

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

October 2005  
Volume 5, 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  
Jim Green – 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)



## Community Projects Team 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 – NEW TIME

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. ♦

## RCRV Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of RCRV will be held on November 16 at 1:30 at the American Red Cross building, 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE (behind Target at the end of Rockwell Dr.). The agenda will include election of officers and board members, discussion and vote on changes to RCRV articles of incorporation (see accompanying article), and agency reports.

This will be an excellent opportunity for all retirees to participate in the plans for the organization. Please plan to attend. ♦

## Prescription Drug Benefit Plans

**Are you confused about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?** If you are like most of us, your answer would likely be yes.

The new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan will begin coverage on January 1, 2006 and enrollment will take place from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006. Rockwell Collins will be announcing their benefit plan for 2006 sometime later this month and will likely require enrollment by late November.

To help Rockwell Collins retirees understand their options for prescription drug benefits, SHIIP counselors, RCRV and the Heritage Agency on Aging will collaborate to present the details of **both** the Rockwell Collins benefit plan for 2006 and the Medicare plan. Two duplicative sessions explaining both programs will be held on November 8, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. and repeated at 2:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services Center, (KTOS), 3375 Armar Drive, Marion. SHIIP counselors from RCRV will also be available throughout the day to answer questions on the various alternatives for coverage. All Rockwell Collins retirees and their spouses are welcome to attend.

In order to insure adequate facility sizing, the sponsors would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend one of the sessions. You may alert them of your plans to attend by calling the Heritage Agency at 319-398-5559 or 1-800-332-5934 to pre-register. ♦

# Community Leader Honored at Heart Of Iowa

Pat Marshall's commitment to community service throughout her life was an inspiration to all who knew her. That commitment was honored on September 6 when a mural was dedicated to her memory at ASAC's Heart of Iowa Mother and Child Recovery Center in Cedar Rapids.

The mural, entitled "A Nurturing Time", was painted by the Creative Artists group, of which Marshall was a member. A short presentation ceremony took place, followed by a reception for members of RCRV, members of the Creative Artists group, and Heart of Iowa staff, board members, and clients. Marshall was a founding member of RCRV and a 22 year member of Creative Artists.



Members of the Creative Artists group are shown with their mural "Nurturing Time"

In addition to her involvement with these two groups, Marshall had a 39 year career with Rockwell Collins. She spent 19 years as the president of IBEW Local 1362 and 20 years as vice president of the

Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO. Marshall was also involved in politics, spending 20 years as a member of the Democratic National Committee. Never tiring, she was active in many community organizations, including board memberships on United Way, Family Service Agency, and the local AARP. ♦

## Linn-Mar Robotics Team Crossbow

Members of the Linn-Mar Robotics team recently presented to Grant Wood Area Education Agency a set of 16 crossbows which they built for students with disabilities. The crossbows were designed by Les Haerther of RCRV and Sally Leme of Grant Wood AEA and developed with the assistance of Ann Griffin, Adaptive PE Consultant at Grant Wood AEA and other RCRV members.



Linn-Mar Robotics team and their instructor presenting their crossbows to Ann Griffin of Grant Wood AEA

The design allows the students to use a regular bow attached to a wooden holder which can be triggered either manually or with the use of an electromechanical switch in the case of students with extremely limited manual dexterity.

The crossbows are another example of the many devices designed by RCRV to enable students with disabilities to participate in regular physical education activities. They will be available for check out by all of the schools in the seven county service area of the Grant Wood AEA. ♦

## Judges Needed

Volunteers are needed to act as judges for two upcoming competitions. The Lego League teams will be competing at Taft Middle School on Saturday December 17 and judges are needed for two different shifts. The first shift is from 7:30 a.m. to noon and the second from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Future Cities Competition will be held on January 28 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Prairie High School. Judges are needed to evaluate the futuristic city plans of the competing teams.

If you would like to volunteer as a judge for either or both of these competitions please contact Jenny Becker at 295-8122 or [jlbecker@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:jlbecker@rockwellcollins.com). ♦

## Habitat For Humanity

The vision of the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity is to work in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended.

Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer-driven organization. Though the vast majority has no construction experience or building skills, volunteers are involved in most phases of construction with tutoring by experienced associates. Several RCRV members have been involved as volunteers and more are needed. If you would like volunteer for this important community service and learn some new skills contact Habitat at 366-4485. ♦



RCRV members building a Habitat home in SE Cedar Rapids

## Vote on RCRV changes in November

Did you know that RCRV is a nonprofit corporation? If you did, you may also know that Iowa recently changed its nonprofit corporation law, Chapter 504. Because of Enron, WorldCom, and other corporate scandals, the Iowa Legislature decided to add new rules to make sure corporations can be held more accountable for how they operate. Almost all "nonprofits" are now changing their rules to comply. RCRV overhauled its Bylaws earlier this year and those are now OK. Next, we need to fix a couple contradictions that exist in the Articles of Incorporation.

RCRV Articles of Incorporation are on file with the Secretary of State of Iowa, and can only be changed by a vote of the entire RCRV membership. We plan to do that at the Annual Meeting in November. The most important change will be to change RCRV membership rules to be compatible with the new Iowa Code. Certain other organizational details will be removed from the Articles so they can be governed by the RCRV Bylaws. You can review the proposed changes at

<http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv/articlesupdate.htm> .

All RCRV corporate filings are open to the public at

<http://www.sos.state.ia.us/corp/> , searching for *Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers*. To see the current RCRV Bylaws, visit <http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcrv/rcrvbylw.PDF> .

Your vote is important. Make plans now to attend the RCRV General Meeting on November 16 at 1:30 at the American Red Cross building, 6300 Rockwell Dr. NE (behind Target at the end of Rockwell Dr.) to vote on these important changes. ♦

## Science Station

RCRV has instituted a long term support relationship with the Cedar Rapids Science Station. The purpose of the program will be to provide ongoing assistance in the repair and maintenance of existing exhibits and to assist in the creation of new exhibits. General facility maintenance such as painting will also be provided. To date RCRV volunteers have repaired or redesigned ten hands-on science station exhibits, painted the exhibit shop and meeting room and acted as consultants for the exhibit tracking and maintenance system.



RCRV members Judy Wirth, Faye Spading and Kay Nelson are shown painting the exhibit storage space at the Science Station

Lee Ann Grimley, Manager of Museum Store, Volunteers and Special Events reports that "The Science Station is now operating at its highest rate of exhibit efficiency since the opening of the IMAX theater. Everyone from RCRV has been friendly, helpful and energetic and the Science Station is looking forward to many exciting projects that will include RCRV as a partner".

Keith Sutherland is leading the RCRV effort and many other members have been assisting. More volunteer help is needed and if you wish to get involved in this important project call the RCRV office at 393-9637 or contact Keith at [keith.sutherland@mchsi.com](mailto:keith.sutherland@mchsi.com). ♦

## Festival of Trees

RCRV has assumed the responsibility for the Site Management of the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees is an annual activity of the Saint Luke's Auxiliary for the benefit of babies and young children. The Festival is established at the US Cellular Center and in mid-November celebrates the Christmas season with many decorated Christmas trees and materials that are sold to produce revenues for the charitable purposes.

The Site Management task sets up the facility including decorated trees, walls and lighting. Many tasks are performed prior to the main set-up. The main set-up will be done on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 15, and 16, 2005. A tear-down will start Sunday evening, November 20 and be completed on Monday, November 21.

The RCRV action is a large task and help is requested from any and all Rockwell Collins retirees. Just show up at the US Cellular Center on Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM and your work will be greatly appreciated. ♦



Judy Wirth and Kay Nelson assembling stands for 4-foot trees that will be decorated by students in the Cedar Rapids area.

## Collins Retirees Potluck Meetings

The Collins Retirees Potluck group meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at the United Methodist Church located at 302 33rd St. NE at noon for a potluck lunch and program. Upcoming programs are:

**November** - Thanksgiving dinner for members only at noon. Medicare Prescription Drug plan presentation open to the public at 1p.m.

**December** - Excellent surprise program

**January** - Bingo. ♦

## Trivia Quiz

1. **Collins Signal** was originally "a little bulletin which the Collins Radio Company published periodically and sent to its friends who requested the Collins general catalogue". What date was the first issue published?
2. The Collins 32A was a CW transmitter sold in the early days of the company. What was its price in 1933?
3. What date did the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II sail from Boston with a "complete Collins short wave broadcast station aboard"?
4. In the 1950s Collins Radio had a trademarked system called Kineplex. What was its function?

Answers to July Quiz:

1. The first transatlantic transmission was made in December 1901 by Marconi from Cornwall, England to St. Johns, Newfoundland.
2. The first TV license was issued on July 2, 1928 to inventor Charles Jenkins.
3. The first patent for SSB was first filed by Western Electric in 1915. The patent was finally granted in 1932.
4. On August 13, 1912 An Act to Regulate Radio Communications was passed requiring all radio stations, including amateur, to be licensed. ♦

## Member Profile

### Les Haerther

Les Haerther retired from Rockwell Collins as an Engineering Group Head in 1982 after a forty year career. He joined RCRV when it was founded and has been one of the organization's most active members. His most notable contribution has been in the design, development and production of a variety of assistive technology devices for use by students and adults with disabilities. His designs have significantly broadened the recreational horizons of disabled students and increased the productivity of handicapped adults. Les has also been a consistent volunteer at the Rockwell Education Access To Computer Technology Center (REACT) for several years refurbishing computers.



Les Haerther

Les was born and raised in Linn County and attended school in Atkins. After high school graduation in 1942 he joined the Collins Radio Company. His employment was interrupted in 1944 when he and twenty other employees passed the "Captain Eddy " Navy electronics aptitude test and were inducted into the Navy for training in

electronics. He served as an Aviation Electronics Technical Mate until shortly after the end of WW II and then rejoined Collins Radio for a brief stint before going off to The University of Iowa to study under the GI Bill and receive a BS in Mechanical Engineering.

During his long career at Collins Les had a wide variety of experiences and has ten patents to his credit. Some of the most notable design projects he worked on were the ART-13 100 Watt Transmitter made famous in WW II; spacecraft radios for Mercury, Gemini and Apollo; aircraft instruments; autopilot servos and many others.

Les and his wife Irene recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have four children and several grandchildren. One of their favorite pastimes is watching grandson Cody advance in his professional baseball career with the St. Louis Cardinals. Cody was drafted out of high school and is currently playing for the Cardinal's AA farm team in Springfield, Missouri. Irene also has the volunteer spirit having worked as a volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital for over 20 years. ♦

## Meals On Wheels

Horizons Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers for their meal delivery program. Drivers spend about one hour per day and you can volunteer for as many days a week or month as your time permits. Orientation training is provided and mileage is reimbursed at a rate of \$.32 per mile or you may take an equivalent tax deduction in lieu of reimbursement. A free lunch is also provided to drivers.

This is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity and often the only outside contact the recipients have is with their delivery driver. If you have a few hours to spare you may sign up by calling Marvey Collins at 213-0386. ♦