

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

April 2004
Volume 4, Issue 2

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)



Cedar Rapids Free Clinic

RCRV members Bob Ocken and Terry Lamb have been supporting the Community Health Free clinic by installing a computer network in the clinic's new building at 943 14th Ave. S.E.

The new building was constructed and furnished using a grant from the Hall-Perrine Foundation. RCRV members supported the new building using computers donated from the REACT center. With this network installation, the free clinic operation is being converted from paper based to computer based tracking of patients. The free clinic is staffed by volunteer doctors, dentists and nurses providing a full range of medical and dental services. ♦

Community Projects Team meetings

The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 am 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. ♦



Bob Ocken and Terry Lamb in the Free Clinic

Engineers Week



RCRV members demonstrate some of their assistive device designs at the recent Engineers Week celebration at the Science Station. RCRV members Ralph Arens, Don Grimm, Chuck Wehage, and Jim Green.



Volunteers Needed

DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER FOR THE CR SYMPHONY - A volunteer is needed to assist in the coordination and implementation of development activities for CRSO. This volunteer will be the primary data entry person serving the Development Department in tracking philanthropic gifts and other clerical duties and will require 10-20 hours per week. Contact the CRSO office at 319-366-8203.

MIRACLES IN MOTION - Miracles in Motion is an organization that provides therapeutic benefits for people with disabilities through horseback riding. Volunteers are needed by the agency to help riders by leading horses or walking beside riders during lessons to give encouragement or physical support if needed. Call 319-857-4141.

CARPENTERS - Aging Services is in need of carpenters to build wheelchair ramps for the disabled. Plans and materials are available waiting for volunteers to assemble them. Call the RCRV office at 319-393-9637 or e-mail at rcrv@collinsclubs.com

HOME SAFETY CHECK PROGRAM - Aging Services needs volunteers to assist in the home safety check program for seniors in Linn County. Volunteers will conduct safety checks and assess the client's home for fall, fire and personal security risks. Call aging Services at 398-3644 or RCRV at 393-9637.

MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - The Heritage Agency on Aging is looking for volunteers to assist with its

Money Management Program. The program offers money management service to help low-income seniors who have difficulty budgeting, paying routine bills, and keeping track of financial matters. Generally, volunteers serve as representative payees for the program clients. Representative payee volunteers are appointed by a government agency to receive and manage government payments such as Social Security when the client has been determined to be incapable. Contact Linda Dearing at 319-398-5559 for an application. References will be required.♦

Senior Health Insurance Information Program

Don't Be Confused By Medicare Changes
The Medicare Regional Office in Atlanta reported recently that it received a call asking if Medicare had authorized anyone to go door-to-door to discuss the new Medicare endorsed drug discount card. According to the report, the person going door-to-door had specific information about individuals he visited.

"Medicare has not approved any cards yet." says Kris Gross from SHIIP, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program. "We have received questions from Iowans and there is confusion about what the changes in Medicare are and when they will take place. We want to be sure Iowans have accurate information so they don't become victims of fraud or give out personal when they shouldn't."

The Medicare approved drug discount cards will become available this spring. They will help reduce drug costs for some people until the new Medicare benefit begins in January 2006. Drug sponsors can begin promoting their

cards in April 2004. The Medicare website, <http://www.medicare.gov/>, will also have information in late April about each card offered in Iowa and the drugs covered by each card. Marketing will not be done in person, door-to-door. If someone comes to your door about the Medicare approved discount drug cards report it immediately to the Medicare Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477, or to our office at 393-9637. Leave a message and you will receive a call shortly thereafter.

If you need help in sifting through all your Medicare and Insurance paperwork, please contact our office at 393-9637 and leave a message. A SHIIP Counselor will return your call shortly. RCRV has five SHIIP counselors.

Medicare Drug Discount Card Seminar

SHIIP along with the Heritage Area Agency, St. Luke's AdvantAGE and Witwer Senior Center will present a seminar on the new Medicare Drug Discount Card at the KTOS Center, 3375 Armar Drive in Marion at 10:30 am on May 19th. The program will be presented by Chris Thompson of the state SHIIP office. All are welcome to attend to learn more about these cards and the new coverage.♦

2-1-1

In February of this year the United Way of East Central Iowa made available the 2-1-1 hotline for assistance in finding essential services. By dialing 211 the user may find out about various assistance programs such as locating safe affordable housing, child care, chemical dependency assistance and various other social services. The hotline is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week and directs callers to the appropriate community based organization or government agency.♦

Identity Theft

Tom Brennom, an active member of RCRV, recently had an experience related to identity theft and has provided the information for this article on how to prevent identity theft and reduce the risks associated with billfold theft.

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name imprinted on them. Thieves won't know how you sign your checks but the bank does. Do not put your SSN on your checks or any other document you carry on your person including driver's license. Use your work address and phone number on your checks if possible. When writing checks to pay credit card or other credit account bills do not put the entire account number on the "For" line. Use only the last four digits.

Make a photocopy of both sides of all documents, cards, etc. in your wallet. Keep these copies handy in a safe place where they will be available in case you need to call and cancel cards. In case of loss or theft call the credit card company immediately. Keep the toll free numbers of all credit card companies handy so you will be able to call and report a theft and cancel the cards. It is also important to contact all other interests that might relate to or assist in fraudulent use including ATM, library, auto club etc. New cards can easily be issued and old ones cancelled.

A good way to prevent or discourage fraudulent use of credit cards is to not sign them with your signature but use the words "See I.D." or "See I.D. and then your name. In this way use of card in most stores will require identification for card use.

In case of theft, call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number.

This registers the fact that you have had a theft and no new credit can be obtained without YOU being contacted. The numbers are:

- Equifax - 800-525-628
- Experian - 888-397-3742
- Trans Union - 800-680-7289.

Other useful numbers to call are the Social Security fraud line - 800-269-0271 and the Federal Trade Commission at 888-IDTHEFT.♦

Trivia Quiz

1. On what date was the Collins Radio Company incorporated?
2. What was the call sign of Arthur Collins' original Ham station?
3. What was the first airborne application of a Collins Radio?
4. What was the first U.S. commercial airline to install Collins Radios?

Answers in the next edition of The VOLUNTEER.♦

Collins Retirees Potluck Meetings

The Collins Retirees Potluck group meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Kenwood United Methodist Church located at 302 33rd. St. N.E. for a potluck lunch and program. All retirees are welcome. Upcoming programs are:

- April 20 - McKinley Singers
- May 18 - Update on Insurance
- June 15 - Presentation on 211 and TRIAD.♦

Friendship Force International

The mission of Friendship Force International is to create an environment where individual friendship can be established across the international barriers that separate people. It is active in more than 60 countries, promoting friendship and goodwill through an

extensive program of home-stay exchanges. This non-profit organization believes that friends among people make friends among nations and that each one can make a difference.

The U.S. organization is headquartered in Atlanta with chapters located around the country. The local chapter in Cedar Rapids meets regularly throughout the year and has several Rockwell Collins employees and retirees as active members. Some of their upcoming metro area exchanges include four or five Russian businessmen April 23 through May 25, three Nigerians in May or June and one librarian from Bulgaria in July or August.

Volunteer host families are needed for the group's exchanges which provide a worthwhile opportunity to learn more about foreign countries and to establish lasting friendships. Hosts provide board and room, transportation to events and social engagements in the evenings and on weekends.

If you would like to volunteer and/or become an active member of the organization contact RCRV members Steve Miller, 393-3580 or Charlie Kress, 377-5055. Additional information about the organization can be found on their website - www.friendshipforce.org

Friendship Force host families and their Russian guests meeting last month at the Eastern Iowa airport are shown below. Seven Russians and two facilitators were in the metro area for a week to study American business practices through an Open World government grant and stayed with Friendship Force families.♦



Member Profile

Chuck Wehage

Chuck is a regular at the weekly Community Projects Team of RCRV, and is currently serving as Vice Chairman the RCRV Board of Directors. Chuck got started on volunteer work through Habitat for Humanity and worked on several new homes in the Genesis Park neighborhood in southeast Cedar Rapids. Chuck hopes to bring more Habitat-style team methods to RCRV to tackle some of the more challenging requests for volunteer help, and ease individual burn-out pressures on our members.



Chuck Wehage

Chuck is a native of Fargo, ND and a graduate of North Dakota State in EE. He joined Collins after a two-year stint in the Army Signal Corps at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. He spent 18 years in engineering and then another 19 years in various marketing and product management positions, all on the avionics side, and all connected with microwave pulse products – weather radar, TCAS , transponder/IFF, etc.

Along with several other RCRVers, he has completed training for as a Volunteer Safety Inspector for Aging Services, and looks forward to more home inspections to improve safety for seniors that live at home.

Chuck is an instrument rated active pilot, and owns a share in a V-tail

Bonanza used for family trips all over the country. Although in 37 years at Collins he never worked on a radio that “talked”, he is now working on upgrading his radio amateur license to address that hole in his experience. He is a hacker (golf variety), and helps VOLUNTEER editor Thorpe as a spotter with the Greater Cedar Rapids Open, a benefit event for the Boys and Girls Club. Chuck also joined Kiwanis in the past year to further his interest in service to youth in the community. Chuck and Carol have a daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter who live in Omaha – a frequent destination for the airplane.♦

Linn-Mar Robotics

In the January, 2004 edition of the VOLUNTEER we reported on the projects of the Linn-Mar High School robotics team. Since then the team under the leadership of RCRV member Jim Wolfe has been very successful in their competitive endeavors. The team placed first out of 52 teams at the regional FIRST Robotics Competition held recently in St. Louis and the team has also won two other prestigious awards - the GM Industrial Design Award which celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively achieves the game challenge and the website Design Award which acknowledges excellence in student-designed, built and managed FIRST team websites.

As the regional champion, the team will compete at the national FIRST Robotics Competition in Atlanta April 15-17.

Also traveling to the national FIRST Robotics Competition is the Viola Gibson 4th and 5th grade LEGO Robotics team. The Viola Gibson team is the Iowa State Champion and has qualified for a concurrent LEGO

Robotics competition in Atlanta. Teams from 38 states, 4 Canadian provinces and 4 foreign countries are competing. Eight team members, their mothers, coach Marta Hershner and mentor John Wauer are going.♦

Radio Days

The History Center in Cedar Rapids opened a new exhibit on March 7 celebrating the golden age of radio. The exhibit which will be open through November features many of the entertainment, economic and technological aspects of radio and illustrates their importance and impact on the Cedar Rapids community.

Several Rockwell Collins retirees assisted in creating and outfitting the Collins Radio part of the exhibit which includes a depiction of assembly lines in the early factory and a replica of a B-29 radio operator's station complete with much of the early hardware.♦



B-29 radio operator's station

Scott Meadows

Scott Meadows, a new senior housing facility on the campus of the Marion Churches Senior Living Community Foundation, is accepting applications in anticipation of a spring 2004 opening. The rent of a one bedroom unit is \$396 and a two bedroom is \$507.♦