This book is the latest installment in the recent wave of books on volunteerism, a focus that indicates somewhat of a shift in the leadership genre. Although the book fails to substantiate the existence of a “new breed” of volunteer, a claim which amounts to nothing more than a veneer to make a book look relevant in my estimation, it is still a good book that should be considered by those who manage volunteers.

A “new breed” aside, the book makes a valid point that life stages have much to do with when people may be available for volunteer service. The writers suggest that single adults in their twenties and retirees are the best groups to recruit. Those in-between are encumbered with family responsibilities.

The book contains a lot of practical pointers on recruiting and managing volunteers. The book is punctuated with easy to grasp lists like “The Seven Deadly Sins of Recruiting Volunteers” (Chapter 3) and “Six Rules of Empowerment” (pp. 84–90), things that can be easily implemented or taught in staff meetings.
The book includes a lot of resources, references, and many forms and worksheets that can be used.

A major weakness is that the book does not distinguish between other nonprofit organizations and churches. The book never addresses the need for volunteers to be involved simply for their own benefit. It takes a more secular approach of simply using volunteers to accomplish the work of the organization. There is no attempt at presenting a theology of stewardship for either the volunteers or their supervisors. But this a weakness shared by most leadership books, including those by Christian authors. The book is still a worthy read for those who have the task of recruiting and managing volunteers.