

book reviews

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Volunteerism *Volunteerism: An Emerging Profession. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 1974. 199 pp. \$5.95.*

Here's a collection of papers written by leaders in the field of voluntary action. Each chapter provides information of interest to Extension educators, although some of the material isn't well organized. Some of the information is useful for direct work with volunteers; some concerns the social context of volunteerism. A large and well-documented section covers the development of research knowledge about volunteerism for practitioners. The chapters on recruiting and training and on research and communication needs are particularly well done.

The strengths of the book lie in its breadth and detail. The detailed discussion includes concrete suggestions for: (1) recruiting and training volunteers, (2) optimal organization patterns for agencies that involve volunteers, and (3) interchange between scholars and practitioners to assure communication and linkage between knowledge and practice. The weakest part of the book is the chapter on supervision.

The fact that voluntary action has changed from an avocation to a permanent established vocation in which individuals give their services for the satisfaction of helping people has special implications for Extension educators. The availability of a large group of people willing to work to implement Extension programs provides a vital human resource at a time when money resources are limited.