

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PHIL POLLACIA

Philip F. Pollacia (Phil) is a retired IBM executive. He was born in Houston and reared in Louisiana. His formal education includes a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech and master's degree from Auburn University, both in mathematics.

Prior to moving to Plano, he and his wife Joyce resided in Houston, Central Texas, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore. Phil began his professional career as a programmer supporting the orbit and re-entry computations associated with the NASA space program. He had the opportunity to be a controller during Gemini 7/5 – the first rendezvous, Gemini 8 – the first emergency re-entry and Apollo 13. After Gemini, he became the IBM lead manager for Apollo, Skylab and Apollo/Soyuz.

He became the marketing/sales leader for IBM in Europe and the Far East. The motivation to move to Plano in 2005 was to be near their six grandchildren. He and Joyce make a point to attend many school and sports events for them.

Phil is quite active in his homeowners association and served as treasurer for two years. Since 2009, he has served as a Community Relations Commission member for the Plano City Council. He found the Plano Senior Recreation Center through a friend at the YMCA. Since he enjoyed teaching and had some computer skills, he volunteered. He currently teaches computer skills at the Center. He enjoys working with other instructors and students to provide the best material for the classes.

Through a special IBM program, he was able to get a grant for the Center that resulted in the purchase of a projector for the Computer Learning Center. Last month he was notified he was to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award. He and his wife are members of Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Plano.

Thank you for all of your contributions, Phil! We are *very* fortunate to have you on our team of volunteers!

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