

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

January 2004  
Volume 4, 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  
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](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)



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.♦

## RCRV Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers was held at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach

Center in Marion on November 19, 2003. Reports were given by the various committees and client agencies on the volunteer accomplishments of the organization in 2003. Current officers of the organization for the coming year are listed on the left.♦



Wayne Clayton from Options of Linn County describes assistance provided by RCRV



Chuck Wehage Vice Chairman, Colleen Bickford Treasurer, Phyllis Brooks Secretary, Mike Wilson Chairman

# Lego Competition

Rockwell Collins sponsored the second annual FIRST LEGO League local tournament on Saturday December 13 at the Linn-Mar Excelsior Middle School. Teams from twenty-two elementary and middle schools participated in the tournament. Several Cedar Rapids area schools also participated in the state tournament at Iowa State University in Ames. Rockwell Collins provides financial support for many of the Cedar Rapids area teams. A team consists of 8-10 students, a teacher-coach and one or more engineer-mentors. Several RCRV members participated in the event as team mentors and tournament judges.

Each LEGO League team builds a robot with LEGOS, gears, motors, sensors and a computer-controller. They program the robots to perform specific tasks

specified by the tournament rules. Each team must also research a topic and make an oral report related to the tournament theme which this year was Mission Mars. The teams spend approximately 2.5 months preparing for the tournaments. Teams are judged on the robot design, robot performance, research and teamwork. The tasks are challenging and the students respond to the challenge with great enthusiasm which makes mentoring and judging very enjoyable and rewarding.♦



Practicing the LEGO robotics mission

# Linn-Mar Robotics

Linn-Mar High School Robotics program was recently awarded a \$10,000 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant to create a robotic device that will help a disabled woman perform her tasks at the Rural Employment Services bulk mailing facility putting self-adhesive address labels on envelopes and inserting fliers and catalogs into envelopes.

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam is a national grants program that encourages teams of high school students, teachers and mentors to identify a need or problem in their communities or schools and collaborate in solving it through invention and innovative thinking. Linn-Mar is the only school in the Midwest to receive this award and one of only ten in the entire U.S.

Jim Wolfe, who is an active member of RCRV, is an advisor to the very successful Linn-Mar High School Robotics program which competes in the FIRST Robotics Competition as well as performing the above robotics project.♦

# Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

RCRV has several people trained to answer questions you may have about Medicare, to write appeals if necessary, or to act as your interface with Medicare or your insurance carrier. The SHIIP counselors are trained by the State Insurance Department of Iowa. As soon as they receive training by the Iowa Insurance Department about the changes that were recently made to the Medicare program, SHIIP will hold informational meetings about how these changes affect you.



Viola Gibson School team with mentors Bob Ocken, John Wauer and Mike Wilson and coach Marta Hershner

If you have any questions concerning your Medicare paperwork, please call the RCRV office and leave a message. Your inquiry will be answered as quickly as possible by one of the RCRV counselors. All inquiries are confidential between the SHIIP counselor and you.♦



## Tutors Needed

The Kirkwood Adult Literacy Program is looking for volunteer tutors to help adults with reading, writing and/or math skills. The program is designed to help participants improve their reading skills, learn English as a second language, and improve general knowledge for passing an Adult High School course or a GED test.

Tutors are asked to make a nine-month commitment to the program and complete a 12-hour training workshop. Tutors typically meet with their students twice a week and hours are flexible. The next training workshop will be held in late January. If you are interested in becoming a part of this meaningful and rewarding program please contact Marianne at 319-366-0142.♦

## Project news

### Rivet Dispenser

RCRV member Russell Schuchmann designed and constructed several devices to dispense 1/2" rivets at just a few at a time. The goal is to help people with limited fine motor skills participate in contracts that require placing rivets in holes of metal bars. The devices were built for Options of Linn County, which is an organization supported by Linn County that employs people with disabilities to perform tasks for area companies.



Manually operated rivet dispenser

Russell has built manually operated rivet dispensers and motorized rivet dispensers. The motorized version allows someone who can only operate a switch to participate in the process. Detailed construction information is available on the RCRV web.♦

## Governor's Award

RCRV recently received the Governor's Volunteer Award for 2003 for outstanding leadership and involvement in volunteer activities in our community. The award was also won by RCRV for 2000.♦



Motorized rivet dispenser





# Senior Leadership Institute

The Kirkwood Community College / Heritage Area Agency on Aging Center for Lifelong Learning is the sponsor and organizer of the Senior Leadership Institute.

The Institute gives participants an in-depth view of the issues and challenges facing our community and helps them gain a broader perspective of the needs and ways to gain meaningful involvement through volunteerism.

The course is an eight-week series of lectures, group activities and tours. Programs include local government operation, health care issues, arts in Eastern Iowa, human needs, the economy and other important topics. Several RCRV members have participated in the past and have found it very meaningful and educational.

Cost for the course is \$179 which includes all classes, materials and most lunches. The course is open to anyone age fifty or older living in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn or Washington counties. If you are interested in registering or gaining more information contact Jill Gleason of the Heritage Agency at 319-398-5559 or toll free at 800-443-5934.♦

# Cell Phones for Seniors

As noted in the last issue of *The Volunteer*, RCRV and The Heritage Agency on Aging are looking for used cell phones to provide to needy seniors as a means to contact 911 in emergencies. If you have an operational used cell phone please bring it to the REACT center at 927 N. Compton Drive in Hiawatha. Chargers or car adapters should be included.♦

# Member Profile

## Mike Wilson

Mike was born in and raised in Cleveland Ohio. He graduated from what is now Case Western Reserve University. He received degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Engineering Administration. He served in the Navy for 22 months during World War II.



Mike Wilson

He was hired at Collins Radio in February 1951 as a test equipment engineer and progressed through several management positions including; formed the initial Quality Assurance organization for Collins Radio in 1959 that remained through substantial company expansion and retained the "Collins Quality" reputation, was Director of Research and Development at the Collins Dallas facility 1961-1964 and was appointed Vice President of Manufacturing for Collins Radio in 1973. He retired in September 1990 as Group Director of Production Operations of the Avionics Group of Rockwell International.

Mike has been active in professional organizations. He has been on the National Board of Directors of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) for four years, and Chairman of the

Electronics Division for three years. For the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) he was a National Trustee Board member for 7 years and National President 1991-92. In 2002 he completed a two-year term on the International Board of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic engineers (IEEE). He holds a membership grade of "Fellow" for all three organizations.

Mike was involved with the initial Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 1957 and has trained as an examiner ten times. He has been instrumental in the establishment of a state recognition process, Iowa Recognition of Performance Excellence (IRPE) and has performed several functions in that process. He is presently the Secretary of the Iowa Quality Center Inc. that administers the IRPE recognition process.

He has been involved with the Rockwell Collins K-12 Partnership since 1991, acting as a liaison at Pierce elementary for ten years, and is on the Rockwell Collins Advisory Council. He is active in specific projects with the K-12, and recently was a mentor along with fellow retirees Bob Oaken and John Wauer at Viola Gibson elementary school in the Lego League Robotic competition.

Presently Mike is in his second year as president of the Linn County Trails Association (LCTA). He helped Jack Hotchkiss get the Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers (RCRV) started and served as the first Vice Chair and is now in his second year as Chairman of the RCRV.

Mike and his wife, Esther, of 53 years have four children, two boys and two girls and seven grandchildren.♦

