

Collins Aerospace Visit 23 July 2019

The IA-IL Chapter, in coordination with Collins Aerospace, offered an opportunity for Chapter members to visit Collins Aerospace and learn more about this 66 year corporate NDIA member and its critical role in national defense. Collins Aerospace is the leader in technologically advanced and intelligent solutions for the global aerospace and defense industry. Attendees were able to see demonstrations of emerging technologies associated with avionics/mission systems (formation flight autonomy, coalescence mixed reality training solutions, avoidance re-router, combined vision system and surface guidance, and F-35 helmet). The common comment of attendees was AWESOME! Shown below is a group photo of attendees:



One of the Chapter initiatives this 100th NDIA anniversary year was to try to visit our long time corporate members, holding a board meeting at/near their location in conjunction with an overview/tour of their operations with the objective of strengthening Chapter/Corporation collaboration.

As part of this visit, a Certificate of Recognition was presented “For 66 years as a Corporate Member of the National Defense Industrial Association and an active supporter of and contributor to the Iowa-Illinois Chapter”. Accepting the Certificate on behalf of Collins Aerospace is Ms. Heather Robinson, Vice President | Business Development | Mission Systems. Ms Robinson is a director on our IA-IL Chapter board. Presenting the certificate is Mr. George B. Rivard, President of the IA-IL Chapter. The certificate, bearing the 100th year NDIA anniversary seal, was signed by Mr. Rivard as well as Mr. Herbert “Hawk” J. Carlisle, General, USAF (Ret), President & CEO, National Defense Industrial Association.



Collins Aerospace, and its predecessor organizations, has been an active participant in the leadership of the Chapter, maintaining a board of director position for at least 17 years and perhaps longer, as well as being an annual financial contributor to the Chapter with stipulation that half be used for our scholarship program. Collins’s contributions have been totally dedicated to our scholarship program. Since 2002 our Chapter has awarded 131 total scholarships totaling \$206,650. This year we awarded 7 scholarships @ \$2500 each. It is also noteworthy that Collins Aerospace represents more than 50% of our current Chapter membership.

Following the tour, most participants proceeded to Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids for our bi-monthly board meeting and dinner. Normal agenda was followed and minutes will be posted on our website under “Local Chapter” tab. Once again, Collins Aerospace was thanked for hosting our visit and congratulated on an awesome tour and their continued strong participation in our Chapter operations.



For those golfers, Elmcrest Country Club is located at 1 Zach Johnson Dr N E. So it is not a coincidence that this home town native is honored at their facility. Below on display is the green Masters Jacket that Zack Johnson won in 2007 at Augusta.

