

In This Issue

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts...*

William Shakespeare, 1600

(As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII)

Even though the Bard wrote these classic words more than 400 years ago, they immediately came to mind as I finalized this innovative and exciting issue of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*. In this fast-paced 21st century world in which we live, we each seem to be “playing” more and increasingly diverse “parts” every day of our lives. Our time has become a type personal commodity that we are faced to monitor and barter within and between our respective personal, familial, professional, and social roles. And, too many times, we have not “exited” one role before we must make our “entrance” to another new role, fulfilling myriad roles simultaneously! This is the contemporary social phenomenon that is episodic volunteerism.

To my knowledge, no other academic or professional journal has devoted this amount of attention, resources, and energy to documenting and disseminating cutting-edge information and insights regarding episodic volunteerism. Not only is this issue of *The IJOVA* our most extensive to date regarding newly published ideas and research, it is also our most diverse with contributing authors representing 14 different academic institutions from the five nations of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Israel, and the United States.

I am very proud to say that seven excellent *Feature Articles* are included in this monumental issue, focusing upon the phenomenon of episodic volunteerism in philanthropic, disaster recovery, sporting, health services, and fiscal contexts. Joan Beder and Jonathan Fast focus upon episodic volunteerism in charity events and conclude that their “study can be seen as a snapshot of the episodic volunteer and initiates a beginning understanding of what motivates the volunteer to participate in a charity [event].” Three other *Features* address episodic volunteerism in sports (and more specifically, golfing) events. Separate articles by Shannon Hamm, Joanne MacLean, Ph.D., and Katie Misener, and Keunsu Han, Ph.D. and Sheila Nguyen, both explore the phenomenon within women’s professional golf, while a third article by Gina Pauline, Ed.D., Jeffrey Pauline, Ed.D., and Thalia Mulvihill, Ph.D. explores episodic volunteerism in both professional men’s and women’s golf events. Alyson Greiner, Ph.D. and Thomas Wikle, Ph.D. focus upon a real-life case study of episodic volunteerism within disaster recovery and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in Pass Christian, Mississippi. Leslie Hustinx, Ph.D., Debbie Haski-Leventhal, Ph.D., and Femida Handy, Ph.D. compare selected attributes of episodic and regular volunteers at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. According to the authors, “Further research is needed to investigate of the challenges and opportunities of managing episodic and regular volunteers within an organization as it is not always easy to blend episodic and regular volunteers under one management style.” Our final *Feature Article* is by Thomas

Madison, Ph.D., Stephanie Ward, Ph.D., and Kent Royalty and describes training episodic volunteers delivering economic assistance to low-income working taxpayers in the national Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The authors suggest that their findings, “while focused on the episodic volunteer patterns of VITA volunteers, provide valuable insight into the training preferences and time commitment expectations of episodic volunteers used by numerous organizations to achieve their goals.”

National volunteer development consultant and university faculty member Nancy Macduff first introduced the concept of episodic volunteerism back in the early 1990’s, and she offers an interesting *Commentary* in this issue regarding how “fleeting” this volunteer “species” is still today some 18 years later. We are pleased also to reprint an earlier review by Ryan Schmiesing, Ph.D. of Macduff’s seminal 2004 book, *Episodic Volunteering: Organizing and Managing the Short-term Volunteer* in this issue’s *Tools of the Trade* section.

In *Ideas That Work*, another contemporary scholar exploring the phenomenon of episodic volunteerism, Harriett C. Edwards, Ed.D., from North Carolina State University, describes a successful episodic volunteer application and screening process that she developed for the statewide 4-H Youth Development program. In *From the Annals*, we are also pleased to reprint one of her articles published previously in *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*: “Organizational Effectiveness in Utilizing Episodic Volunteers Based on Perceptions of 4-H Youth Development Professionals” (first published in 2005). We are also pleased to reprint another case study involving episodic volunteerism in the *Annals* by Robert Christensen, James Perry, and Laura Littlepage, “Making a Difference Day: An Assessment of ‘Join Hands Day’ “ (also first published in 2005).

I join the entire Editorial Board and Reviewers of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* in sharing this first-of-its-kind tome so that managers of volunteer resources may better mobilize and engage episodic volunteers. After all, I could paraphrase the Bard to read:

*All the world's a stage,
And all its volunteers, both regular and episodic, key players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one volunteer in his or her time plays many parts...*

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