

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

September 2008
Volume 8, Issue 3

Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

If you can dream it,
we can do it.

Mission

Rockwell Collins retirees connecting to identify and support volunteer needs in our community and beyond, while enriching the lives of the volunteers.

Officers

Jim Green – Chairman
Rod Thorpe – Vice
Chairman
Don Grimm – Secretary
Arlo Meyer - Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Pete Jurgens – Recruiting/
Retention/Recognition
Chuck Wehage –
Communications
Angela Burns – Agency Liaison
Jim Klein – Data Base

Web Site

<http://rcrv.org>
e-mail: contact@rcrv.org

RCRV
927 N. Compton Drive
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
319-393-9637 (voice mail)



RCRV Meetings

Community Projects Team

The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 in our office in the REACT Center where we discuss future and current projects. Service agency representatives submit new project requests on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.

New Retirees Orientation

Informational meetings for new retirees or others interested in becoming active members of RCRV are held at 9 AM on the third Thursday of each month at the REACT Center (927 N. Compton Dr. in Hiawatha). Those of you interested in learning more about RCRV and the many volunteer opportunities we offer are encouraged to attend. ♦

No Donut Hole for R-C Humana Group/Medicare Retiree Plans

Humana/Right Source has notified some retirees that the \$2510 retail price has been exceeded, so that the retiree is liable for retail prescription prices until reaching the \$4100 level (where the copay becomes 5%). The increase in out-of-pocket charges between the

\$2510 and \$4100 benefit levels is popularly known as the “donut hole”, and applies to most Medicare Part D prescription plans. This is not the plan you have thru Rockwell-Collins. **Your plan does NOT have a donut hole.** Check credit card charges carefully. Complain to RightSource if you are charged more than you should. For assistance, if Humana and RightSource do not resolve the problem, call Pete Jurgens at 319-377-3215 or John McDonough at 319-431-4144. It is accurate that at \$4100 retail price there is a transition to the Catastrophic Plan. ♦

Retiree Insurance for 2009

The several RCRV members that are also SHIIP counselors are holding a series of seminars again this fall to explain what the Rockwell Collins retiree insurance options are for 2009. The seminars will be held at Kirkwood Training & Outreach Services (KTOS for the young folks, and Armar for the rest of us) on October 27, 28 and 29, and November 3. Sessions will be at 10 AM and 1:30 PM on each of those days. The counselors will field questions at the end of each presentation, and will be available for one-on-one conversations as in past years. Reservations are required, and can be made by calling Heritage Area Agency on Aging (319)398-5559 or 1-800-332-5934. ♦

Charitable Giving Program

Last issue, we announced the Rockwell Collins program granting \$10,000 to be awarded by RCRV to deserving community organizations. The theme for this year's grants is "science and technology education". An RCRV committee consisting of Rod Thorpe, Kay Nelson, Jack Murphy, Helen Pothoff and John Wauer did the application evaluations. The applicants were required to meet Rockwell Collins standards for charitable donations, and a stringent test for alignment with the theme.

This year, the awards went to Four Oaks Bridge (Four Oaks Dummermuth Intergenerational Center) in the amount of \$5,000, and The Cedar Amateur Astronomers, also \$5,000.

According to Greg Frohner, president of EIOLC, the grant will be applied to expanding outreach activities of the observatory. Greg (also a member of RCRV) says that after three years of

sweat equity and fundraising, Linn County now has a first class facility, worth \$1.5M, that needs to be utilized by area schools and organizations.

The other grant recipient was Four Oaks Bridge. The funds will provide kids opportunities not otherwise available, including this year's new activity, Lego League. The Bridge will acquire a laptop and projector, which will provide children with an introduction to computer use, including PowerPoint presentations.

The partnership between Rockwell Collins and RCRV has brought these awards to the community entirely because of the volunteer hours we report to RSVP. If you are volunteering in the community, please let us know about it by signing up with RCRV, so we can continue to make good things happen around here.

We expect that this program will continue, with next year's theme to be decided next spring. ♦

Retiree Death Benefits

When a retiree passes, the family needs to call 1-800-236-3071 and provide information to the Benefits Group for Retirees. There is no standard death benefit or life insurance benefit; it all depends on the company providing benefits and the options selected at the time of retirement. This newsletter will be archived on our web site, so it will be available when the need arises. Just remember to check the site.

We have also been advised to protect the identity of loved ones who have passed away, according to the Iowa Attorney General. The AG recommends notifying the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the US Department of State (if a passport was ever issued), and the three major credit repositories (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). The Attorney General's office telephone is (515) 281-8789; they can go over all the recommendations and provide addresses and phone numbers. ♦



EIOLC grant presentation. From left, RCRV sponsoring member Vern Jackson, EIOLC president Greg Frohner, RCRV and EIOLC member Helen Pothoff and Jim Green, RCRV chairman.

Four Oaks Bridge grant presentation. From left, Mary Beth Minges and Ron Karkosh of Four Oaks Bridge, RCRV sponsor Jack Rector and Jim Green

Where Do We Start?

The stories by RCRV members dealing with the floods of June, 2008 cover every aspect of neighbors helping neighbors. This is one account – typical of hundreds. Let us know your story.

1. I helped sandbag at Palo. This was a hopeless project. I could see that we were not going to be able to protect the town. I still kept working although about the only thing that was accomplished was to show the other folks that I was trying to support them.
2. The home of _____ was flooded and I helped remove furniture and items from the basement. We took out the dry wall and paneling and washed down the walls with bleach. This house received flash flood water so it was not as bad as some of the other places I worked.
3. The home of _____ had a finished basement that did not get any water in the flood of '93 but this time it got both river water and sewer back up. This was a really nasty job to clean up. We had to cut up carpet and take down furniture in addition to removing dry wall and paneling.
4. The home of _____ was in the Time Check area. This was an especially sad situation. His wife had passed on earlier and he was recovering from a heart attack. He had been staying in a nursing home so he was not able to recover anything from his home. His son from out of state came and helped. This house was in bad shape. It had been moved off of the foundation and we were never able to safely get into the flooded basement. We probably should not have even been in the house. This place had the most mud of any of the places I visited. I did find

money and jewelry along with some other important items that the family wanted to save. I expect this place will be destroyed.

5. The home of _____ is in Palo. When I started working there they had already removed household items and our effort was to tear out dry wall, hardwood floors, and sub floors. This was a fairly new house and it will be restored. Of course it still is located in an area that will be at risk of flooding.
6. The home of _____ was an old house. She and other volunteers had been working several days when I started helping there. I doubt that this place can be saved without excessive cost. It is an old house with plaster walls. The river reached about four feet on the first floor. I helped haul stuff out to the curb. Some of the near by houses had red stickers and I think this place will also be demolished, but she had not reached that conclusion herself so we continued to help her.
7. The home of _____ mother was only a block away. Her mother is in her 80's and will probably never be able to move back. On this house we stripped out the walls and floors. The house probably could be repaired but some of the places around it have red stickers so perhaps the neighborhood will determine the fate of this house.

It has been a sad but interesting job to help people whose homes have been lost in the flood. As we started to clean out the items from houses the typical approach was to attempt to save everything but as time passed folks threw out more and more. As one helping, I always followed the wishes of the owners. It seems to take a while for many to come to the recognition that it

will never be back the way it used to be.

FAX Your Prescriptions to RightSource

When the doctor or dentist prescribes a new drug, by far the best way to let RightSource know about it is to have the office fax the correct form. Prescriptions frequently arrive within a week when done this way. To obtain the forms with a computer, go to www.rightsourcerx.com

- > Tools & Resources
- > Important forms for your mail order drugs
- > Physician Fax Form,

or go directly to: <http://apps.humana.com/marketing/documents.asp?file=675636>. It works best to print a couple, fill out the top part for each beneficiary, make copies and then ask the physician to keep a few in your file (or bring one when you visit the doctor). When you need medicines, the form can be faxed (must be from the doctor's office machine) to the 800 number on the form.

As always, refills of existing prescriptions are can be done on line (separate accounts for each beneficiary) or by phone to the 800 number on the prescription bottle. ♦



Member Profile

Jack Rector

Jack has been active in RCRV since its founding. His first experience of tutoring was at Taft Middle School in Math and Physics. During the last four years he has been one of John Wauer's helpers in the special courses called Kindergarten Science – a program to introduce physics at an early age. He was a Lego League mentor for the last two years.



Jack Rector

Jack has been on the Advisory Board of the Four Oaks Bridge since 1999. He was nominated by Bridge Director Carol Kalous for the Governor's Volunteer of the Year Award (2007) for work with After-school Children.

Jack spends time with his computers - emailing, doing some genealogy and managing family finances. He enjoys webcam contacts with his 3 year-old great-grand son in Colorado. He is an Amateur Radio operator as well.

Jack was enrolled at Texas A & M College when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941. As a ROTC student he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. and called to active duty in the Army in May, 1942. After a short indoctrination at Ft Monmouth, NJ, he was ordered to Iowa State College in July to organize a Signal Corps ROTC unit. While there, he met some wonderful people including Deans and Engineering Professors. That led to his eventual return to ISU as a Staff member. Also another big event happened – He met Alice, a Home Economics Student and romance ensued. Shortly after their marriage, ROTC was suspended and Jack was ordered to the "Real Army". He was Commander of a Signal Service detachment when the unit deployed to the South Pacific Zone in 1944. His unit

was staging in the Philippines when the A-bombs landed on Japan.

Following return from service and finishing his BSEE degree at A &M, he accepted an instructorship at ISU and also earned his MSEE. After a year in the Aerospace industry he Joined Collins in 1952, a challenging time because the company was expanding its product line into flight displays and automatic flight control and other avionics systems. He became Project Engineer on the company's first Autopilot. He was Director of Flight Control Systems when Collins developed the first successful Auto-land System to be certified for Category II landing in the USA. But that is another whole story. What a great time, to be working with the World's finest engineers - at Collins and they paid you to have fun!

Jack and Alice have three sons and one daughter with homes in Iowa, Texas Colorado and New Mexico. They have two grand daughters, three grand sons and one great grand son. ♦

Wheelchair Ramp Construction



RCRV members installed this temporary aluminum ramp (left) last winter for a client about to be discharged from the hospital after a serious injury. Later this summer RCRV members replaced the temporary ramp with this permanent wooden ramp (right). The aluminum ramp was donated to WRAP for use in situations such as this.