

## CURRENT DEFINITIONS

### I. Volunteer (verb)

- A. To choose to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit, going beyond what is necessary for one's physical well being.  
Susan Ellis & Katherine Noyes, BY THE PEOPLE, Energize, 1979
- B. To engage in a helping action that is personally valued and not aimed directly at material gain, nor mandated or coerced by others.  
Jon Van Til, Ph.D, "In Search of Volunt---ism,"  
VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION, Vol.XII, #2
- C. The free giving of one's time and talents for work deemed socially or politically beneficial.  
Herta Loeser, WOMEN, WORK, AND VOLUNTEERING, 1974
- D. To participate voluntarily in the solving of community problems.  
Joyce M. Black, "As I See It," VOLUNTARY ACTION LEADERSHIP  
Summer 1979
- E. To enter into any service of one's own free will.  
Webster's NEW WORLD DICTIONARY

### II. Voluntarism/Volunteerism/Voluntary Associations

- A. Susan Ellis & Katherine Noyes, BY THE PEOPLE
  1. Voluntarism: generic term for all that is done voluntarily by:
    - a) individual volunteering, and b) group voluntary associations
  2. Volunteerism: all that is done by volunteers
  3. Voluntary Associations:
    - a. groups developed by and comprised of volunteers
    - b. groups developed and governed primarily by volunteers but staffed by paid personnel
    - c. may be financially self-sustaining, but not profit-making
- B. Harry Hogan, Former Deputy Secretary for Policy Planning at ACTION
  1. Voluntarism: The non-profit sector as a whole, including the full range of voluntary social welfare organizations
  2. Volunteerism: volunteer using and supporting agencies
- C. John Van Til, Ph.D., "In Search of Volunt---ism," VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION
  1. Voluntary Action: freely willed (outside of bio-social, legal-political, economic-contexts)
  2. Volunteerism: freely willed (as above) and aimed toward helping
  3. Voluntarism: freely willed (as above) and aimed at social betterment by association

III. Voluntarism/Volunteerism/Voluntary Associations (cont'd)

D. Joyce M. Black, "As I See It," VOLUNTARY ACTION LEADERSHIP

1. Voluntarism: organized voluntary effort for the common good, the development of man's social structure, and the enhancement of the quality of life through voluntary action. (the corporation)
2. Volunteerism: individual or group effort voluntarily given.  
(individual or group effort that makes the corporation work)

IV. Suggested Criteria for Voluntary Action John Van Til

- A. Good blend of service and advocacy
- B. Appropriate Mix of conservation and change
- C. Enhancement of democracy: protection of individual self-expression, opportunity, association, and collective articulation of needs and interests.