone cannot cover the cost of our basic operations. We are all going to have to dig a little deeper, into our own pockets, and then into the pockets of friends, relatives, associates, acquaintances, and then anyone else who has ever been thrilled by Robert's work ... and that number, colleagues, runs into

multiple millions. All we have to do is find them, and pluck them.

Believe it or not, in my work as a professional fundraiser (and for those of you who do not know, I am retired from that profession and doing this on a strictly voluntary basis), I often resorted to metaphors drawn from Robert's work. As readers, I challenge you to find them and forward your examples to me at SageMerlin@aol.com.

But, don't worry, I will be traveling to various events around the United States during the next year so, the chances are that sooner or later, we will meet, at which point the society will be a little richer and you will be a little happier for having been given an opportunity to express your generosity.

*Alan Milner
Fundraising chair
The Heinlein Society*

100 years of Heinlein

By Peter Scott

The Society aims to preserve and promote Heinlein's legacy to the greatest audience. A golden opportunity to do that is on the horizon: July 7, 2007 will be the 100th anniversary of Robert Heinlein's birth. A better excuse for bringing the master's name to public attention will not appear in our lifetimes, barring the discovery of flat cats on Mars.

Five years is not as long as you might think; this is the optimum length for a fundraising campaign. We can leverage that time to great advantage.

What can we do? Firstly, we'll need ideas to sift through. Be neither shy nor modest with your suggestions; we can decide what's impossible later, but right now, think Big. A plaque on Mars? Why

not — there must be several spacecraft scheduled to leave for and arrive at the Red Planet between now and then. A statue in Butler, Mo? A Heinlein Library? Don't like my ideas? Then send me yours. Whatever we do, it will be principally an excuse for getting mass media coverage so that as many people as possible will hear about Heinlein.

Secondly, we'll need money and people. No matter how little time and money you have, you can make a difference. Even if you're so busy that you figure you have an hour a month for this effort — that's over a work week by the time H-Day rolls around. That counts!

We'll set up a structure that will allow people to take on a task and recruit more people to whom they can delegate work

or who can float elsewhere in the organization. (The hierarchy will be very reminiscent of the cell structure in "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress," absent the secrecy and dodging the Warden's goons.)

Right now, we've just started. I am the Society's Centennial Committee chair by virtue of being the first to volunteer for the job. If you've got ideas, money, or time to donate, get in touch with me at Centennial@psdt.com. Here's our chance to make the name of Robert Heinlein shine. Let's make him proud!

*Peter Scott
Centennial Committee chair
The Heinlein Society*