

to offer tentative observations about the types of people who are willing and able to commit extensive amounts of time and energy to the Olympics. By analyzing these individuals' motivations, sacrifices, and rewards, I offer fresh insights into the meaning of the Olympic Movement at the grassroots level. I consider, too, the approximately fifty-five hundred "community heroes" that helped carry the Olympic flame nearly seventeen thousand miles through forty two states, enlisting the voluntary support of thirteen hundred United Way organizations and the residents of hundreds of communities nationwide. This third type of volunteerism suggests the contagious nature of the Olympic spirit. Finally, serving myriad functions, were tens of thousands of volunteers whose efforts made possible the seventeen days of Olympic festival and athletic competitions. Combining a quantitative analysis with anecdotal accounts of the experiences of individuals and teams of volunteers, I offer several generalizations about the impact that volunteers made during the Centennial Games. As a conclusion I suggest ways in which scholars might broaden their analysis of Olympism and the Olympic Movement through further analysis of volunteerism in past and future Games.



The international contingent at the banquet.