

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

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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
Charles Wehage – Vice
Chairman
Phyllis Brooks – Secretary
Colleen Bickford - Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Pat Marshall – Recruiting/
Retention/Recognition
Rod Thorpe – Communications
Pat Marshall – Agency Liaison
Jim Klein – Data Base

Web Site

www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv
e-mail:
rcrv@collinsclubs.com

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



The Heart of Iowa

The Heart of Iowa - Area Substance Abuse Council is a mother and child substance abuse treatment center that serves women who have their children living with them and women who are pregnant. They have an on going need for help in remodeling the facility. RCRV volunteers are pictured below installing cabinets and painting at the Heart of Iowa facility in Cedar Rapids. RCRV has also repaired their playground equipment.♦



Painting the walls of the day care room of the Heart of Iowa



Cabinet installation crew

Community Projects Team meetings

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.♦

SHIIP-Senior Health Insurance Information Program

Iowans need to be alert to fraud occurring in the state with the new Medicare-approved drug discount cards. Several people have reported telemarketing and door to door sales people trying to sell the cards for a fee and requesting credit card and bank account information and social security numbers. Only Medicare approved cards can be sold and the maximum fee is \$30. Telemarketing and door-to-door sales of the cards are both prohibited.

For a list of approved card vendors visit the Medicare web site.

www.medicare.gov or contact a SHIIP counselor at RCRV at 319-393-9637 and leave a message. Your call will be returned shortly.

SHIIP is a service of the State of Iowa Insurance Division and the services are free and confidential.♦

Grant Wood AEA / Department of Corrections Joint Venture

RCRV has for some time been designing and producing adaptive technology devices on a limited scale to assist disabled students in the Grant Wood Area Education Agency. Recently Ann Griffin the Adapted Physical Education Consultant for Grant Wood AEA and Heidi Soethout the Community Program Monitor for the Sixth Judicial District - Department of Corrections, both RCRV Board members, have established a collaborative joint venture of their two agencies. The purpose of the collaborative effort will be to expand the production of devices and make them more available to meet the large demand within the AEA

Sixth Judicial District corrections clients have previously completed pilot production of RCRV designs and that effort will now be expanded utilizing the assets of three key counties (Tama, Johnson, and Linn) within the Sixth Judicial District. Corrections clients within these counties will be able to complete their community service requirements by working on the production of these devices and thereby meeting the needs of students with disabilities throughout the AEA area of East Central Iowa.

Bob Chapman an active member of RCRV will be our liaison on the project and if the venture is successful the long range plan is to expand it to a broader range of customers.♦



Corrections clients fulfilling community service requirements

Be a More Involved Volunteer

By Fred Rodgers

RCRV offers Rockwell retirees a way to get involved in the community and help others through volunteering.

The Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers find opportunities to continue using their creative abilities, talents and experiences. Whether you worked in management or bargaining unit your skills and experience are needed to serve others in our community.

Part of the vision of RCRV is to provide a comprehensive range of opportunities for interested retirees. Opportunities to utilize their skills, gain satisfaction in helping others and ways to keep mind and body active and healthy.

RCRV helps the community be a better place by encouraging retirees to utilize their knowledge, skills and creativity in volunteer activities. Volunteers are placed through out the community doing a wide variety of work.

All retirees are welcome to participate in RCRV. We can find the perfect place for you to use your skills and talents to benefit others.

Our mission is to identify and support volunteer needs in our community and beyond while enriching the lives of our volunteers.

For more information leave a message at: 393-9637 or go to our web site: www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv.♦

Habitat for Humanity

RCRV will soon be establishing a construction/handyman team that will meet on a regular scheduled basis one day per month to work on Habitat for Humanity housing construction or similar projects. If you are interested in becoming a member of this team to offer rewarding volunteer time for a very worthwhile cause please contact Chuck Wehage at 319-378-4104 or wehage.chuck@mcleodusa.net.♦

National Engineers Week Future City Competition

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is seeking engineers from every field to volunteer this fall and winter to introduce middle school students across the nation to a career in engineering. Since its founding in 1992, the educational program has made engineering come alive for hundreds of thousands of students. For more information on becoming a volunteer mentor contact Carol Rieg at 877-636-9578 or CRieg@futurecity.org or visit www.futurecity.org.♦

Collins Retirees Potluck Meetings

The Collins Retirees Potluck group meetings are held at the Kenwood United Methodist Church located at 302 33rd St. NE at noon for a potluck lunch and meeting. Upcoming programs are:
July 20 - Music by Larry and Leo, Old Country and Polka
August 17 - Rockwell Recreation Center Tour and Demo
September 21 - Country Steppers
October 19 - White Elephant Auction.♦



FIRST LEGO League Invitational



Viola Gibson LEGO Robotics team competed in the international LEGO League competition in the Georgia Dome, Atlanta GA April 15-17. The team placed 17th in table performance in a field of 48 teams.

Marion Historical Society

Many Rockwell Collins retirees are involved in the Civil War Exhibit of The Marion Historical Society that will be held this summer. The exhibit is entitled "Marion Civil War Life: Before, During and After" and depicts how the Civil War directly impacted the lives of those living in Marion and influenced the development of the city over the next 150 years. The exhibit and special events began on June 24 with the main exhibit at the Heritage Center, 590 Tenth Street, Marion and some of the events scheduled for the Granger House at 970 Tenth Street, Marion.



Marion Heritage Center volunteers are shown at a recent event at the center.

For more information on the exhibit including descriptions and dates of the special events contact the Marion Heritage Center 447-6377 or the Granger House at 377-6672.♦

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Senior Farmer's Market checks will soon be available to older adults in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Jones, Johnson, Linn and Washington counties. This program provides checks to persons 60 and older for use at farmer's markets and farm stands to purchase fresh Iowa grown fruits and vegetables.

Income guidelines to receive the checks are \$17,224 or less for a single person and \$ 23,107 or less for married couples. Checks may be used at any market displaying a sign saying "Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition Program Checks Accepted Here". For more information on the program and where to pick up the checks call The Heritage Agency on Aging at 319-398-5559 or 1-800-332-5934.♦

Wheelchair ramps

John McDonough has designed 14 wheelchair ramps for needy persons in the Cedar Rapids area when requested by area service agencies. Several ramps including the one shown below have been built by RCRV crews. John has also designed and built several portable ramps that may be used to go up 2-3 steps and stored when not in use.♦



One of 14 wheelchair ramps

Trivia Quiz

1. Who was the first president of Collins Radio appointed after the takeover by Rockwell International
2. TACAMO is a US Navy airborne VLF broadcast system developed by Collins Dallas in the 1960s. What does the acronym TACAMO stand for?
3. Rockwell Collins has been the dominant world wide supplier of military GPS receivers. What year was the first USAF contract awarded to the company?
4. What year was the first transatlantic flight made using GPS as the sole means of navigation?

Answers to the April quiz

1. September, 1933 was the date of incorporation.
2. 9CXX was Arthur Collins' first call sign.
3. Goodyear Blimp Enterprise in 1934 was the first airborne application of a Collins Radio.
4. Braniff Airways was the first U S airline to install a Collins Radio.♦

Iowa Assistive Tech Expo

The Iowa Assistive Tech Expo was held this year at Kirkwood Community College on May 25. The day long conference included several expert presentations and a display area showing many assistive devices available for the handicapped. RCRV members participated with an exhibit showing several of our assistive technology innovations.♦



RCRV display at the Iowa Assistive Tech Expo

Trail counters

In order to justify continued public and private expenditures on construction and maintenance of trails within Linn County, RCRV in cooperation with Linn County Trails Association has designed, built and installed trail counters in the Linn County area to measure trail usage. The counters are currently installed on the Cedar River Trail near Sokol Park and McCloud Place parking lot, on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Boyson Road and on the Sac and Fox Trail near East Post Road. RCRV and LCTA will eventually have up to ten counters installed on various trails within Linn County.

The counter electronics, which use IR beam sensing, were designed and built by Dick Kittrell. John Wauer installed the posts and Dick Chelikowsky helped with construction and installation. Prototype counters were installed on several trails last year. This year's model features an improved transmitter for much longer battery life and better range. The receiver timing parameters are also being refined to reliably count both fast bicycles and slow walkers. One cost saving feature of the counters is the use of discarded aircraft ELT batteries. FAA regulations require these batteries to be replaced even though they have never been used.♦



Trail counter receiver with hood removed. Batteries are stored in the post. Transmitter post is on the left.

Member Profile

Ann Griffin

Ann Griffin is a Adapted Physical Education Consultant for the Grant Wood Area Education Agency (GWAEA) and has been an active member of RCRV and our Board of Directors since 1999. The Grant Wood AEA has been one of the primary users of the adaptive technology devices designed and produced by RCRV members and Ann has provided the inspiration for many of the innovations and designs.



Ann Griffin

The Grant Wood AEA is one of twelve AEAs in Iowa that were established by the State Legislature in 1975 to provide equity in educational programs across the state. The Grant Wood AEA covers 33 public school districts and several private schools in seven counties in East Central Iowa. Their mission is to ensure success for all learners and their goals are to increase the academic performance of all students and to increase the percentage of students who perform at the proficient level.

One of the important ways that Grant Wood AEA ensures the success of its

mission is to provide special education support of students with disabilities including physical education. Ann is responsible for providing assistance to physical educators to teach and integrate students with disabilities into regular physical education classes or to provide meaningful recreational opportunities using adaptive technology devices. She is also co-facilitator and a member of the Brain Injury Resource Team, providing assistance to local education agencies and families in meeting needs of students with brain injuries. Her knowledge and expertise in adapted physical education has also lead to a demand for her services as an adjunct instructor in this field at the University of Iowa, Cornell College and Coe College.

Ann was born in Charles City, Iowa and grew up in the southern suburbs of Chicago. After graduating from high school there she returned to Iowa to attend Coe College where she graduated in 1976 with a B.A. in Business Administration and Economics. She continued her education at the University of Iowa receiving and M.A. in Physical Education in 1981. Her post MA graduate work has been extensive including study at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She is the author of several scholarly publications and has been in demand as a speaker throughout the country.

Ann's husband Bud is also employed by Grant Wood AEA as a special education teacher working with students with behavior disabilities. They have two sons and spend their leisure time involved with sports, boating and travel.♦

