

Minutes 2025 Annual Meeting

14 September 2025

Order of Business					
#	Item			Responsible	
1	Start Recording – 2000 Z, 1600 EDT, 1500 CDT, 1400 MDT, 1300 PDT			John Tilden	
2	Called meeting to order - 2001 Z, 1601 EDT, 1501 CDT, 1401 MDT, 1301 PDT			Ken Walters	
3	Board of Directors Introduced			Ken Walters	
	Ken Walters (President) - Present	Beatrice Kondo (Co-chair, Heinlein for Heroes) – Present			
	Walt Boyes (Vice President)	John Seltzer (Co-chair for Heinlein for Heroes) - Present			
	John Tilden (Treasurer) - Present	Jim Dutton			
	Joel Davis (Secretary) - Present	Mike Sheffield – (Chair of Scholarship Committee) = Present			
4	Committees			Ken Walters	
	Committee	Chair	Committee		Chair
	Heinlein for Heroes	John Seltzer	Operations		John Tilden
		Beatrice Kondo	Blood Drives		Joe Smiddie-Brush
	Membership	Jim Dutton	Social Media		Teresa Robinson
	Newsletter	Jim Dutton	Heinlein Award		Herb Gilland
	Scholarships	Mike Sheffield	Heinlein Journal		Herb Gilland
	Elections	Will Hamilton			
5	Roll Call – Present Joel Davis, John Tilden, Ken Walters, John Seltzer, Lester Dibeau, Andrew Hindle, John Grigg, Beatrice Kondo, Franklin Coleman, Carlin Black, Keith Kato, Ken Hays, Kevin Parris, Mike Sheffield, Penn Hackney, Ron Davis, Sharon Sheffield, Shepard Stone, Steven Daviss. Stuart Labovitz and Peter Scott arrived late (after roll call).			Joel Davis	
6	Quorum Certified - 2004 Z, 1604 EDT, 1504 CDT, 1404 MDT, 1304 PDT Joel Davis appointed Sergeant of Arms in absence of Walt Boyes			Ken Walters, John Tilden	
7	Approval of Minutes- No corrections offered. Corrections ratified 2005 Z, 1605 EDT, 1505 CDT, 1405 MDT, 1305 PDT			All	
8	Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee – Report given. Both total assets and scholarship fund from last year. Details in meeting slides at https://heinleinsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Annual-Meeting-Slides-Final.pdf . Shepard Stone asked: given that donations are in even dollars, how could donations be \$1,674.60? John Tilden reported that his donations to make up for credit card fees might not have been exact. Discussion: might also have been a foreign currency conversion. John Carlin asked how “in kind” donations are handled. John Tilden responded, “off the books.” Otherwise it would require submitting a receipt as well, getting reimbursed, then contributing the reimbursement back to the society.			John Tilden	
9	Secretary’s Report. Ken Walters reported that Joel has only been secretary for a week and won’t have much to report.			Joel Davis	
10	Vice President’s Report – No report, not present. Ken described his role.			Walt Boyes	
11	President’s Report – Meeting notice sent out 5 August 2025, complying with Bylaws. Reminders on website. Communicating with Art Dula (Heinlein Prize Trust) seeking more synergies. A big item is getting young people involved. Large movies help. A couple of deals are in the works: “Starship Troopers” and “Citizen of the Galaxy.”			Ken Walters	

12	Blood Drives – Joe not present but Carlin (previous chair) reported. He gave history, going back to Robert Heinlein starting it in 1976 at Worldcon. Several drives authorized, San Diego Comic-Con is the big one. Looking for coordinators; easy except day of Con. Joe or John will help. Mike Sheffield described several good ones: GenCon, DragonCon, and WonderCon. DragonCon set a record this year with 5813 units.	Joe Smiddie-Brush
13	Heinlein for Heroes – This year we shipped 7,124 books, in 376 shipments. Since the inception in 2013, over 59,000 books. We expect to keep doing at least 6,000 books per year. The Heinlein Society provides the books, and the Heinlein Prize Trust, gives us grants for shipping expenses. We buy some books directly from eBay, particularly Heinlein Books and other things, but we get a lot of books donated, and so we're grateful, first of all, to some publishers, such as Bain Books and Galaxy Press, and also David Brin made a large donation of his latest book, and then just individual members, and even people that are not members. Donate used science fiction and fantasy books, and help us. If you have books and you're not near one of us, and you want to ship them to us by media mail, we'll reimburse you.	John Seltzer Beatrice Kondo
14	Operations – Details of website operations in meeting slides at https://heinleinsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Annual-Meeting-Slides-Final.pdf. 68,064 sessions this year. Most visited non-home page was scholarships.	John Tilden
15	Membership Services – Ken noted that Jim has been out for a few months sick, we hope he recovers. Right now, end of FY25, we had 565 active members; We are declining. I think that we had a high in 2022 of 1,065, and since we've been moving down from that. I think part of that is the way we advertise and Facebook, which was a primary way we were gathering new members, changed the algorithms a bit, so we're still trying to kind of work our way through that. End of this year, also, we had 104 lifetime members, which is very good, and we encourage people to join as a lifetime. Meanwhile, we've engaged in successful social media outreach through Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Lemmy, Discord, and Twitter or X now. Currently, we have more than 360,000 followers on Facebook, and on the Heinlein Society page, and 4,200 plus as members in the Heinlein Forum group. So, certainly, we're getting the word out.	Jim Dutton Ron Davis
16	Scholarships – Winners announced: Kat Crawford won the Virginia Heinlein Scholarship winner. Nora Kane, won the Robert A. Heinlein Scholarship winner. Nivriti Varanasi won the Dr. Jerry Pournelle Scholarship. Natalie Yen won the Dr. Yoji Kondo Scholarship. And details on winners in meeting slides at https://heinleinsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-Annual-Meeting-Slides-Final.pdf. Background - This was our 14th year. We started doing scholarships in 2012. In total, we've now awarded \$103,250 in scholarships. We started out at 2 scholarships, \$500 each, and now we're doing 4 scholarships of \$4,000 each. Carlin Black offered a comment on scholarships. Our last year's winner of a scholarship just published as a junior at college in, Journal of the American Chemical Society's as a second author. Ken Walters added that he will probably publish again this year.	Michael Sheffield

17	Election of Incumbent Board Members – Report by Ken Walters. We asked the membership to nominate people... themselves or other people to be on the board? Unfortunately, this year, no one was nominated, except for the people that were, already running. So, since no one stepped forward, we have 3 seats, held by Ken Walters, Joel Davis and Dr. Beatrice Kondo, who've agreed to stand for re-election. John Tilden took the gavel. We want to approach this as an election of a slate, unless anybody would propose to divide. Discussion was asked about that. None. Sharon Sheffield moved to elect the slate by acclamation. All ayes. No nays. Passed. Gavel returned to Ken. Second issue - About a year ago, Geo Rule resigned from the board, and he was the treasurer at the time, so we appointed John Tilden to the board, and also appointed him as treasurer. Need to confirm that. Also, Betsy Wilcox just resigned from the board, and so John is filling her slot for the next 2 years (the elective slot, not the office). Geo's spot will also remain open for 2026, unless the board selects a new candidate. So right now, we have 8 board members, and we're supposed to have 9. So, we are still missing a board member, but we don't have anyone to appoint at this time. So I need to call for a confirmation of John Tilden's seat on the board. Mike Sheffield moved to confirm John Tilden for Geo's elective slot on the board. Seconded by Penn Hackney. Approved unanimously.	Will Hamilton Ken Walters John Tilden
18	Academic/Heinlein Journal – Ken Walters reported. Issue number 32 in spring of 2025, and personally, I think it was our best issue yet, but we're still having problems gathering articles, so that we have enough to publish, and so if anyone Has any article that they think that they could write, or something that they would be interested in seeing in the journal, then please step up at any time, and we would... I know that Herb would love to chat with you. Carlin Black suggested that essays by the Scholarship applicants might be expanded into a journal article. Joel noted that we'd need to ask their permission. Carlin responded of course... and that they might want to expand them into something more scholarship. They agreed that it might be a good idea.	Herb Gilland

19	Good of the Society – Ken Walters: we need more volunteers. The “Ensign’s prize” is still available. Opened up meeting for free-form Q&A: Keith Kato - In January of this year, he forwarded to the board a proposal from Tim Kiger, chairman of the 2007 Heinlein Centennial. for a letter-writing campaign to, name a new destroyer after Heinlein. At that time, the new Secretary of the Navy had not been confirmed, but has still heard nothing back. We had the Hall of Famous Missourians campaign, which came to fruition, so I'm just curious, what happened. Ken responded that we did, publish it, on the Heinlein Society page on Facebook, and other social media groups, and we shared it, I think it was also in the Heinlein Forum, and also a couple of the other Heinlein groups. We passed that information around, and advertised it. It hasn't made it any further because there hasn't been anybody, championing that to make sure it gets into a newsletter, etc. Newsletter's been, unfortunately, in flux because, you know, Jim has been ill for a good chunk of the year. John Tilden added that it's been out there electronically but we haven't done anything more for it. Since it's not our campaign, we've advertised it, but ... but we're not pushing it. Ken agreed to see if the idea was still being promoted. Ken Haws reminded anyone taking further action to be careful of details, making sure of ID numbers, whether ships are about to be, in, or stricken from service, etc. Ron Davis - The Society is incorporated in Texas, correct? Texas has a new requirement that you put a registered agent with an address in Texas. Have you guys been able to handle that? John Tilden responded, It's not a new requirement. We have. Our registered agent is Eric Gignac, on our board of advisors, who's a resident of Texas, so yes. Carlin Black - I have the time and would be willing to serve as a point person to, contact scholarship winners vis-à-vis Journal articles. Len noted that it probably would be better for him to touch base with Mike (then offline) and probably, Herb Gilliland. John Tilden - John Tilden (JT): We didn't have a formal in-memoriam slide this year. I did want to note, within this year, the passing of Jim Gifford. Jim had a checkered past with the Society, but, he was a very early member and instrumental in formation, so I'm very sorry to hear of his passing.	All
20	Coming Conventions in 2026 - LACon 5 (Anaheim, CA), DragonCon (Atlanta, GA), LibertyCon (Chattanooga, TN). Asked Finnish Fandom if they would be at LACon 5. Discussing more of a Heinlein life exhibit. We need “boots on the ground” at these important Cons. Keith Kato – At same time as WorldCon in LA, Disney will be having Beauty and the Beast will be playing at the Pantages theater. Maybe we can leverage that. Mike Sheffield indicated that he will be retired by then, so will be of more help.	John Tilden
21	Raffles -- For the 25th anniversary, we're running an extra raffle this year. We're going to give away, two books from Heinlein's Personal Library, donated by Heinlein Prize Trust: “The Practice” by Alan Norse, and “Experiment in Autobiography” by H.G. Wells. Random number picked from random.org. Winners – “The Practice” – Bonnie Walker “Experiment in Autobiography– James Sloan (new member; not on line) Virginia Edition – Michael Croteau This is the 8th time we have done this.	John Tilden
22	Adjourn – Mike Sheffield moved. Penn Hackney seconded. Passed with no objections. 2055 Z, 1655 EDT, 1555 CDT, 1455 MDT, 1355 PDT	Ken Walters