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Advocacy Practice for Social Justice. Richard Hoefler.

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challenges that social workers began in the mid-1970s to promote the idea of rural social work as a specialized field of practice. They have drawn attention to the unique needs of rural communities and the importance of formulating practice interventions that specifically address these needs. Over the years, the literature on rural social work has also expanded and some schools of social work now place much more emphasis on curricula content concerned with rural issues.

This edited collection of chapters dealing with diverse aspects of rural social work makes a useful contribution to the literature on the subject. Compiled by Nancy and Roger Lohmann of the University of West Virginia, the book addresses a number of important issues affecting rural social work practice. It is divided into four parts that deal respectively with the context of rural social work practice; specific interventions that address rural social needs; key client populations and fields of practice; and finally, social work education for rural practice. Although the chapters are somewhat uneven, the book addresses many interesting issues such as welfare reform in rural communities; the role of telecommunications technologies in rural social work; the role of nonprofit organizations; community building and the unique ethical challenges posed by rural life. In addition to covering familiar fields of practice such as mental health, aging and health care, the needs of gay and lesbian people and rural minorities are also discussed.

The book makes an important contribution to the literature and should be widely consulted by anyone interested in rural social welfare. Indeed, since more urban people now live in rural areas and commute to work in the towns and cities, the need to understand the interface between the urban and rural will become more important. There is much in this book that will inform social workers everywhere and contribute to the challenge of understanding the rapidly changing social environments in which they practice.

Richard Hoefler, *Advocacy Practice for Social Justice*. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books, 2005. \$ 29.95 papercover.

Political advocacy has been a recognized social work

activity for many decades. Indeed, the profession's founders were actively engaged in the political process, advocating on a number of key social issues. However, this does not mean that advocacy has been central to the profession's mission. Although social workers are exhorted to engage in advocacy, it cannot be claimed that advocacy is given high priority. Similarly, while the rhetoric of advocacy and social justice feature prominently in social work discourse, social workers and their professional associations have not always taken a strong stand on major political issues. For example, the profession has been largely silent on the currently topical issues of torture and the invasion of Iraq.

The publication of a new book on the topic of advocacy for social justice by Richard Hoefler is, therefore, to be welcomed. Written in a highly accessible style, the book is specifically designed to meet the needs of undergraduate and master's level social work students. But its call to the social work profession to live up to its ethical commitment to engage in advocacy—as mandated by the NASW Code of Ethics—is an important one which should be heeded by social work practitioners and educators as well.

The book is comprised of ten chapters. The first chapter situates advocacy within the context of a generalist approach arguing that advocacy is not a specialized, separate social work activity but an integral part of daily practice. The second chapter tackles the difficult topic of social justice and links the concept to two major schools of thought as articulated by John Rawls and Robert Nozick. Chapter three addresses the question of whether social workers are politically active and discusses the reasons for their involvement in political advocacy. Chapters four to nine are concerned with practical issues, outlining the steps in the advocacy process. These steps involve an analysis of the issue, planning for advocacy, the use of negotiation and persuasion, presenting information effectively, evaluation, and finally ongoing monitoring. The final chapter offers an historical account of progressive social welfare developments in the United States showing how these have provided the basis for advocacy in social work.

Students will enjoy the straightforward exposition of the steps in the advocacy process and the author's effective use

of case study material. Hoefler effectively links advocacy to generalist social work practice and shows how of social work practitioners can engage in a variety of advocacy roles as a part of their daily practice. He has also successfully condensed a great deal of material into a slim and intelligible book. The book should be widely prescribed in social work courses and should also serve as an important resource for practitioners. It is a readable and helpful addition to the limited literature on the subject.

Katherine van Wormer, *Introduction to Social Welfare and Social Work: The U.S. in Global Perspective*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole, 2005. \$76.95 paperback.

Social work is, increasingly, an international profession. The pressures of globalization exacerbate social problems everywhere as well as connect those working to alleviate human suffering in the global community. As such, international social work has in recent years become a new subfield within the discipline. However, it is too often treated as an additional field of study, outside of traditional social work, instead of providing a contemporary perspective touching each one of social work's populations, policy concerns, and values. Social work's relevance to today's most pressing issues requires a broadening of the scope of the field.

This book is, in part, an update of the author's earlier book, *Social Welfare: A World View* and a response to recent dramatic international events impinging upon the welfare of vulnerable populations. It is a welcome continuation of her international refashioning of the basic social work textbook. Part One, *Social Welfare: Structure and Functions*, includes excellent conceptual definitions, an examination of American values that shape policy choices contrasted with mainly Scandinavian alternatives, and broad discussions of world inequality through the lens of globalization. Van Wormer's international analysis of social problems reveals the global connections of oppression. In the human rights chapter, van Wormer blends domestic and international social issues together through a discussion of social work's role in working for justice. Part Two, *Social Work*