

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

June 2014
Volume 14, 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

Terry Lamb – President
Dave Knuth – Vice
President
Rob Pierce – Secretary /
Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough –
Community Projects Team
Kayla Paulson – 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)

RCRV Charitable Grant Program

At the May 21st Board meeting, RCRV gave away \$10,000 through its Charitable Grant Program. Four worthy recipients were selected by an evaluation committee of RCRV members chaired by Dave Knuth. Five applications were received for this year's grant program, with requests totaling over \$22,000. The 2014 program focus was on organizations that address Inspiring Tomorrow's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Professionals. 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.

Indian Creek Nature Center

This organization intends to create an Outdoor Living Wetland Laboratory. This 2/3 acre wetland will allow students to study and experience for themselves the critical role wetlands play in water cycles and life cycles. The Nature Center partners with the Cedar Rapids Community School District and other Eastern Iowa school districts to provide hands-on, in-the-field learning opportunities. These naturalist-led, science-based interactions complement the learning objectives and science curriculum set by the school districts. School children will learn among other things water cycles, and how to measure, predict and improve water quality. The

Outdoor Living Wetland Laboratory is planned to be part of the Nature Center's Amazing Space education center. The Indian Creek Nature Center application was sponsored by Phil White. The Grant Request was for \$10,000 to be used in conjunction with other funds to purchase the \$17,000 liner needed to the wetland base. The Indian Creek Nature Center was awarded \$1000 toward their purchase of the liner.



Linn-Mar Community School System

Linn-Mar is starting the process of implementing Project Lead the Way's Gateway to Technology program at Excelsior and Oak Ridge middle schools. There are two foundational units for Project Lead the Way Gateway: Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics. Implementation of Gateway to Technology will provide the foundational concepts which align with the PLTW High School courses. It will provide the opportunity for middle school students to increase their understanding of STEM content and related careers. Program implementation aligns with other experiences already in existence at the middle school level and career

exploration. Funding from the grant will provide an additional VEX Project Lead the Way Gateway Robotic Kit for each middle school. Each kit will allow for a class of 30 students to work through the Automation and Robotics unit at one time at each building. Linn-Mar Community School grant request was sponsored by Jim Green. The grant request was for \$2100. Linn-Mar Community Schools were awarded \$2100 for their purchase of two robotic kits.



Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

Their grant request is for a Lessons in Light interactive learning station which will feature hands-on observation of gas discharge tubes using spectrometers which allow visual and numerical analysis of each tube. Lessons in Light will include a spectroscopic camera system and software to provide a state of the art educational tool. This exhibit will illustrate the use of tools to disperse light according to wavelength allowing the study of intensity, absorption and emission characteristics of standard sources and many everyday light sources creating additional interest and inspiration. Funds from RCRV will be used to purchase the parts and software to make the learning station. Anticipated use could be up to 2000 youth annually. The Cedar Amateur Astronomers grant request was sponsored by John Leeson.



They had requested \$2500. The Cedar Amateur Astronomers were awarded \$2500 to purchase the hardware and software for the Lessons in Light Project.

Kids on Course

Their grant request is to bring LEGO league to the children of Grant and Harrison Elementary Schools for the first time. These schools' populations are so in need that the traditional grant Rockwell Collins offers would not be sufficient to provide all the elements necessary for a truly successful experience. This grant request would pair Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers to serve as head coaches and support coaches at both schools and would further provide transportation, materials, field trips, tournament fees, registration fees, team shirts and other costs directly associated with the program. Making FIRST LEGO League available to these students would open their worlds to STEM careers. The Kids on Course grant request was sponsored by Terry Lamb.



Kids on Course had requested \$8000. They were awarded \$4400 for their project to establish a LEGO league program at these two schools.

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 non-profit organization with which the member has become affiliated. The application process for next year's grant program will be advertised in early 2015, and all applicant materials may be found on the RCRV website. ♦

The Collins Virtual Museum

Rod Blocksome

The Rockwell Collins Museum Club members are employees and retirees whose passion is the preservation and display of the company's history. Several years ago, we created a virtual museum on the web to provide wider access to the historical achievements of the company. We are continually adding to the web site with the help of several volunteers. It can be found at the following URL: <http://www.rockwellcollinsmuseum.org>

One recent project has been to scan and post on the web site all of the *Collins Column* magazines. The *Collins Column* started in May 1943 and continued through April 1947. It then resumed monthly in August 1950 until the last issue in December 1955. We have recently completed posting the *Collins*



Column and you can now browse and read any or all issues.

A similar project, currently underway, is the creation of a searchable database of all the names and equipment model numbers mentioned in all issues of the *Collins Column*. This is a herculean task requiring approximately 3 hours to index one issue. So far, sixteen of the early issues have been indexed into the database. If you would like to volunteer to index an issue, please contact me via email (rod.blocksome@gmail.com). You need only MS Excel on your computer and internet access to the museum web site. I'll email you a sheet of instructions and the Excel Template.

After all the *Collins Columns* were completely scanned, we started scanning the *Collins Signal* magazines. This publication actually started before incorporation (when the company was still a proprietorship) in February 1933. There were 8 issues between February 1933 and December 1935. The magazine did not resume publication until after the war, when the first issue appeared in October 1946. It continued mostly quarterly until the last issue in the spring of 1971. We are currently finishing the scanning of all the *Collins Signals* except for a few missing from the archives.

We need the following issues to complete the project: **April 1961, Summer 1962, and Fall 1962.** If you have these issues, we would certainly like to borrow them for scanning. We are also receptive to donations of *Collins Signal* magazines as some of the museum archive copies are well worn or have 3-ring binder holes punched in them.

This magazine collection contains a wealth of interesting information on the activities and achievements of the company, its customers, its products, and the people who made it happen. By carefully preserving and providing access, may it also serve to inspire today's and future employees to even greater achievements. ♦

Save These Important Phone Numbers

If you need to contact the company's benefits department, please use one of the following phone numbers:
Boeing retirees, 1-866-473-2016
Rockwell Collins retirees, 1-800-236-3071

Use these numbers if you need to report the death of your spouse or if you need information about your benefit programs. ♦

WRAP Updates

WRAP - The Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program - utilizes volunteers, including many RCRV, to design and build ramps for home access for individuals in need in our community.



On May 8-9, WRAP partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build five ramps for United Way's Days of Caring. Day of Caring volunteer

groups from Pearson, Wells Fargo, and Rockwell Collins joined RCRV volunteers to build ramps in NE and SW Cedar Rapids. Some groups faced a rain shower mid-day, but their spirit of serving others remained strong! At the end of those two Days of Caring, five individuals had their freedom and independence restored with safe home access.



WRAP was recognized in April by receiving the Group Volunteer trophy from United Way of East Central Iowa. Many RCRV members attended the awards luncheon in support of WRAP. Information about WRAP and more pictures and information can be found on our website:

www.wrapiowa.org. If you are not yet a WRAP volunteer, and are interested in volunteering with WRAP or learning more about what WRAP does, please contact Intake Coordinator Angie Ehle at 319-369-7377 or email wrap@unitypoint.org.

RCRV Meetings

The Community Projects Team meets every Thursday at 10:00 in our office in the REACT Center (927 N. Compton Dr. in Hiawatha) where we discuss future and current volunteer 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 normally held at 9 AM on the third Thursday of each month at the REACT Center. ♦

Volunteer Hours Reporting

Rockwell Collins retirees are well known for the time and energy they contribute to multiple projects for schools and non-profit organizations in our communities. RCRV wants to keep track of the volunteer hours from our members in order to be able to describe the impact that we collectively make, but also for the purpose of supporting funding for those non-profits and for the RSVP program.

We continue to hear that some Rockwell retirees do not know how or where to report volunteer hours, so this article is a reminder. You may report your volunteer time by clicking on the link on the www.rcrv.org website (left side of the page). You may send an email directly to Kayla Paulson of RSVP at kpaulson@uweci.org, and you may telephone Kayla at 319-398-5372, x37 to make your report. You are encouraged to report hours monthly, but Kayla will be glad to receive your report at any time. ♦

RCRV Aviators Encourage Future Fliers

RCRV President Terry Lamb volunteered over the winter months with Kids On Course. The Kids On Course program was a volunteer after school program at Van Buren elementary school. There were 13 - 2nd thru 4th grade students who were

involved in the 8 week program about aviation.



The idea was to familiarize the students about aviation, the kinds of vocations that are a part of it and some simple explanation of the aerodynamics of an aircraft. The activities included such things as an exercise to how to protect an egg when dropped one story onto a concrete floor, making and flying paper airplanes using paper clips to change the CG to illustrate basic flight characteristics, and building and flying a rubber band model. The highlight enjoyed by all the students was a visit to Landmark Aviation at The Eastern Iowa airport to see and sit in an actual airplane. RCRV member Chuck Wehage moved his V-tail Bonanza airplane to the hangar for the visit. Landmark personell did an excellent job discussing aircraft types and information on what they do.

Everyone wanted to sit in the seat of the Bonanza and listen to the effects of Chuck's noise cancelling headsets. The evening was topped off with popcorn being served to everyone. ♦

Save the Date!

Please mark your calendar for October 6, 7, and 8th for our next Rockwell Collins Insurance seminars at the Kirkwood Training and Outreach Service (KTOS) Center, located at 3375 Armar Dr. in Marion, IA 52302. The briefing will be repeated at 9:00, 12:30 and 3:00 each of the days. We will

present the Medicare Insurance program for retirees 65 and older, as well as what is available to Rockwell Collins retirees under the age of 65, We again will have Rockwell Collins Insurance executives and Towers Watson One Exchange folks in the audience to assist in answering questions that you may have.

You do need to make reservations, as we have space for only 200 people for each session. If you don't make reservations, you more than likely be standing for the entire presentation. You may start making reservations on August 18 either online at: crSHIIP.org/reservations or you can call 319-369-7475

When you make an on-line reservation, you will need to enter your email address, the number of people in your party (3 maximum), and your selected session. Your email address will be used only to send you a message to remind you of your selected session. If you do not have an email address, please make a reservation using the phone number 319-369-7475.

Electronic Distribution of the Volunteer

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, simply supply RCRV with your name and email address. If there is more than one retiree in the household, please provide information for all. Send your information to contact@rcrv.org. ♦

