# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY

## August 2026 Newsletter



Editor: Jim Dutton

Society Directors and Committee Chairs

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# Letter from the Editor

Another August comes upon us, and this isn't the last time in this month's newsletter that I'll remind our members with a renewal date this month to make sure you renew before September 1. That get you into the drawing for the annual award of a Virginia Edition of all Heinlein fiction and correspondence! It sells for $1500, although sometimes the Heinlein Prize Trust, which produced that magnificent product, does run a sale on it! 😊

Also, later this month, look for an email with announcement of the date and time of the Heinlein Society Annual Meeting (via Zoom) in early September. It's always a lively and interesting meeting, so sign into the meeting and enjoy. You don't have to have Zoom. It will work through your browser.

I want to give a special mention to long-time Heinlein Society Board member, and the editor of The Heinlein Journal, Herb Gilliland. We lost Herb earlier this year, to our grief and great regret. A friend of Heb's daughter made a contribution to the Society in his name. We placed that contribution in the scholarship fund, so in a way, with interest, Herb will continue his contribution to the Society indefinitely.

*Jim Dutton, August 20, 2026*

# Herbert Gilliland — Editor-in-Chief, 2020–2026



Dr. Gilliland was a retired professor of English at the United States Naval Academy, and a retired naval reserve captain. He taught courses there on topics ranging from Renaissance literature to science fiction. He particularly enjoyed teaching a special course on Robert Heinlein, a graduate of the Naval Academy and the author of Starship Troopers. (The first college course ever dedicated entirely to Heinlein.) Herb's scholarly work tended to be concerned with naval history. He was the author of Voyage to a Thousand Cares: Master's Mate Lawrence with the African Squadron 1844–1846, which received the North American Society for Oceanic History's John Lyman Book Award. With Robert Shenk, he co-authored the biographical Admiral Dan Gallery: The Life and Wit of a Navy Original. Although he wrote many things since, Dr. Gilliland was always proud that his very first appearance in public print was a letter to John Campbell published in Astounding magazine.

Herb was also a member of the board for the Robert A. Heinlein Award, given annually to a science fiction writer whose work has inspired exploration of space. Dr. Gilliland was appointed by the board to fill a vacancy in 2015 and elected by the membership to a three-year term later in 2015. He was re-elected to a second three-year term in 2018 and chosen by the Board of Directors to be Vice President – Secretary in the same year. He was appointed Chair of the Academic Committee and Editor-in-Chief of The Heinlein Journal in 2020.

# The Heinlein Society Annual Meeting

*This is always a fascinating event. Sign in and attend if you can. The meeting is scheduled for September 13—but no worries—that's not a Friday.*

Board Members Running for Re-Election

This year we did not have any new candidates for our Board of Directors. Below is some basic information the Directors provided about their goals.

A full list of our board and committee chairs is located on our website.

**Ron Davis:**

If reelected to the board and continuing as membership chair, I want to:

- Create a streamlined system to onboard new members. Provide them quickly with their membership card to encourage them to be active in the Society.- Set up a membership funnel that we can feed prospects to and convert them to members.

- Create a new system for tracking members easily.

**John Seltzer:**

John's goals are to help grow membership, continue to grow the Society Website with the addition of new posts and articles; assist the Heinlein Journal with research and continue to grow the H4H program.

**Walt Boyes:**

My goals are to develop and implement a marketing organization and establish marketing campaigns that will draw new membership and provide a channel for donation to the work of the society.

**Jim Dutton:**

Continue with our Newsletter and the fine work done by the Society formed to honor my lifelong favorite author.

# 2026 Scholarship Winners

Every year, The Heinlein Society awards scholarships to bright young minds with STEM majors. This writeup was furnished by Society Board member Mike Sheffield, our Scholarship Chair.

**2026 Scholarship Winners**

The number of applications we receive continues to tick up, from 289 last year to 310 this year. However, we had fewer international applicants this year. There were a total of 40 international applicants from 22 different countries.

The ratio of female to male applicants remained about the same, with 225 female, 66 male, and 19 who made no selection. Ethnically our numbers were: 128 White, 52 Black, 47 Asian, 33 Hispanic, 7 Middle Eastern, 2 Pacific Islander, 2 Native American, 1 Caribbean, 19 multi-ethnic and 19 who made no entry. Ages ranged from 17 to 36 years old.

Here are our five winners:

**Riya Gupta** – Riya wins our new, currently unnamed scholarship. She will be attending California Institute of Technology as a sophomore, majoring in mechanical engineering. Riya's career goals are to develop innovative technologies that address challenges in sustainability and assistive technology. She had done volunteer service as an intern and mentor at NASA STEM Enhancement in Earth Science developing machine learning models to predict wildlife occurrence. She is also the first Cal Tech student to be selected as a member of the Rose Court at the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena.

**Nora Kane** – Nora is a repeat winner from last year, and this year wins the Virginia "Ginny" Heinlein Scholarship. She is entering her junior year at the California Institute of Technology with a dual major of physics (emphasis on astrophysics) and English. Nora has spent hundreds of hours providing free tutoring to STEM students. She has done volunteer work with the Brookhaven National Laboratory since she was sixteen. After she completes her undergraduate degree, she plans to pursue a PhD focused on the geometry of space time with the end goal of becoming a physics professor.

**Leslie Manga-Abomo** – Leslie wins the Robert A Heinlein Scholarship. She is majoring in biology at the University of Connecticut and is entering her junior year. Her career goal is to attend medical school and become an OB/GYN. Leslie is deeply committed to women's health and gender equity and will use her knowledge and skills to provide compassionate healthcare and advocate for patient autonomy and access. She has already been demonstrating her dedication through her community service with Reproductive Health of New Hampshire.

**William Mar** – William is the winner of the Dr. Yoji Kondo Scholarship. In the fall he begins his sophomore year at the University of Texas at Austin with an electrical and computer engineering major. William's life goal is to develop AI driven medical detection tools to catch diseases like cancer in the early stages. He is an Amazon Future Engineer Scholar. In high school he started the Reach Through Rackets program to provide tennis lessons to children with disabilities and has traveled to Cambodia and Vietnam to do volunteer work at orphanages.

**Evan Sturdivant** – Evan is the Dr. Jerry Pournelle Scholarship recipient. He is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Washington and will be a sophomore in the fall. Evan has done extensive community service with local food banks, homeless shelters, and toy drives, also as a volunteer physical education teacher. He also traveled to Mexico to help with an effort to feed and house orphans.

Our other finalists are:

- Veronica Mok
- Lily Myers
- Sanjay Nair
- Nevin Roy
- Ayazhan Shuinshbay
- Nina-Rose Smith
- Sarah Witte

We wish our winners, and indeed all the applicants, great success in their academic pursuits and in their future careers. We have no doubt that they will use their knowledge as a springboard to Pay It Forward.

# Virginia Edition Giveaway

If your membership renews in between now and early September, don't forget to renew on time, because each year at the annual membership meeting in early September we have a drawing for a complete set of the Heinlein Virginia Edition, kindly provided for the drawing by the Heinlein Prize Trust each year. Only current members are eligible to be included in the drawing. Sadly, we members of the Society Board are NOT eligible to participate. Last year, I became a Life Member. If you are not on the Board, a Life Membership would make sure you are in the drawing every year. Should you win, the value of the prize is double the cost of a Life membership. 😊 So, renew now and make sure you are in the mix when we pull the name!

# Heinlein for Heroes

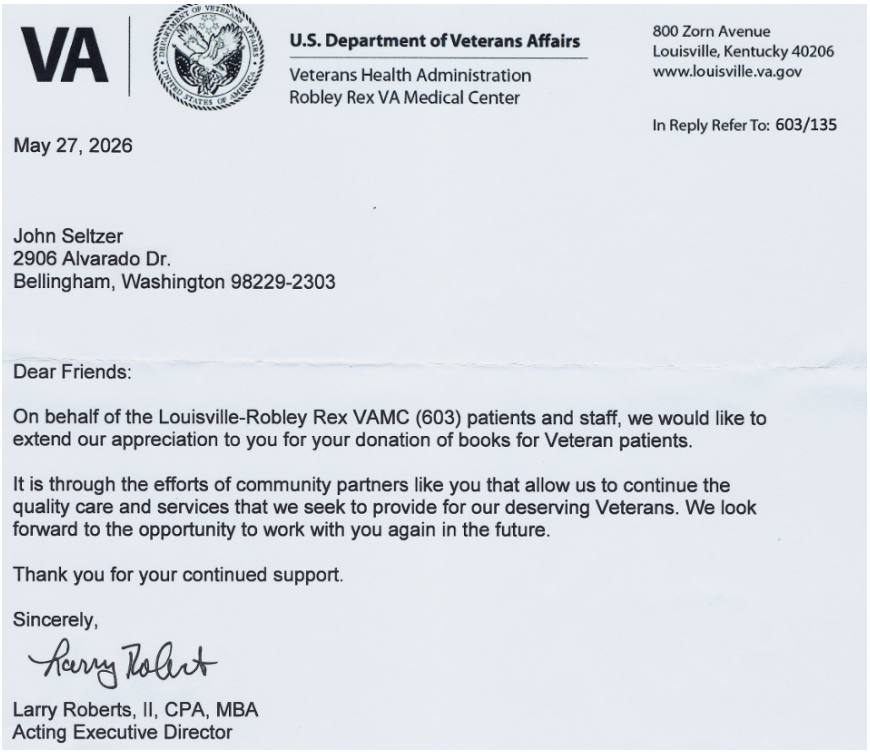
Society Board member John Seltzer is the long-time face and muscle behind the H4H program. Board member Beatrice Kondo has also joined the program and is doing great work along with John!

| | |
|---|---|
| Betsy<br>JHSeltzer | $50.00/monthly<br>$25.00 |
| **Books Donated in JUNE** | |
| Baen books (John) | 5 med boxes |
| Terry Somerville (John) | 1 large heavy box |
| Half Price books (Dan Miller/John) | 1 ½ med boxes pb books |
| **Books purchased in JUNE** | |
| eBay (John) | 150 RAH books |
| **Shipped in JUNE** | |
| **37 Boxes** | **776 books** |
| **H4H activity for Fiscal Year 2026 (10 months)** | |
| **316 boxes** | **7,186 Books** |
| **H4H Program Total Since Inception** | **67,286 books** |

John Seltzer reports:

June was a very busy month. Operation Paperback asked for us to send extra books to seven locations that are starting new libraries. Fortunately, we had enough inventory to fill their request.

We also received this very nice letter.



VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Robley Rex VA Medical Center

800 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
www.louisville.va.gov

In Reply Refer To: 603/135

May 27, 2026

John Seltzer
2906 Alvarado Dr.
Bellingham, Washington 98229-2303

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Louisville-Robley Rex VAMC (603) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of books for Veteran patients.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Larry Roberts

Larry Roberts, II, CPA, MBA
Acting Executive Director

## What the Heinlein Society Does

**Click the image to Join or Renew!!**




And folks, membership in this great organization is slipping month by month. Please consider renewing your membership, getting your name in the Virginia Edition Drawing, and supporting all the initiatives above.

# Heinlein Society Blood Drives

The Society will have our normal blood drives at Cons again this year, but please get involved! Contact our Blood Drive Chair for assistance in organization one of these life-saving events in your area.

**If you know anyone who might be interested in coordinating a blood drive, have them contact BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org.**







We will do all the work with the Blood Center to make it happen.

And we have a Donor Wall page online.

🐉 ✨ The 2026 Dragon Con blood donor pin has arrived!

We're excited to reveal this year's collectible pin, created for Dragon Con's 40th Anniversary.

If you're attending Dragon Con and have a blood donation appointment, you'll receive this exclusive keepsake while supplies last. Don't have an appointment yet? Make one at appt.lifesouth.org/DC26

A huge thank you to the incredible donor community that makes this tradition possible year after year. We can't wait to see you in Atlanta!

❤️ Happy Dragon Con!


2026 DRAGON CON
PIN REVEAL
DRAGON CON
40TH ANNIVERSARY
2026 BLOOD DONOR
All donors who make an appointment
receive a Dragon Con pin!
SHOTTSY ARTS
LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

# The Heinlein Journal

**The Heinlein Journal is seeking authors.**

Do you have a neat Heinlein-related idea you thought you might write up in an academic manner some day? As a wise person once advised, put the seat of your pants in the chair in front of your keyboard and start!

And if you have some ideas for the types of articles you'd like to see in the Journal, let us know! We'll try to fulfill some wish lists!

Reach out to:

editor@heinleinsociety.org



# Upcoming Cons

WorldCon 2026 in Anaheim CA – The Heinlein Society will have a presence at WorldCon. If you attend, be sure to come by and see us!

DragonCon September 3-7 in Atlanta GA

And: This site keeps track of most upcoming cons. There you will find June Cons in Hauppauge NY, Rapid City SD, and South Portland ME. For July, there are Cons in Rosemont IL, Indianapolis IN, and West Springfield MA.