

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

October 2006  
Volume 6, Issue 4

## 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

Charles Wehage – Chairman  
Keith Sutherland – Vice  
Chairman  
Don Grimm – Secretary  
Arlo Meyer - Treasurer

### Committee Chairs

John McDonough –  
Community Projects Team  
Pete Jurgens – Recruiting/  
Retention/Recognition  
Rod Thorpe – Communications  
Sara Case – Agency Liaison  
Jim Klein – Data Base

### 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)



## 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. ♦

## Four Oaks Bridge

The mission of the Four Oaks Bridge is to bring together people of all ages, races and economic backgrounds in an environment of learning, whereby youth, seniors and working adults can connect and contribute through the arts, technology and other learning opportunities.

Several RCRV members have had a very rewarding experience working on various volunteer efforts at Four Oaks. A good example is the current weekly after school geography class being taught by Jack Rector and Vern Jackson.

Four Oaks currently has an urgent need for volunteers to assist students with math and spelling homework from 4 to 6PM daily. If you are available to assist in this very rewarding opportunity please call Carol Kalous at 247-4834. ♦



Jack Rector and Vern Jackson teaching Geography

# RCRV Program: Simply the Best!

## By Carol Luth of Aging Services

As a nonprofit agency dedicated to serving older adults living independently in their own homes, Aging Services, Inc. relies heavily upon volunteer support to carry out our mission. In fact the tradition of volunteerism is heavily steeped in our agency's history, as we were started by a group of church volunteers in 1969. Today, we have grown to a paid staff of 28 employees and serve over 5000 older adults annually through a variety of programs.

How can 28 individuals serve 5000 older adults? We can't. But, we can through the dedication of an amazing cadre of community volunteers.

The Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteer Program has provided a tremendous amount of support to our agency over the past four years. Some highlights include:

**Wheel Chair Ramps:** Through the expertise of many retirees over 15 wheel chair ramps have been designed and installed in the homes of homebound seniors. Because most of our clients are low income, this has provided our agency the ability to install more ramps than what otherwise might have been possible through a contractor. One recipient of a RCRV ramp said, "I thank God every day for this beautiful ramp!"

**Home Safety Check Program:** At least 50 seniors in our community feel safer because of the efforts of several RCRV members. All are part of the Home Safety Check Program in which trained community volunteers assess an older adult's home for fall, fire, and personal security risks. The Home Safety Check Program is free of charge to anyone 60

years of age and older living in Linn County. Without a doubt, this program helps to save lives because of a corps of dedicated, safety minded volunteers. Anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend our next volunteer training on October 19th from 1-3 PM at the ASI office.



Tom Brennom performs a home safety inspection

**Vision Enhancement Center:** Our vision center is dedicated to helping visually impaired individuals improve their quality of life through the use of adaptive optical equipment. An occupational therapist provides assistance in obtaining the proper equipment and appropriate training on how to use it. Ralph Arens has manufactured Plexiglas book covers for the reading machines enabling individuals to read with more ease. Jim Green has lent his carpentry skills to us by installing display and storage units and also led a group of volunteers in the construction of a storage shed at Milestones Adult Day Health Center in Marion.

**Data Base Development:** Bob Ocken has and continues to provide leadership in developing a data base to map Aging Services Inc. case management clients in the event of an emergency.

Aging Services, Inc. Board of Directors: RCRV membership has provided our agency with an excellent Board of Director member in Jim Spencer. Jim provides leadership in a variety of areas and is a strong advocate for our senior and disabled citizens.

As you have read, the involvement of RCRV is extensive. We would invite others to help us provide quality services to area seniors. Currently, we are in need of volunteers to help transport clients to doctor appointments and trips to grocery stores/food banks. (Mileage is reimbursed.) We are also seeking more Home Safety Check volunteers. And, if you like marketing/retail management, we could use your help in the Vision Enhancement Center with inventory control and merchandise display techniques. For more information on our volunteer program, please contact Carol Luth at 398-3644 or e-mail at [cluth@abbe.org](mailto:cluth@abbe.org). ♦

## Senior Health Insurance Information (SHIP) News

Beginning in 2007 the Medicare Part B premium paid will be based on adjusted gross income from your 2005 tax return. The base premium rate will be increased slightly to \$93.50 per month for individuals with a 2005 adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or less and for couples who had an adjusted gross income of \$160,000 or less. Premium rates go up from there in increments to a maximum of \$162.50 for individuals who earned greater than \$200,000 or couples who earned greater than \$400,000.

Medicare Part A benefits for 2007 will be increased by approximately 10%.

If you have any questions on this or other health insurance topics contact your RCRV SHIP counselor at 393-9637 and leave a voicemail message for a return call. ♦

# Options of Linn County Open House

The mission of Options of Linn County is to assist persons with disabilities in reaching their full potential through vocational, personal support and training services. They have a dedicated, well trained staff that along with supportive community organizations has made them very successful in fulfilling their mission in Linn County for forty years.

Options of Linn County was one of the early customers of RCRV and provided much of the inspiration for our early innovations in assistive technology for persons with disabilities

An open house celebrating the forty year anniversary of Options will be held at their facility at 1019 7th Street SE on November 9 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM and the public is invited. This will be a good opportunity to observe this important community endeavor and to view RCRV innovations in action. ♦

## RCRV Membership

The **active** membership roster of RCRV has continued to grow and we now have over 140 active members participating in various volunteer activities throughout the community. In order to become an **active** member and thereby partake of the many benefits it is necessary to fill out and submit a member registration form. The form may be obtained by calling the office at 319-393-9637 or from our website at [www.collinsclubs.com/RCRV](http://www.collinsclubs.com/RCRV) then clicking [Become an active RCRV member by registering with RSVP](#). Be sure to check the RCRV box when filling out the form. Sign up can also be achieved by attending one of the Community Projects Team meetings or

New Retirees Orientation Meetings noted above. ♦

## Festival of Trees

The St. Luke's Auxiliary's Festival of Trees will be held November 16-19 at the U S Cellular Center. RCRV has assumed the responsibility again for the Site Management and the construction of the walls, stringing of lights, etc.

Several tasks are scheduled:

1. Assembly of pre-lit Christmas trees in the A Avenue warehouse.
2. Monday, November 13 at 3PM - load truck with walls from storage garage on Center Point Road.
3. Tuesday, November 14 at 8AM - unload walls from truck at the Cellular Center and began construction.
4. Tuesday, November 14 at 9AM - pickup load of decorated trees at A Avenue warehouse and deliver to US Cellular Center
5. November 14 and 15 - complete the various construction, lighting, fencing and painting tasks at the US Cellular Center
6. Sunday, November 19 at 3:30PM - tear down

Several RCRV volunteers are required to perform this important task and if you are able to assist please call Mike Wilson at 363-2505 or 899-0201 or Email at [m.f.wilson@ieec.org](mailto:m.f.wilson@ieec.org) or simply show up at the 3rd Street entrance to the US Cellular Center at any of the times listed above.

The proceeds from The Festival of Trees over the past sixteen years have enabled the Auxiliary to pledge over \$1.3 million to St. Luke's Hospital for various projects. ♦



# RCRV Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers will be held on November 8, 2006 at 1:30PM at the American Red Cross building, 6300 Rockwell Drive NE.

The agenda will include election of officers and board members for the upcoming year, committee and agency reports and a discussion of planned activities for the future. Candidates for election include Jim Green for Chairperson, Keith Sutherland for Vice Chairperson, Don Grimm for Secretary and Arlo Meyer for Treasurer.

This meeting will be an excellent opportunity for retirees to learn more about RCRV and to explore ways of participating in our volunteer endeavors.♦

## Trivia Quiz

1. What was the Collins Radio Employee Association circa 1943?
2. Who was the first president of I.B.E.W. Local 1362?
3. What was the total dollar sales and profit of Collins Radio in 1943?



4. What is it?

Answers to July Trivia:

1. Banga, Tibet has the World's highest elevation commercial Airport at 14,219 feet.
2. The first country straight south of Detroit, Michigan is Canada.
3. The tallest monument in the US is the St. Louis Arch at 630 ft.
4. The parking meter was invented by Carl McGee in Oklahoma. ♦

## Collins Retirees Potluck Meetings

The Collins Retirees Potluck Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Kenwood Park United Methodist Church, 175 34th St. NE at noon for a potluck lunch and program. Upcoming programs are:

- **October** - White Elephant Auction
- **November** - Retiree Health Insurance Update and Thanksgiving Dinner. Bring a covered dish and table setting
- **December** - Xavier High School Music Group
- **January** - Bingo ♦

## Jones County News

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) which is the umbrella organization that RCRV operates with has recently announced the appointment of Barbara Hoffman as their program Specialist for Jones County. Barbara will be responsible for administering the RSVP volunteer programs in Jones County.

There are over 200 Rockwell Collins retirees residing in Jones County and Barbara would be pleased if you would contact her at 319-462-6135, ext 6364 in Anamosa to learn more about the many senior volunteer opportunities. ♦

## Mississippi Valley Blood Center

The Mississippi Valley Blood Center is looking for drivers to transport blood between Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids and their center in Davenport. Mileage will be reimbursed at a rate of 44.5 cents per mile. Contact Kay Parch at 800-747-5401 ext 215 or 563-823-4112 if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity. ♦

## Member Profile

### Esther and Ed Crotty

Esther and Ed Crotty both retired from Rockwell Collins in 1983 after long and productive careers with the company.

The Crottys both grew up and graduated from high school in Laurens, Iowa. They were married in 1948 after Ed had completed his service with the U.S Navy during WW II.



Esther and Ed Crotty

Ed joined Collins Radio in December, 1951 and Esther shortly thereafter in March, 1952. Both began their employment in the Fab shop and both moved to the Printed Circuit Board section when it became a separate entity in 1967. Most of their careers were spent in various aspects of quality control and both worked most of their careers on the night shift which left time for other daytime activities such as raising a family and Ed's part-time thirteen year stint as a school bus driver for the Marion Independent School District.

Both Esther and Ed were career-long members of I.B.E.W. Local 1362. The I.B.E.W. Local 1362 had been organized at Collins Radio on August 3, 1943 after an election held for production and maintenance employees.

The first contract was negotiated later that year which raised base wages to 57 cents per hour and the maximum to \$1.65 per hour. Local 1362 grew from 68 members to 448 by 1948 and reached a peak of 6,500 in 1967.

Ed was an active participant in the management of Local 1362 throughout most of his career. He was appointed to the Executive Board in 1961, was elected treasurer in 1963 and spent sixteen years in that position.

The Crottys are long time avid Hawkeye sports fans and have been season ticket holders in many of the sports including forty years of football. Other interests have included bowling, golf and enjoying time with their three daughters, six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. ♦

## Rockwell Collins 2007 Health Insurance Briefings

Heritage Agency on Aging and RCRV will hold presentations at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services Center, 3375 Armar Drive, Marion to present the Rockwell Collins retiree health insurance benefits for 2007. SHIIP counselors from RCRV and Heritage will also be there to answer questions on the various alternatives for coverage as well as set appointments for counseling sessions. Briefing dates and times are:

- October 30 - 10AM
- October 31 - 2PM
- November 6 - 10AM
- November 6 - 2PM

All Rockwell Collins retirees and their spouses are welcome to attend. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Heritage Agency at 319-398-5559 or 800-332-5934. ♦