

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

July 2007
Volume 7, 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
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
Angela Berns – 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. ♦

Heroes Award

Every year the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival recognizes local heroes who have enriched their community with significant contributions of their time and talent. Art Roderick, a long time active member of RCRV, was one of five heroes selected this year and honored at the Festival's Tribute to Heroes Luncheon on June 19. Other recipients were Sheila Harmon, Krista Rettkowski, Charles Larson Sr. and Alvin Oujiri.

Art was selected as a result of his many volunteer efforts with RCRV with specific reference to his work with FIRST LEGO League, Linn Mar Robotics and wheel chair ramp construction. Congratulations Art for this well deserved honor. ♦

Shining Star Award

RCRV was the recipient of A Shining Star Award during ceremonies at the Governor's Conference on Aging in Des Moines on May 22. Our organization was recognized for the 30,000 hours of volunteer service provided by our 180 active members during 2006. ♦



RCRV President Jim Green accepting the Shining Star Award from Hazel Chuck, Commissioner of Iowa Department of Elder Affairs



Freedom Festival Heroes

Wheel Chair Ramp Accessibility Program (WRAP)

A new enterprise has been under development in the Cedar Rapids area called the Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program. The mission of the project is to "develop and maintain a program that will provide affordable, flexible home access on a timely basis for those in need".

Planning for this effort began in 2005 when a coalition of social service agencies and volunteer groups came together to explore cost-effective and timely responses to the aging and disabled populations who are in need of safe and effective home access via wheelchair ramps or lifts. The demand for these services and/or products is tremendous and growing, especially with Iowa's aging population.

RCRV has been an integral part of this planning effort from the beginning and during the initial phase of the program has been providing all of the design and construction services

Angela Berns, Director of Volunteer Services at St. Luke's Hospital is the chairperson of the enterprise.

The following Vision Plan has been established for the organization:



Angela Berns presenting to WRAP user agencies

- Establish and maintain criteria for determining the eligibility for this service.
- Determine the magnitude of the need.
- Develop a comprehensive design plan that will provide a flexible, renewable /recyclable and affordable solution that meets various user needs within the limits of existing laws and regulations.
- Establish and maintain sustainable funding.
- Establish a communication plan that will make the user and provider communities aware of the organization's capabilities and criteria for eligibility.
- Provide a range of opportunities for volunteers to utilize their experience-based talents in a rewarding program to help others.

If you know someone in need of home accessibility that may qualify for assistance please call the RCRV office at 319-393-9637. ♦

Witwer Senior Center

Myrt Bowers, President of the Witwer Senior Center was the guest speaker at the May 16 RCRV Board of Directors meeting. Witwer Senior Center is one of many local social service agencies supported by the volunteer efforts of RCRV.

The Witwer Senior Center is headquartered at 305 2nd Ave. SE and is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of seniors through high quality programs and services which support their physical, spiritual, emotional and learning needs. Programs are varied and include educational, wellness, nutritional and recreation activities.

The center has about 1200 participants per month in their various programs and serves several thousand meals per month at the 2nd Avenue center and other remote locations around the community.

RCRV members Pete Jurgens and Ray Dutchik serve on the Witwer Board which is actively participating in the Fifteen in Five community planning project for a new recreation center that will incorporate the functions of the Witwer center and ease their space and access problem.

For more information on the Witwer programs and volunteer opportunities call 398-3636. ♦



Myrt Bowers presenting at the May board meeting

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:

- August – Meeting at the Rockwell Collins Rec Center
- September – Presentations by RCRV and the St. Luke's Hospice
- October – Health insurance update♦

Collins Museum

Rockwell Collins is in need of additional items for the company museum in Building 120. If any of you have suitable hardware or other artifacts for display please contact Arlo Meyer at 319-393-7461. ♦

Identity Theft (IDT)

(Note: Tom Brennom supports TRIAD by investigating and giving IDT presentations. He has offered to include a recent scam, avoidance tip, or other information for each newsletter.)

Identity theft and financial fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. IDT reported by the Federal Trade Commission in 2006 included losses <\$1B, but this is small compared to industry surveys which claim losses >\$56B! Internet auction complaints have dropped from 12 to 5% in the last year, but the percentage of fraud complaints associated with wire transfer of money has increased from 15 to 23% in this same period. IDT is associated with all age groups, and is not centered on the aged population.

Credit card theft is the most common type of IDT (25%). It should also be noted that 62% of IDT did NOT contact police! If IDT has occurred, clearing the records requires an average of 600 hours. It should also be noted that most thieves obtain their IDT information thru traditional means, NOT thru electronic means. HALF OF IDT ARE FROM FAMILY OR OTHER ACUAINANCES.

Iowa's fraud and IDT rates by state are very low (46th and 47th respectively). IDT associated with credit cards in Iowa (28%) is even higher than the national average.

TIPS:

- **NEVER** carry your social security card or even the number! It is only needed for applying for employment. Look through your billfold/purse to make sure!
- **NEVER** give out any personal or financial information to anyone calling unsolicited! Unsolicited callers often say they are from a

reputable entity such as a bank, VISA, Medicare, etc.

- **DO** sign up on the national **donotcall** list to eliminate telemarketers and phone solicitors. Call 1-888-382-1222 from each phone or visit the www.donotcall.gov website to register all phones at once. The registration is effective for 5 years and can be turned back off at any time.
- **DO** request a credit report from one of the 3 Credit Bureaus annually (IT IS FREE once per year from each Bureau). Go to www.annualcreditreport.com to order a copy or call Equifax 1-800-525-6285, Experian 1-888-397-3742 or Trans Union 1-800-680-7289. Only one needs to be contacted.
- **DO** make a copy of all cards in your billfold/purse (both sides of each). This information is invaluable if you loose it or it is stolen. Place the copy in a safe place like a safety deposit box.
- **IF** you are a victim of IDT, the website www.ftc.gov/idtheft is a great resource.

More information on Identity Theft in the next newsletter! - Tom Brennom ♦

Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center

The lengthy and rewarding task of fund raising, building and certification of the Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center (EIOLC) is coming close to fruition for the many volunteers involved. As previously reported several RCRV members have been instrumental in the project and in recent weeks have been putting the finishing touches on construction.

An occupancy permit is expected by mid July and

the first public night will be scheduled for sometime in August. The formal opening and presentation ceremony will be held on September 15 which is National Astronomy Day. ♦

Trivia Quiz

1. How many Model T cars did the Ford Motor Company sell?
2. What company designed and built the first Army Jeep?
3. What year was a radio first offered as a car accessory?



4. Can you identify this picture?

Answers to April Quiz:

1. Nikla Tesla is credited with discovering AC.
2. Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor.
3. Four diodes.
4. Picture is a Collins made VOR antenna in LaPaz, Bolivia in 1955. ♦



Volunteers capping one of the EIOLC observatory domes

Volunteer Hours Reporting

RCRV and RSVP have collaborated in an effort to develop an improved method of reporting volunteer hours with a goal of making the reporting easy and more meaningful. By reporting our hours within seven categories we will be able to better quantify the impact of our efforts and the agencies we service will be able to show the economic results of our volunteer hours. This has become increasingly more important as our “customers” compete for the shrinking supply of grant funds. Grant providers are becoming more insistent on being able to quantify the economic return on their investments.

Volunteer hours should be reported monthly in the categories of:

- Administrative and Leadership
- Assistive Technology and Maintenance Support
- Construction and Design
- Education
- Elderly Services
- Miscellaneous Non-Profit Support
- WRAP (wheel chair ramp construction).

John Wauer has devised a simple reporting method via our WEB site and it can be found at <http://rcrv.org/report>. You may also continue to report hours by previous methods but it is requested that they be reported by the seven categories. ♦

New RCRV Web Address

We now have a simpler web site address: <http://rcrv.org>. The old address is still available, but it will not be updated and will eventually be removed. ♦

Member Profile

Tom Brennom

Tom grew up in Wisconsin and graduated with a BSEE from the U of Wisconsin in 1968. He then joined Collins Radio and endured the tough times before Rockwell came to the rescue. He spent his career at Collins with the majority of time in the Reliability Engineering discipline, including Maintainability and Design to Cost. The last few years were spent as a Product Improvement Manager on special projects for the ATS Engineering Director. He also was the chairman of the Product Integrity Committee before his retirement after 34 years of service.



Tom Brennom

Tom and his wife Pat have two children and one granddaughter. Their daughter Nichole is an RN in Colorado and their son Erik (wife Jenny) and their daughter Emily live in Marion. Erik works for US Cellular and Jenny is a professor at Kirkwood.

Tom and Pat spend summers and part of the winters in Colorado where there is almost no humidity, wonderfully sunny days, and an extremely active community of people that are only there because they want to be!

Tom has a wide range of interests and hobbies, and believes in lifelong learning. He has been a scoutmaster, started a climbing club, makes stained glass objects, used to race bicycles, and has climbed all the 14,000’ peaks in Colorado. He currently spends as much time as he can bicycling, hiking, climbing mountains and skiing. He recently began backcountry skiing (no lifts) in Colorado and learning more about avalanches and how to avoid them.

Tom also volunteers a great deal, both in Iowa and Colorado. He is very active in RCRV activities, church activities, and senior activities. RCRV areas he is heavily involved with are WRAP (one of the founders), Festival of Trees, Aging Services, Senior Leadership Institute, and TRIAD (makes Identity Theft presentations). In his church he is the properties chairman, sings in choir, and enjoys supporting the other teams in completing their visions. In Colorado he is heavily involved in the building and maintenance of hiking and biking trails, and is working with a local group called Summit Prevention Alliance supporting more family-together activities in the area. Tom is also the president of his townhome owners association in Marion and an active member of his condo association in Colorado. One of the hardest things for Tom is to say no to a task that is worthy and no one else steps forward.

Tom has done some contract work back at Rockwell Collins, but is interested in freeing up even more time to enjoy this wonderful life and help others to do the same. He continues to be interested in providing more assistance to our senior population. He has been trying to learn to relax, but finds his motto of “rest when you’re dead” is hard to change! ♦