

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

March 2008  
Volume 8, 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

Jim Green – Chairman  
Rod Thorpe – Vice  
Chairman  
Don Grimm – Secretary  
Arlo Meyer - Treasurer

## Committee Chairs

John McDonough –  
Community Projects Team  
Pete Jurgens – Recruiting/  
Retention/Recognition  
Chuck Wehage –  
Communications  
Angela Burns – Agency Liaison

## Web Site

<http://rcrv.org>  
e-mail: [contact@rcrv.org](mailto: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 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. ♦

## Governor's Award Program

On November 22 Mrs. Chet Culver presented hundreds of local volunteers with awards for outstanding service to the communities of Eastern Iowa. RCRV was one of the organizations honored. Those in the picture represent all of the two-hundred or so active members that contribute volunteer hours through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. ♦



RCRV members along with Mrs. Chet Culver at the Governor's Award Program

# New Officers

The annual meeting of the Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers was held at the American Red Cross facility on November 8, 2007. The meeting agenda included a review of 2007 accomplishments, client agency reports, plans for the future and election of officers.

Officers elected for 2008 were Jim Green, Chairperson; Rod Thorpe, Vice-Chairperson; Don Grimm, Secretary; and Arlo Meyer, Treasurer.



Jim Green  
Chairperson



Rod Thorpe  
Vice Chairperson



Don Grimm  
Secretary



Arlo Meyer  
Treasurer

These jobs represent a major commitment to the community and to RCRV. Give the new officers an attaboy when you see them. ♦

# Answers to October, 2007 Trivia Quiz

1. Sputnik was launched by the Soviet Union
2. August, 1939
3. Singapore Airlines
4. Collins WP-101 display in a Delta DC-7 in 1956 ♦

# FIRST Lego League

## 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, LEGO!

This call started the table action of the FIRST Lego League Competition (FLL) at Taft Middle School on Saturday, December 15, 2007. The competition, sponsored by Rockwell Collins, with 45 participating teams from the surrounding area, with teams from Urbana, Cedar Falls, Washington, and Johnston. Most teams represented schools but the Science Station, Jane Boyd and Marion Home Assistance also had teams.

The teams consist of 8 to 10 students ranging in age from 9 to 14. Teams are led by a Coach (usually a teacher) and 2 or 3 Mentors who provide technical advice.

The table competition is performed on a table mat 4 by 8 feet, with a standard international pattern. The robots perform specific missions of taking something from base, bringing something back or perform an action outside the base. The robots are designed by the students and programmed to operate with no touching except within the base. 2 1/2 minutes are allowed to perform whatever tasks are accomplished. Each of the tasks has a point score. A maximum score of 400 is possible. The highest scores at Taft this year were 280 in the morning and 320 in the afternoon session.

In addition to the table competition, the teams are judged on a Research Project, Robot construction knowledge and Teamwork. Fifty six awards were made in a wide range of areas covering the factors judged.

Many of the teams went on to the State Competition at Ames on January 19. Past winners of the state competition were eligible to go to the World Festival in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

RCRV has been very active in this Lego activity now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, both as Mentors of teams and as judges at the Taft competition. Art Roderick, John Wauer, Mike Wilson and Jack Murphy were particularly instrumental in the planning and performance of the Rockwell Collins competition this year. ♦



FLL table judges gathered around a competition table



An FLL team with their award certificates after the award ceremony



An FLL team meeting in their pit area

# SHIIP and Rockwell Collins Insurance

## L. Pete Jurgens - SHIIP Counselor

In September John McDonough and I, SHIIP Counselors for the state of Iowa and RCRV members, for the third year attempted to help the Rockwell Collins retirees to understand the health and drug insurance program changes that Rockwell Collins presented to us. Many hours were spent preparing for this endeavor. As we started our meetings it became a learning experience for us also. Each meeting brought forth more questions. Some we knew the answers and others had to be presented to the company for an answer. It was very complicated as there were many scenarios included in the insurance package.

After speaking to about 3000 people and counseling many retirees we hoped that in some way we helped them to make a decision. It was not an easy task. As SHIIP Counselors we were there to help people to understand the programs. We could only present what Rockwell Collins gave us. There were tough times standing in front of 200 people presenting and answering questions. But there were many rewards gotten from this project.

John and I debriefed Rockwell Collins after the speeches were completed. We express the frustrations of retirees while trying to interpret the Rockwell insurance presentation booklet. We also discussed many other problems that we encountered. Rockwell Collins was very gracious and listened as we expressed our problems and agreed to try to improve them.

John and I want to express our thanks to the SHIIP Counselors who spent their time to help Rockwell Collins Retirees to understand the insurance program. Without their help we would not have been able to complete our task. ♦



Pete Jurgens explaining the health and drug insurance plans to Rockwell Collins retirees

enrollment period starting Nov 15, 2008. That next period becomes effective Jan. 1, 2009. For those retirees who signed up for one of the Rockwell Collins offered "advantage programs" (Medicare Blue PPO, Humana Group Medicare Advantage Program or the Humana Group Medicare Advantage Saver Program), they are advised do nothing. "You have better than Part D

coverage," Rockwell officials noted. SHIIP is a program of the Iowa Insurance Division. It was created in 1990 to help older Iowans sort through confusing health insurance information. There are local SHIIP sponsors in nearly all of Iowa's ninety-nine counties. ♦

## Medical Insurance Note

### Linda Dearing - Heritage Agency on Aging

Local Health Care Partnership Offers Updates on Medicare Part D for Retired Workers. A program of the Iowa health insurance division, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), is using several information channels to get connected with the thousands of Rockwell Collins retirees in Iowa and beyond. SHIIP is advising retirees from one of the area's largest employers to be aware of important health coverage information. Rockwell Collins is no longer providing prescription drug coverage for its Medicare age retirees who signed up for the indemnity or the high deductible plans effective January 1, 2008. For those retirees who did sign up for those two plans and have not enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan yet, there is a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) which ended on February 29. SHIIP is communicating the following key facts to Rockwell retirees: If you do not sign up for Part D during this timeframe, you may end up paying a penalty for drug coverage when you do sign up. If you don't sign up during the SEP, you cannot sign up for Part D until the open

## Editor's Note

### Chuck Wehage – Communications Chair

In the November Annual Meeting, I accepted the job of editing the newsletter from Rod Thorpe. In the years since 2001 (and 22 issues) that he did this job, it was never late, as far as I know. So, I am starting my term off on the wrong foot, but hope to do better as I figure out what I am doing. The Volunteer reaches some 3700 of us. It gives us all an opportunity to look for former colleagues and get some timely hints that affect us as a group.

I need your help. Please drop a line at [contact@rcrv.org](mailto:contact@rcrv.org). Let me know how we can make The Volunteer better.

Finally, if you have not looked lately, check out the web site at [www.rcrv.org](http://www.rcrv.org) Look under "completed projects" to get an idea of the work that's been done by the club. If you think you could help with work like this, send an email and get on board. ♦

# Identity Theft Scams

## Tom Brennom

The number of Identity Theft Fraud scams continues to grow. Some are new, but many are recurring themes with some of the details changing. Some of the newer ones have become much more sophisticated as they try to lure people through techniques of building false confidence. They even make valid suggestions of how to keep from being a victim of Identity Theft, as they work to lower your guard. Don't fall into their trap...keep your guard up!

Some of the recent IDT Scams include:

- **Medicare Scam:** Fayette County Sheriff warns people to watch out for a telephone scam in which the caller poses as a Medicare official. The caller asks potential victims for their bank account and Social Security numbers, and threatens them that if they don't give the numbers, their Medicare checks may be affected. Remember, Medicare does NOT contact people by telephone in reference to their accounts. They use the mail!
- **Jury Duty Scam:** The scammer calls claiming to work for the local court and claims you've failed to report for jury duty. He tells you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest. You know you never received a jury duty notification. The scammer asks the victim for confidential information for "verification" purposes. Specifically the scammer asks for Social Security number, birth date, and sometimes credit card numbers and other personal information—exactly what is needed to commit identity theft. Court workers will NEVER call and ask for your SS# or private information. Most courts follow up with postal mail, not phone calls. Verify that any follow-up notices come from the jury commissioner and are not scams.

- **Spoofed Credit Union E-Mails:** Spoof e-mails are directing credit union customers to call a telephone number and confirm their personal information. Consumers who make the call do not reach their credit union, but instead end up on the telephone with a scam artist who wants to steal their identity. These e-mails appear legitimate and are known as "phishing" when they ask for the victim to connect to a website and are known as "vishing" when asked to call a phone number. The latest "vishing" scam disarms consumers by specifically warning about similar schemes. Consumers should NEVER respond to unexpected e-mail or phone calls seeking personal information! NEVER click on a link or call a phone number from an unexpected e-mail!
- **Elderly Seeking Tax Help:** Many seniors seek help preparing their tax returns, especially if that assistance costs little and comes with a promise of a refund! Law enforcement officials warn that scammers are exploiting this vulnerability and seniors are falling for it. Scam artists are approaching seniors offering to prepare tax returns for social security recipients. The victim is instructed to get a 1099 statement for the last three years from Social Security. Now the scam artist has the personal identity data, including Social Security number, with which they can open new accounts in the victim's name and possibly gain access to bank accounts and other assets.
- **Bank of America Customers:** An e-mail with the heading "Security Update Alert" and Bank of America's logo is being sent out to consumers. It then states that B of A is putting in new security measures and asks you to fill in your information at a given website. This is a scam! This letter and website are not connected to the

Bank of America. They NEVER ask their customers to reveal information by e-mail.

- **Amazon Customers:** Amazon.com is a popular online book/CD/DVD seller. A new phishing email has shown up where an email opens by informing recipients that they've supplied an "invalid credit card address" for a purchase, so their credit card issuer has "refused" to pay. The scammer then provides a phony website link which reads, "Click here to verify your information". The phishing email continues: "If you choose to ignore our request, you leave us no choice but to temporarily suspend your account. ...". Don't forget that you should NEVER click on the link in any email that looks suspicious. Instead, contact the actual company directly by phone or by typing in its web address directly into your browser.
- **Energy Department Refund:** With energy costs increasing, opportunities to save are easy scamming tactics. Phishing scammers are sending emails to consumers, purportedly from the Department of Energy (DOE), claiming that recipients are entitled to a refund from the DOE of \$408.58. The DOE believes that the purpose of the scam is to infect victims' computers with malware that will allow hackers to steal sensitive information, such as their names and passwords. The subject line of the email says "User Notification" and informs the recipient that an analysis of their bills shows they are due a refund. To receive the refund, of course, the person must click on a link in the message, which then infects the computer. It should be noted: The DOE does NOT collect revenues from or issues refunds to the general public by email! ♦