

Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association

Annual Report 2017



The Army Navy "E" Award Flag Presentation Ceremony to Collins Radio Company took place on July 22, 1942. Arthur Collins is standing behind the American Flag in this photo taken at Main Plant

The "E" Award was for Excellence in Production during WW II. Only 5% of U.S. Companies had earned this prestigious flag by the war's end. Additional "E" Awards provided a Silver Star to the flag and could be earned at 6-month intervals. Collins Radio Company was one of a very few to have earned five stars on their "E" Flag - the last awarded on August 28, 1945.

FY-2017 Annual Report

AACLA Purpose

This report documents the Fiscal Year 2017 activities and accomplishments of the AACLA for donors and volunteers. This is a yearly summary and additional details can be obtained by contacting one of the officers. The AACLA was incorporated in the State of Iowa on January 3, 2014 and became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in October 2014.

The purpose of the AACLA is to preserve, honor, and interpret the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and the significant contributions he and Collins Radio Co. made in the world of communications, aerospace and defense technologies. The AACLA is organized for the purpose of promoting education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The organization works to inspire and teach future generations by the preservation, interpretation and display of artifacts, conducting educational events, exploring grants and other funding opportunities which may ultimately lead to the creation and operation of a heritage learning center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

AACLA Personnel

The organization consists of a board of directors (who elect the officers) and a cadre of volunteers. The board meets monthly with its annual meeting in November. During the year Phil White resigned from the board due to increased commitments elsewhere. Alicia Jackson, a professional CPA and Rockwell-Collins retiree volunteered to serve as the AACLA Treasurer.

The 2017 Board of Directors and Officers are:

Terry Lamb, President – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1961 - 1996)

Michael Collins, Vice-President – Eldest son of A.A. Collins & Collins Radio employee (1964-1967)

Rod Blocksome, Secretary – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1968 - 2010)

Alicia Dee Jackson*, Treasurer – Retired CPA (Husband a Collins Radio Employee)

Jim Shanklin, Member – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1959 - 1996)

Lawrence Robinson, Member – Rockwell Collins employee (1999 - 2017)

Rebecca Woodward, Member – Rockwell Collins employee (2005 - present)

Mike Wilson, Member – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1951 - 1990)

H. Keith Erickson, Member – Retired, Head of Linn County Public Health (1980 - 2008)

Jim Stitzinger, Member – Businessman, President Collins Collectors Association

Don Stulken, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2015)

* indicates non-board member officer

The volunteers and their work Include:

Tom Ackerman – Video Interviews & Documentary Consultant
Dominique Blank – Public Relations
Alan Erickson – E-Book Project; Retired Rockwell Collins
Bob Erlandson – Volunteer; Retired Rockwell Collins
Gordon Fabian – Indexing Collins Publications; Retired Rockwell Collins
Jim Jones – Collins 233D Transmitter Restoration; Retired Rockwell Collins
Larry Lacy – Volunteer; Retired Rockwell Collins
Bob Ocken – Web Site Development; Retired Rockwell Collins
Larry Tjaden – Web Site Content; Retired Rockwell Collins
Jules Yoder – Collins Transmitter Restorations; Retired Rockwell Collins
Paul Veenstra – Dallas Video Interviews assistance
Jim Stevens – Dallas Area Video Interviews assistance
Jim Brown – Dallas Area Video Interviews assistance

AACLA Projects

AACLA Projects fall into six broad categories. A summary of Fiscal Year 2017 activities of each follows:

1. Collins Historical Documentaries

- Hired a professional media consultant, Busbee Communications, to coordinate and conduct interviews for Collins Historical Documentaries. Also hired a person to transcribe the video interviews (needed for editing into a finished documentary).
- Conducted interviews with 13 Collins Retirees in the Dallas, Texas area in Dec. 2016 and early 2017.
- Conducted interviews with 19 Collins Retirees at Cottage Grove Place, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in June 2017 plus 3 additional in Cedar Rapids
- Detailed Planning for production of a Space Communications Documentary
- Continued sales and promotion of the DVD "*The Arthur Collins Legacy - A Culture of Innovation*"

2. AACLA Publications

- Working toward E-Book publishing and sale of "*Arthur Collins - Radio Wizard*" on the AACLA web site: <https://www.arthurcollins.org/>. AACLA had earlier acquired publishing rights to this book.

3. Collins Historical Exhibits

- AACLA is conducting discussions with Rockwell Collins leadership on defining a future center and cooperative operating arrangements.
- Arthur Collins 1920s Attic Ham Station – We received permission to do a three-dimensional laser scan of this room by the current owner of 514 Fairview Dr., Cedar Rapids. The room and house exterior was also extensively photographed. This documentation will enable construction of a replica for future planned exhibits.
- AACLA has drafted a specification for a mobile museum and is discussing possible configurations and requirements with the local school districts. This is a continuing effort to promote STEM educational opportunities tied to Collins history.

4. Artifact Collection and Preservation

- The AACLA collection of artifacts and documentation was moved from the two units at Cedar Storage Southeast into protected storage at Rockwell Collins (Building 134). Rockwell Collins is donating this climate controlled storage to the AACLA resulting in elimination of rental costs at our previous commercial facility.
- Media and digitized documents are stored on a series of high capacity portable computer hard drives. Working copies are kept by the Secretary while back-up copies are kept in a safe deposit box at the Collins Credit Union under the name of Terry Lamb, AACLA President.
- Throughout the year we continue to receive artifacts and donations significant to the history and Legacy of Collins. Of particular note were donations of:
 - Arthur Collins' 1926 ham station HF receiver, his General Radio Frequency Meter, and replica of his 1925 breadboard transmitter
 - KWM-2 and KWM-380 Amateur Transceivers
 - Collins advertising and historical films and 16mm projector

5. Public Events and Presentations

- AACLA Board Members regularly present 1 hour programs on Collins History to Rockwell Collins Employees at the History Community of Practice Events. The History CoP has consistently large attendance plus live streaming on the R-Web.
- Assisted the Rockwell Collins Museum Club in celebrating the 40th anniversary of GPS.

6. AACLA Development (Funding)

- A designated board member is leading the effort of writing grant proposals
- One grant proposal submitted and two more in process

Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Report

The AACLA fiscal year runs from Oct. 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2017. During this period the AACLA received revenue of \$27,695.88 of which \$25,855.00 was direct public support. We incurred expenses of \$18,308.42, of which \$15,111.78 was for video interviews. We ended the year with a net income of \$9,387.46.

A significant expense for storage facility rental was avoided mid-year when Rockwell-Collins agreed to store AACLA artifacts in a company secured facility. Sales of the DVD documentary "The Arthur Collins Legacy – A Culture of Innovation" provided nearly \$600 of income.

AACLA Information & Products

A free brochure describing the AACLA in pdf format may be downloaded by clicking [here](#). A copy of the DVD "*The Arthur Collins Legacy - A Culture of Innovation*" may be purchased by sending a check made out to "AACLA" for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 shipping & handling to: Rod Blocksome, 690 Eastview Dr., Robin, IA 52328.

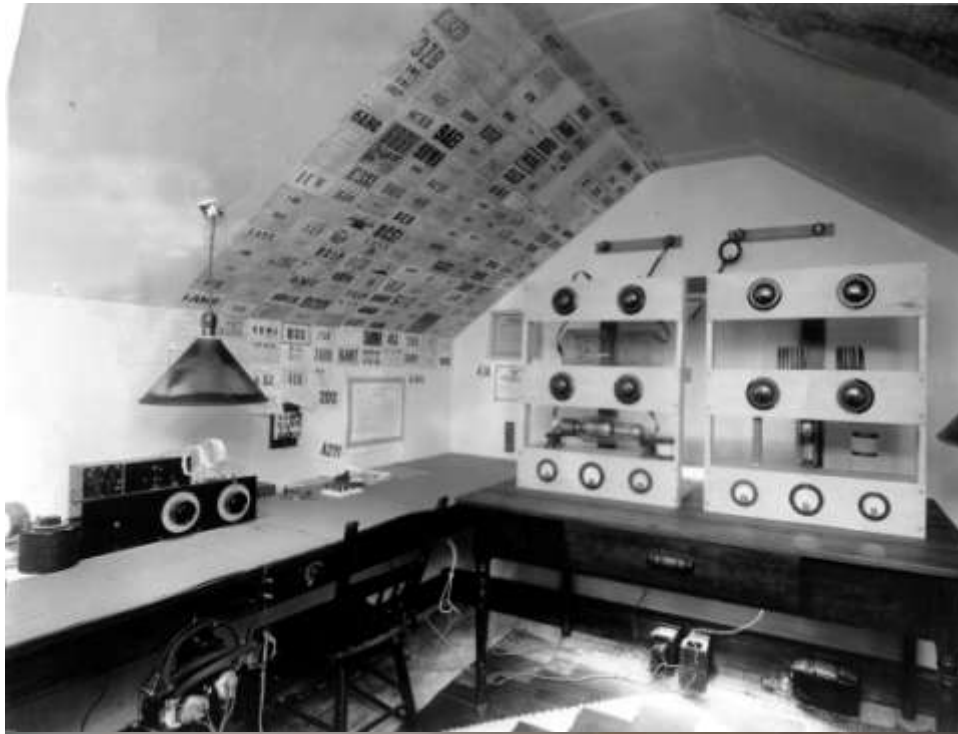
The AACLA officers and board of directors sincerely thank all our past donors who have enabled our accomplishments to date. The AACLA officers and board of directors operate without pay and rely on donations of funding and in-kind goods and services to accomplish their goals and objectives. We also accept donations of Collins Radio artifacts such as equipment, documents, and media per our [collection policy](#). Your contribution will be gratefully accepted by contacting AACLA President Terry Lamb, 1650 Koehler DR NW, APT 347, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405, tlamb33@mediacombb.net (319) 573-2654.



Dr. Jim Garrett, Dr. Anant Jain, and Mike Cisco describe their roles at Collins Radio and the birth of the Internet during video interviews in Dallas, Texas



Three photos of the replica components of Arthur Collins' 1925 Breadboard Transmitter built by J. B. Jenkins and donated to AACLA



Arthur Collins' 1926 attic ham station and how it looks today in July 2017