

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

February 2009  
Volume 9, Issue 1

## 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  
Barbara Hoffman – 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](mailto:contact@rcrv.org)

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



## RCRV Meetings

### Community Projects Team

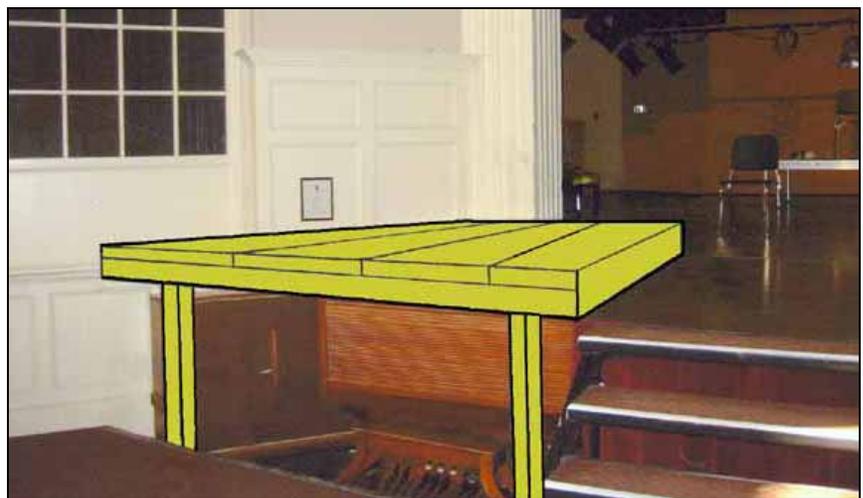
The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 in our office in the REACT Center where we discuss future and current projects. Service agency representatives submit new project requests on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.

### 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. ♦

## Sinclair Auditorium Stage Extension

For the past couple of months, a group has looked into adding a platform over the top of the Skinner organ console in Sinclair to accommodate a few more musicians during Orchestra Iowa performances. RCRV member Norm Wright has done the detail design for a stage extension made of relatively lightweight sections, yet is designed to commercial standards for structural integrity and strength. The next phase, assuming funding and approval to proceed from Coe College and Orchestra Iowa, will be construction and installation. The stage extension will not be installed except for Orchestra Iowa performances, so that the organ is available for Coe activities. ♦



Stage Extension at Sinclair Auditorium

# Vision in Motion

Cedar Rapids Vision in Motion is located off Williams Boulevard near K-Mart. RCRV Board Member Carol Luth is the director. Carol was the volunteer coordinator at Aging Services, and has been working closely with RCRV for several years.

VIM is in a laboratory-like setting that provides a broad spectrum of vision wellness services for toddlers through seniors. A holistic approach is apparent, where clients can learn how to perceive more with what vision they already have. Stroke or other brain injury patients can recover lost vision, and athletes can improve reaction time with specialized equipment.

As the services expand, VIM has sought RCRV help in building training and therapy devices like one-legged “milk stools”, therapy tables and benches, and even a full blown kitchen used to train low vision patients with the help of an occupational therapist..

Co-located with VIM is the Vision Enhancement Center, which used to be at the Aging Services office on First St. NW. This is a retail store where a wide range of vision aids is available for purchase, from magnifiers to large format camera/display viewers. ♦



Maze used in Occupational Therapy for low vision clients



“Sammy” being put through the paces by Vision-in-Motion’s Clinical Manager, Therese Molloy



This kitchen is under construction by RCRV members Tonneson, Wells and Brennom. This facility is an adaptive “laboratory” for training low vision clients. They could use a countertop – call RCRV if you know where materials might obtained.



Adjustable therapy tables constructed by Arlo Meyer



# Organ Restoration

RCRV has partnered with the History Center and CRATOS (Cedar Rapids Area Theater Organ Society) to restore the two organs. The consoles of the Wurlitzer Organ from the Paramount Theater and the Barton Rhinestone Organ from the Theatre Cedar Rapids, formerly the Iowa Theater, were both heavily damaged in the flood of last June.

The History Center is furnishing the space and CRATOS the technical direction for the work to be done by RCRV. The space is the former NAPA building at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE. The facility was given to the History Center several years ago but never cleaned out. RCRV helped tear out the old cabinets and painted the interior walls and installed lighting. The facility now protects the consoles as the building is heated with the Alliant supplied steam.

At the present time work on the consoles is awaiting funds and formals go-aheads. The Wurlitzer is part of the Paramount Theater and belonging to the City of Cedar Rapids, is involved in the Paramount decision. The Barton, locally owned, is involved with FEMA and their decision cycle to supply restoration funds.

CRATOS is at the present time arranging, with RCRV help, to get the Barton lifting mechanism at the Theatre Cedar Rapids removed and transferred to the NAPA building so that RCRV can perform the work necessary for reinstallation.

Many RCRV members have been involved with the work in the past and others are signed up to contribute as the restoration work goes forward. ♦

When the organ restoration project gets under way, the public will be able to track progress at the old NAPA Auto Parts store on Second Avenue. This banner is already on display there



Barton Organ Console from Theatre Cedar Rapids



Not-So-Mighty Wurlitzer Console from the Paramount

# Member Profile

## Barbara Hoffman

Barbara Hoffman became the RSVP Program Director of Linn and Jones Counties July 2007 after serving as the Jones County Volunteer Coordinator for 1 year. Barb works closely with RCRV membership promoting new volunteer opportunities through RSVP and requesting (pleading) RCRV membership to turn in their volunteer hours. She is a member of RCRV Board of Directors, and has assumed the office of RCRV Secretary.



Barbara Hoffman

Barbara grew up in Cedar Rapids though has lived her adult life in California, Illinois, Wisconsin and returned to Iowa in 2006 after living in Ontario, Canada for 12 years. Barbara's background is in the field of education serving as a teacher at the middle school level for 20 years in Wisconsin and coordinator of an adult literacy program in Toronto for 5 years. Barbara has extensive volunteer experience in Ontario from a tour guide at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton to Volunteer Director of the Wildlife Art Festival in Buckhorn to P.E.O. Provincial President for Ontario and Quebec. Barbara believes in Ghandi's philosophy, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Currently, she is an

adult literacy volunteer tutor, a tutor for the STAR project at Johnson school and a member of the International Peace Scholarship Board of Trustees for P.E.O. Barbara also works part time at the family business, Daly Creek Winery and Bistro in Anamosa and enjoys giving "wine tastings".

Barbara and her husband, Chuck, have 4 children, 7 grandchildren and live on the family farm and vineyard east of Anamosa. Her interests include kayaking, reading, gardening and visiting family. ♦

## DIGITAL TV CONVERTER PROGRAM

On February 17 (or maybe June), most of your favorite TV programs will be available only in digital format IF RECEIVED OVER THE AIR. Cable- and dish-sourced programming will not see a change from this program. Even though the government has extended the switch-off date for analog TV to June, most of our local stations have decided to end analog on the original date. The stations are currently broadcasting both digital and analog formats. Folks with digital televisions, or have purchased converter can get much better reception than in the past, but it does require reading the book.

For those needing some help with DTV conversion, call Heritage Agency at 398-5559 in Cedar Rapids. Katherine Hines accepts requests, and passes them on to volunteers to help out. RCRV is one helper agency. ♦

## KUDOS FOR JACK RECTOR

Jack Rector, featured member in the last issue of The Volunteer, was selected as one of 9 Who Care Jefferson Awards in our community. Mary Beth Minges of the Four Oaks Bridge nominated Jack. Congratulate Jack when you see him. As a side note, the story came in for a Jay Leno elbow-in- the-ribs dig at Cedar Rapids, because eleven people were recognized – two awards went to couples that volunteer together.. Must not have been much political activity in the news that day. ♦

## RECORD HOURS AGAIN IN 2008

In 2008, RCRV membership donated a record 37,918 volunteer hours to their communities. FEMA has placed a value of \$13.25 per volunteer hour which make RCRV's contribution of over a half million dollars. 180 members or 88% of the membership contributed toward this record. Each year since 2002, the hours donated has exceed the previous year's total. There's no reason that can't continue for a long time.

Of course, we all know that the 3,700-plus retirees donate much more time than RCRV records. Every hour that goes to a non-profit charity, church, community activity, whatever, can and should be accumulated by RCRV. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL and you really don't need to go to any more meetings if you don't want to. Just go to [www.rcrv.org](http://www.rcrv.org) or contact the RSVP office at 369-8775 to sign up. Please. ♦

