

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

October 2012
Volume 12, Issue 3

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

Terry Lamb – President
Dave Knuth – Vice
President
Chuck Wehage – Secretary /
Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Jessica Link – Membership
Jim Green – Communications
Jim Klein – Data Base

Web Site

<http://www.rcrv.org>
e-mail: contact@rcrv.org

RCRV
927 N. Compton Drive
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
319-393-9637 (voice mail)

Retiree Insurance Programs for 2013

by John McDonough

Extend Health executives indicate that if you like the Medicare plan you are currently signed up for, you do not need to do anything. However, RCRV SHIP Counselors recommend that each Medicare recipient have their drug plans reviewed by your local SHIP office or by doing it yourself during the upcoming open enrollment period of October 15 through December 7th. We have found that many of our clients can save from \$100 to several thousands of dollars if they only have someone review the plan that they are currently signed up for to see if it is the most economical plan for them for the next year. Your opportunity for this savings is only during the open enrollment period unless you live in a nursing home, where you can change plans monthly if you so desire. Another choice would be to select a 5 star plan, as you can sign up for this during the year as well at periods other than open enrollment.

Call one of your local SHIP offices to make an appointment. Several SHIP offices are in the Cedar Rapids area, namely, St Lukes Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Heritage Area Agency on Aging, Jones County Regional Hospital, and the Witwer Center. All have SHIP Counselors trained to do this on your behalf. All services are free, confidential and objective.

A reminder to all Medicare patients.

To continue with the RCI HRA, you must sign up for your supplement or Medicare Advantage plan via Extend Health if you want to change from your current plan. You may sign up for your part D plan via your local SHIP office in lieu of Extend Health if you so desire and still continue to get your HRA.

We again this year hosted Insurance Seminars at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Service in Marion on October 8, October 9, and October 11. We had more than 1200 signed up to attend the sessions. If you were not able to attend, you may learn more by visiting one of the SHIP counselors in the metro area.

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Notice of RCRV Annual Meeting

RCRV by-laws require notification to all members, including members of the Board of Directors, of the annual meeting. This year, the meeting will be held at the American Red Cross Manville Center, 4300 Rockwell Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, on November 14, 2012 at 1:30 PM. All Rockwell Collins retirees are invited to attend the annual meeting, including inactive RCRV members and those who may wish to become active members. Officers and board members for 2013 will be elected during the annual meeting. Come join us! ◆

RCRV 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. You are always welcome at any of the meetings.

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). ♦

RCRV Charitable Grant Checks

At the August 15th Board meeting, RCRV gave away \$10,000 through its Charitable Grant Program. President Terry Lamb handed out four checks to representatives of the selected organizations. The purpose of the RCRV Charitable Grant Program is to allow RCRV and its members to recognize and reward deserving nonprofit organizations in support of the RCRV mission.

The annual RCRV Charitable Grant Program is funded through the Rockwell Collins Charitable Corporation. All active RCRV members are eligible to sponsor an application from a deserving nonprofit organization with which the member has become affiliated. The application process for next year's grant program will be advertised in early 2013, and all applicant materials may be found on the RCRV website.

College Community Schools was awarded a grant of \$2,000. Susan Boatwright accepted the check on behalf of the district.



The award will be used to purchase iPads to be used by teachers to differentiate new teaching methods to reach struggling students. Teachers of English Language Learners, special education, and reading will be primarily responsible for implementation of these new teaching methods.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency received a grant of \$4,000 from RCRV. Jim Green accepted the check on behalf of GWAEA.



This award will be used to purchase adaptive bikes and accessories to adapt standard children's bikes for children ages 2-21 with physical disabilities.

His Hands Ministries received \$2,000 to purchase Diabetic Meters. The meters will be distributed free-of-charge to diabetic patients with urgent, acute needs.



Mike Pearson accepted the award check.

The fourth award went to **St. Luke's Health Care Foundation** for the Witwer Children's Speech Therapy Program. Mary Wright and Sharon Hill accepted \$2000 from Terry Lamb.



These funds will be used to purchase electronic augmentative communication system devices used for children's evaluation and treatment at the Hiawatha Clinic. This program assists children with communications disabilities. ♦

New Branding Adopted

The new banner that you see at the bottom of pages 2 and 4 are now officially part of the new brand images for RCRV. The new logo and banner were approved by the



Board of Directors at its August meeting. The Executive Committee brought forward two possible designs for consideration, after working with Rockwell Collins Communications staff over several weeks and after receiving input (both positive and negative) from the RCRV membership.

RCRV leadership is now working to incorporate the new logo into its communications vehicles, such as the website, this newsletter, stationery, brochures, and branded garments. They are also working with Rockwell Collins to create banners that may be displayed during public events where RCRV participates.



Jim Vacherlon has identified a company that will embroider the new logo, seen above, onto shirts for those members who want to proudly demonstrate their support for RCRV. Both long-sleeve and short-sleeve shirts are available, for both men and women. Jim is currently taking orders. Pricing includes shipping costs, but no profit. Contact Jim for an order form or connect to his website, www.vacherlon.com.♦

Medicare and Veteran's Benefits

by John McDonough

Many Iowans are eligible for both Medicare and Veterans' health benefits. "However, there is often confusion about which program pays for a particular health service," says Kris Gross from the state of Iowa's Senior

Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP).

If you have or can get both Medicare and Veterans' benefits, you can get treatment under either program. When you get health care, you must choose which benefits you are going to use. You must make this choice each time you see a doctor or get health care. Medicare can't pay for the same service that was covered by Veterans' benefits and your Veterans' benefits can't pay for the same service that was covered by Medicare. However, to get the Veteran's Administration (VA) to pay for services you must go to a VA facility or have the VA authorize services in a non-VA facility.

There may be situations when both the VA and Medicare can pay for different services within the same episode of health care. If the VA authorizes services in a non-VA hospital, but doesn't pay for all of the services you get during your hospital stay, then Medicare may pay for the Medicare-covered part of the services that the VA doesn't pay for.

For example, let's say Jim is a veteran and goes to a non-VA hospital for a service that is authorized by the VA. While at the non-VA hospital, Jim gets other non-VA authorized services that the VA refuses to pay. Some of those services are Medicare-covered services. Medicare may pay for some of the non-VA authorized services that Jim received. Jim will have to pay

for services not covered by Medicare or the VA.

When it comes to drug coverage, the two benefits don't work together. An individual can have both VA drug coverage and a Medicare Part D plan, but only one coverage will pay for a drug. When filling a prescription, the individual will have to decide which to use--VA coverage or their Part D coverage, but they can't use them both at the same time. The VA prescription drug benefit is creditable coverage (i.e. it is as good as or better than Medicare's drug coverage), so a veteran does not have to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan. Some Veterans choose to have both in case the VA doesn't cover a drug that Medicare Part D might. If a veteran wants a Part D plan they can enroll during any valid enrollment period. Medicare's next Open Enrollment Period is October 15 through December 7 and new plan choices go into effect January 1.

In the Cedar Rapids area, there are 5 SHIIP offices that you may visit to get any questions you may have on Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans, the VA plans or your supplements answered face to face. They are: St Lukes Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Heritage Area Agency on Aging, the Witwer Center and Jones County Regional Hospital. All counseling services are free, confidential and objective.♦

Rockwell CarePlus Onsite Pharmacy
5070 Rockwell Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402
319-377-5497

- We are conveniently located in the same building as the Rec Center and Physical Therapy
 - Our hours are: 8am-8pm Monday thru Friday and 9am-1pm Saturday
 - We can transfer prescriptions from any other pharmacy
 - We can fill for most prescription drug plans
 - We can fill for 90 days if your doctor writes the prescription for 90 days per fill if your plan allows it
 - We administer flu shots and shingles vaccine (with a prescription from your doctor)
 - We are staffed by many of the same team as when you were an active employee
- We look forward to seeing you and serving you once again.
The Rockwell CarePlus Pharmacy Staff ♦

Ragbrai Riders See RCRV Creativity

Thousands of bicycling visitors to Cedar Rapids saw real evidence of the RCRV slogan “If you can dream it, we can do it.”

A hardworking team of RCRV volunteers accepted the challenge from the Visitors and Convention Bureau to turn a concept drawing into massive welcome signs for the concert on Mays Island last July.



Four of these welcome signs were built, decorated, and installed. The design limitations were daunting: the displays must withstand winds and precipitation; no holes were allowed in the pavement; the displays needed to be stored, then quickly set up in the early morning, and taken down after the concert.

The tiki heads used for the vertical columns presented a significant challenge. Each one had to be powered from a single source, and they had to remain attached to each other when installed. Kay Nelson and Pat Fox worked many overtime hours to modify the wiring on each head.



In addition to the ladies shown above, the RCRV team consisted of Glen Flaten, Dave Knuth, Pat Knuth, Terry Lamb, Bob Ocken, Keith Sutherland, Chuck Wehage, and Joe Wells. ♦



New WRAP Partnership

The Linn-Mar High School Armed Services Club has joined with RCRV to build two wheelchair ramps this year. ♦

