

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

January 2003  
Volume 3, 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

Mike Wilson – Chairman  
Jim Spencer – Vice Chairman  
Phyllis Brooks – Secretary  
Colleen Bickford - Treasurer

## Committee Chairs

John McDonough –  
Community Projects Team  
Ted Fuhrer – Recruiting/  
Retention/Recognition  
Rod Thorpe – Communications  
Pat Marshall – Agency Liaison

## Web Site

[www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv](http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv)  
e-mail:  
[rcrv@collinsclubs.com](mailto:rcrv@collinsclubs.com)

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



## Annual Meeting

The RCRV annual meeting was held on November 20, 2002, at the Kirkwood Community Outreach Center. Chairmen of the five standing committees gave reports on their activities during the past year and representatives of the nine community services agencies that participate with RCRV gave reports on their agencies.



Annual meeting

An election of officers was held and the membership elected:

Mike Wilson – Chairman  
Jim Spencer - Vice Chairman  
Phyllis Brooks – Secretary  
Colleen Bickford - Treasurer.

Standing Committee chairmen for the coming year are:

John McDonough - Community Projects Team  
Ted Fuhrer - Recruiting/Retention/Recognition  
Rod Thorp – Communications  
Pat Marshall - Agency Liaison  
Jim Klein - Data Base.

Cindy Deitz, Rockwell Collins representative, presented a citation and gift to Jack Hotchkiss, retiring RCRV Chairman, for being the inspiration for and first leader of RCRV and for his many accomplishments in the organization.

## Project News

RCRV has completed a wide variety of projects. Project categories are financial, advisory, devices for person with disabilities, projects for schools, construction projects and computer projects. Devices for persons with disabilities include games, low voltage switches, mechanical actuators, and other devices. This newsletter highlights four projects.



Citation for Jack Hotchkiss



Catapult

**Catapult**

Earl Tharp, a retired model shop machinist, designed and built a device that enables a person who cannot throw to shoot a basket, throw a football, serve a volleyball, toss a Frisbee, pitch a softball or engage in other similar activities. This was the first project completed by RCRV.

**Wheelchair ramps**

The Community Projects Team has designed and built two ramps for persons with disabilities. One ramp was built in a garage to allow a wheelchair bound Rockwell retiree access to her house. A second ramp was built to allow access to the front door of a

house. John McDonough designed the ramps and several RCRV members built them. The Carpenters Union 308 also assisted in the construction of the second ramp. We now have a partnership agreement with the union for their assistance in construction of future ramps.



Ramp inside garage

## Mission Statement and Vision

The RCRV Chairman has appointed an ad hoc strategic planning committee for the organization. The first action of this committee has been the establishment of a new mission statement and vision to guide RCRV in its activities.

**Mission Statement**

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

**Vision**

Provide Rockwell Collins retirees with the opportunity to participate in community volunteer services through RCRV.

Develop and maintain social interaction with RCRV members and others in the volunteer community.

Continually inventory the needs of the community and match them with the skills and desires of the Rockwell Collins volunteers.

Provide a comprehensive range of opportunities for interested retirees to utilize experienced-based skills, to gain the satisfaction of helping others, to keep the mind and body active and to receive recognition for services rendered.

Communicate with retirees on a regular basis regarding the activities of the organization, opportunities for involvement and the needs of the community.

Assist with their personal volunteer interests by linking them with RCRV resources and providing insight into community needs.



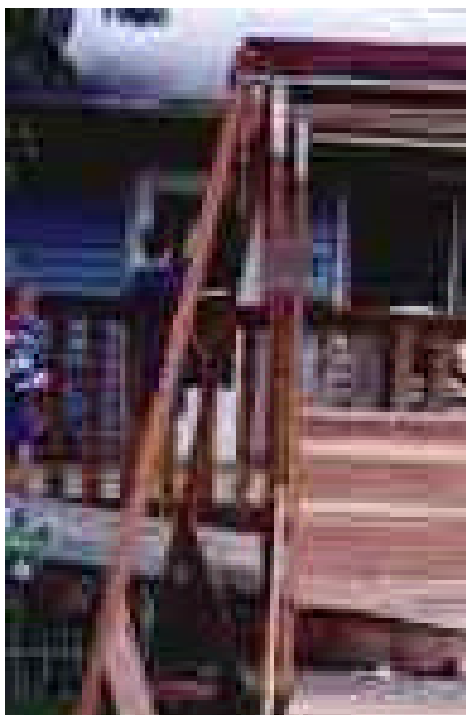
Ramp connected to front deck

**Wheelchair assessable swing**

A freestanding wheelchair accessible yard swing was designed and built by Bob Langridge using weather durable lumber. A wheelchair bound person may be pushed up a ramp onto the swing platform. There is a separate swing seat on the platform for another occupant to generate the swinging motion.



Swing with ramp up



The award wall

**Fishing Pole Controller**

People with disabilities who cannot hold a fishing pole cannot go fishing. Les Haerther designed and built a prototype device that will hold the pole, set the hook and reel in the line. Billie Ryder refined the design and built 5 more devices. The line must be cast out into the water by an able bodied person. Two switches, one to set the hook and one to reel in the line, activate the fishing pole. The device is operated from a 12 volt battery.

**Awards**

The outstanding volunteer efforts of RCRV have been amply recognized by several awards for service. These achievement awards include the Governor's Volunteer Award for 2000, Governor's Conference of Volunteer Service Hall of Fame Award in 2002, Friend of Education Award from 4-H, Friend of Education Award from Grant Wood AEA, Outstanding Community Service Award from Options of Linn County and the Outstanding Volunteer Special Award from Rockwell Collins for work on the K-12 Program.

In addition to these organizational awards, John McDonough who is the RCRV Community Projects Team Chairman received the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival Hero Award in 2002 for his volunteer effort in the startup of RCRV.



Fishing from a wheelchair



Fishing pole controllers



John McDonough and the Hero award

# Recent Bylaw Changes

At the January 15 Board of Directors meeting several changes were approved to the Bylaws of RCRV. These revisions reflect minor changes in the management structure, adoption of the new Vision and Mission Statement and changes to the membership procedures. Article V on Membership was changed to reflect that *all retired Rockwell Collins employees (and spouses) are RCRV members*. To become an active RCRV member, an individual submits registration information to RCRV, participates in an RCRV recognized activity and reports results and volunteer hours worked to RCRV.

The Bylaws are published on the RCRV web site [www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv](http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv).

## Member Profile

### Jack Hotchkiss

Jack Hotchkiss recently finished his term as the first chairman of RCRV. Jack provided the inspiration for the origination of RCRV and has been the driving force behind its successes to date.



Jack

The inspiration for the start of the organization came in 1997 from Jack's volunteer work in assistive technology

through Kiwanis International. He concluded from this effort that "the prices that handicapped people have to pay for assistive devices is a travesty" and decided that the large pool of Rockwell Collins retirees could be organized as volunteers to provide affordable, quality solutions. Assistive technology became the keystone for the start of RCRV but it has since diversified to include many types of volunteer work and has over 100 active members.

Jack graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1956 and shortly thereafter joined the Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids where he worked until his retirement in 1992. He and his wife Juanita live in Marion and recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. They have two children, D'Anne of Princeton, New Jersey, and John of Independence, Iowa.

## Volunteer Alert

As noted above, all Rockwell Collins retirees automatically become members of RCRV and we would like to encourage each of you to give serious consideration to becoming *active* members of the organization by registering and confirming your willingness to serve. This can be accomplished by calling RCRV at (319) 393-9637 (voice mail), email to [rcrv@collinsclubs.com](mailto:rcrv@collinsclubs.com) or through our web site at [www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv](http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv).

Many of you are actively involved in volunteer efforts outside the purview of RCRV and we would like to encourage you to register this activity through RCRV. Hopefully by linking this activity with RCRV you will find that it will enhance your resource availability and provide a more comprehensive list of community needs.

## RCRV Web Site

[WWW.COLLINSCLUBS.COM/RCRV](http://WWW.COLLINSCLUBS.COM/RCRV) is the best source of information on what the organization has accomplished and its current activities. The web site contains a database of most of the past and present activities and is constantly being updated. Photos and/or drawings of many devices built by RCRV members are available on the web site. Current projects that need a volunteer are listed. The web site also contains a calendar of events.

RCRV also maintains an e-mail discussion group located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rcrv1/>. Minutes of the Community Projects Team and other relevant information are sent to active RCRV members using this discussion group. If interested, you are welcome to sign up to receive these e-mails by either signing up at the above Yahoo site (click "Join This Group!") or by e-mail request to [rcrv@collinsclubs.com](mailto:rcrv@collinsclubs.com).



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927 N. Compton Drive  
Hiawatha, IA