

# THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

June 2008  
Volume 8, 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

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. ♦

## Please Join Us

### Chuck Wehage - Communications Chair

I still find friends that are not aware that they can participate in RCRV without changing anything in their life except making for a phone call or email once a month or so. These friends I see participate in Meals on Wheels, SCORE, mow the lawn at their church, volunteer at a school or hospital already. ALL THOSE HOURS COUNT. Those hours add to our totals, and demonstrate our support we receive from Rockwell

Collins and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. ♦

## Charitable Giving Program

Rockwell Collins has decided to help RCRV encourage retirees to join and get involved in the community in a new way. They have established a budget of \$10,000 for the current fiscal year (and it may be extended after this year) to be distributed by RCRV to qualifying non-profits. The applications are at our web site, [www.rcrv.org](http://www.rcrv.org), and must be endorsed by a member to be considered by a committee that has been established. This year the “theme” is Science and Technology Education. One or more grants will be made, with a minimum grant of \$1000. A few of the rules are:

- The application should be short and succinct, describing how the resources will be used to support the focus area identified for this year’s grant program.
- Request for funds may include an open ended list of opportunities such as mini-grants for participation, transportation, or a staff position for agencies that support this year’s focus area.
- Applicants are encouraged to creatively apply for funds in collaborative ways.

No more than one grant will be made in any year to a particular agency. ♦

# RCRV provides support for area students and educators

*The following article appeared in a recent issue of "The Linker", a house publication of the Grant Wood Area Education Agency*

A team of dedicated Rockwell Collins retirees is making a difference through volunteer activities, which support students and teachers in Area 10 and the larger community.

Founding member and retiree Jack Hotchkiss formed the organization in 1997 as a Kiwanis Community Services project. The organizational goal was to provide affordable assistive technology devices for individuals with disabilities.

In addition to the creation, development and modification of assistive devices, today that goal has expanded to include:

- Management and professional assistance through the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the Tax Aid program
- Construction projects, home safety inspections and wheelchair ramp construction for community and social service agencies and their clients
- Tutoring and mentoring for K-12 students and support for school projects in collaboration with the Rockwell Collins K-12 program
- Computer/information technology projects
- Partnership activities with the community's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Ann Griffin, GWAEA adapted physical education consultant, explained that the assistive devices designed by the RCRV volunteers have economically and efficiently supported full access to physical education activities for students and teachers in Area 10.

"The adapted physical education consultants at Grant Wood AEA were the first in the area to benefit from the expertise of RCRV," Griffin said. "The first assistive device developed for use in physical education was a catapult named the "Tharpe Thrower," developed by RCRV's Earl Tharpe. It allowed students to serve volleyball over a net, shoot a basket, inbound a soccer ball or "punt" a football, all with just the pull of a string. The "Tharpe Thrower" evolved into a much safer and portable design now known as the Big Ball Launcher."

Griffin's requests for assistive devices expanded over the years to include support for full access archery, bowling, Frisbee, fishing, Bocce ball, soccer, football, golf, and recess activities.

"The assistive devices are designed and developed with a reduce, reuse and recycle philosophy through donated and recycled items from individuals and the REACT Center," said Griffin. "Even an item as simple as an empty film canister is used to make a thumb switch. The volunteers create a prototype. Physical educators and their students give the device a try and make suggestions for change. Items evolve until we are happy with the safety and function. Students really like being able to give input on the design."

"Physical education teachers need to adopt a great curriculum," Griffin continued. "With the help of RCRV, we have tweaked a number of devices to allow all students access to that curriculum. We're at a place where we have the assistive devices that allow

students to participate in a growing number of physical education activities in a variety of ways."

Griffin explained that the development of additional student activities is underway. "With the support of RCRV, we can universally design physical education for students," Griffin continued. "RCRV has helped Grant Wood AEA to be light years ahead of most of the country and the world in this area. RCRV even modified a design for a bocce ball ramp that is used by the United States Paralympics Bocce Ball team. Rocket science with a new focus!"

Griffin shared that students are appreciative of being able to use the assistive devices. "One student commented that instead of sitting in class, the student now has the opportunity to participate with peers," she continued. "The assistive devices designed by RCRV have created lots of wonderful interactions between kids with and without disabilities," Griffin said. "The volunteers come out to the schools, they meet the students and get to see the assistive devices in action. We dream it and they build it."

Jim Green, RCRV chairperson, explained that RCRV enjoys contributing to the community through many volunteer efforts. "Ann Griffin is always coming up with ideas that she needs for students, and RCRV is able to help," he said.

"RCRV concentrates on a variety of community areas," Green shared. "Some projects are K-12 related, others require volunteers to support projects related to aging services and several volunteers work with the Lego League competition."

Green shared RCRV doesn't have a budget. The Retired Senior Volunteer (continued)



Program (RSVP) keeps track of RCRV hours for accountability purposes.

RCRV is the recipient of numerous civic and community honors, most recently the Shining Star Award presented on May 22, 2007, at the Governor’s Conference on Aging held in Des Moines.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency honored RCRV with its 2000 Friend of Education Award.

“RCRV has copyrighted the assistive device designs to Grant Wood AEA,” said Griffin. The designs are available free of charge as part of the RCRV [www.rcrv.org](http://www.rcrv.org).

Green explained that RCRV Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. to discuss current and future projects. The office is located in the REACT Center, 927 N. Compton Dr., in Hiawatha. Requests from service agency representatives are submitted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month.

For more information, call RCRV at (319) 393-9637, visit [www.rcrv.org](http://www.rcrv.org), or contact Ann Griffin at Grant Wood AEA, (319) 399-6858, 1-800-332-8488, Ext. 6858 or [agriffin@gwaea.org](mailto:agriffin@gwaea.org). ♦

**Pull-Quote:**

“If you can dream it, we can do it.”  
Rockwell Collins Retirees Volunteers



A student uses the TV/VCR exercise bike. When students pedal the bike, the video plays.

# Identity Theft and the Direct Marketing Association

by Tom Brennom

I have received several questions recently regarding how a consumer may be taken off of “junk mail” lists. Although there are federally mandated lists for phones (DoNotCall) and pre-approved credit applications (Opt-Out), there is not such a list for direct mailing items. However, the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) has developed help in removing your name from US mailing and email lists as well as assistance in helping protect your identity from being stolen. They even have guidance for you regarding sweepstakes, and recognizing the difference between legitimate and illegitimate ones seeking to defraud.

DMA is the leading global trade association of business and non-profit organizations using and supporting direct marketing tools and techniques. DMA advocates industry standards for responsible marketing and has been in existence since 1917. It has more than 3,600 members from the US and 46 other nations.

DMA also has a Consumer Information website, called [www.DMAChoice.org](http://www.DMAChoice.org). DMA is committed to the advancement of consumer choice, and is proactive in educating consumers and in helping to honor their marketing communications preferences. In fact, the website DMAChoice.org contains a number of tools to help us as consumers to gain a desirable experience with direct marketing communications. These tools include:

- DMACChoice – DMA’s Suite of Preference Services: Learn more on how to manage your communication preferences or remove your name from promotional lists.
- Consumer Information: This section helps you understand your rights as a consumer and what you can do to find assistance. It also includes explanations of regulations and provides contact information about other groups and agencies that offer consumer guidance and assistance.
- OnGuard Online: A user-friendly, 7-step guide to help you have a safe and secure on-line experience. This was produced in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission.
- Shopping Direct: What You Can Expect When Buying from a DMA Member: The section is to help you gain confidence whether doing a purchase or making a charitable donation. Descriptions of ethical standards DMA members must follow are included.
- Parents: Parenting in the Digital Age: This section includes some useful information and suggestions to help parents navigate in this “new world.”
- Parents: Get CyberSavvy! This is an educational program, created by DMA as a public service to help parents, children, educators and librarians understand and enjoy cyberspace.

Take a few minutes and check out the DMA website [www.DMAChoice.org](http://www.DMAChoice.org). I think you will find this information informative and useful in our constant drive to protect our identity and have better experiences with the mail, shopping and the internet. ♦

# Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center

Cedar Amateur Astronomers, a local club well stocked with Rockwell Collins retirees and active employees, received a key gift of a research-quality telescope from the University of Iowa in 2003. CAA formally launched a fund drive to build a facility to house the quarter-million dollar, 24-inch reflector telescope in 2004. The plan was to raise about \$700K to do the job right. With support from Vision IOWA with a Community Attractions and Tourism grant, Rockwell Collins, Linn County Supervisors and private donations, the fund raising succeeded.



EIO LC building and observatories

Then with large amounts of sweat equity by RCRV, active R-C employees and others, the project was completed, and is a first class facility. The EIO LC held a grand opening on May 10, with RCRV well represented as hosts.

It's worth a visit. Public nights are held once a month. Check out the web site at [www.cedar-astronomers.org/eiolk.htm](http://www.cedar-astronomers.org/eiolk.htm) for a schedule. ♦

## Ramping Up

Between breaks in the weather, RCRV has been attacking a backlog of ramp construction, repair, and removal for salvage of wheelchair ramps. These projects have been streamlined from something averaging nearly two days to

just one good work day. Even less for repairs, often just a half day.

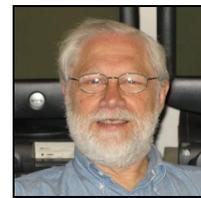
The market is expanding, and is now coordinated by the Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program (WRAP) which provides scheduling and storage of salvage materials. WRAP's mission is "To develop and maintain a program that will provide affordable, flexible home access on a timely basis for those in need". WRAP is a consortium of numerous nonprofit agencies that advocate for the elderly and needy in the community. ♦



Here are pictures from projects that volunteers did on May 28 and 30.

computer system for the Community Health Free Clinic. Originally the clinic CEO thought that 4 computers would be adequate to run the clinic. Now there are approximately 22 computers installed on the network. This was an interesting way to learn about computer networks for an engineer whose previous computer interest was in real time software and in software development tools.

Bob is a native of Templeton, Iowa – a small town of 300 people near Carroll in West Central Iowa. After receiving a MS Physics degree from Michigan State



Bob Ocken

University, he went to work at North American Rockwell in Anaheim, California. He spent 10 years in Southern California

working for Litton and Norden Systems in addition to Rockwell, before moving back to Iowa in 1978 to work for Rockwell Collins.

At Collins, Bob worked on the GPS simulation system, Beech Starship FMS and Displays, TCAS and he also worked in developing and maintaining software development tools.

Bob has a number of interest including, computers, home automation, genealogy.

Bob and his wife Lynn have two children. Their son Scott and his wife live in Ames where Scott is a Network Engineer for Info-Bunker near Ames, Iowa. His company hosts an online data backup service built in an old Cold War era bunker. Scott's office is 5 stories underground under a corn field. Their daughter Jennie lives in Cedar Rapids and works in the marketing department for Ad Track, a sales support company in Cedar Rapids. ♦

## Member Profile

### Bob Ocken

Bob Ocken retired from Rockwell Collins in 2000 after 30 years working with Rockwell in Anaheim and Cedar Rapids. He joined RCRV in 2001 when he decided that there were a lot of volunteer opportunities available that could use his engineering and computer skills. His primary contributions have been in helping set up and maintain the