



**CTD Eighth
Annual Convention**
Sept. 27-29, 1985
Amarillo, Texas



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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1985 COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES YEARBOOK
CTD 8th Annual Convention
Sept. 27-29, 1985
Amarillo, Texas

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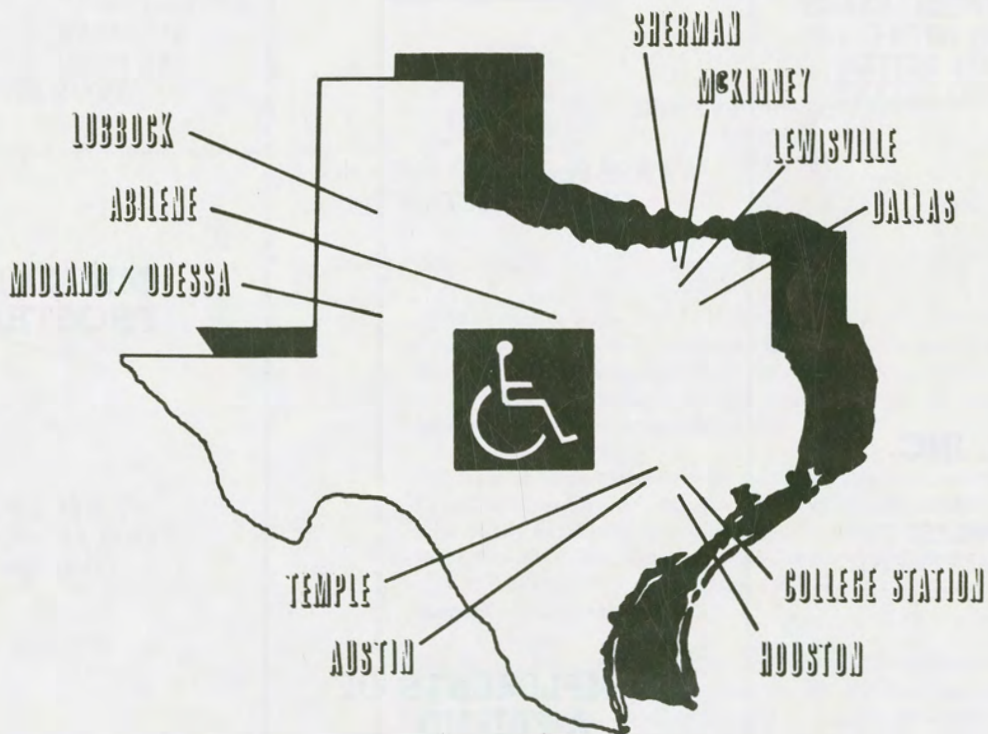
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CITY OF AMARILLO
Post Office Box 1971
Amarillo, Texas 79186
R. P. (RICK) KLEIN, MAYOR

May 14, 1985

Marshall Mitchell, President
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
P. O. Box 447
Austin, Texas 78765

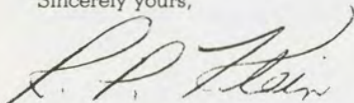
Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On behalf of the City Commission and the citizens of the City of Amarillo, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Eighth Annual Convention of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities.

We are delighted to have you in Amarillo and hope that your Convention proves to be very successful. We are certain you will enjoy your stay in Amarillo and hope that you will return again to visit.

For whatever assistance we can provide, please consider us at your service.

Sincerely yours,



R. P. (Rick) Klein
Mayor of Amarillo



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

Dear Marshall:

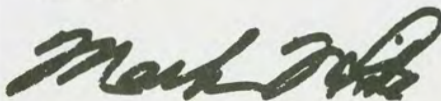
As Governor of Texas, I want to congratulate you and the members of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities on the eighth annual Delegate Convention. During the past eight years, The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities has grown into an effective advocacy organization of over 75 organizations representing several thousand members.

The State of Texas recognizes the important role the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities has played in insuring that persons with disabilities have a greater opportunity to achieve full participation in society. By informing executive and legislative officials of issues affecting Texans with disabilities and working with state and community organizations, CTD has helped to improve the lives of many disabled Texans.

This legislative year, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities was successful in securing a new attendant care program through the Texas Department of Human Resources, as well as keeping in tact and expanding those state agencies' programs which allow for more community based programs for all disabled Texans.

You have my sincere best wishes for a successful and enjoyable 1985 Delegate Convention.

Yours truly,



Mark White
Governor of Texas



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IN February of 1978, a group of individuals concerned with the rights of disabled persons and issues affecting disabled Texans met in Houston to discuss methods of addressing mutual concerns. During this initial meeting a commitment evolved to establish a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals with disabilities. An interim board of directors was established to draft bylaws and to plan the first delegate assembly.

Disability leaders from across the state gathered in San Antonio on September 29, 1978 to convene the first delegate assembly of CTD. Proposed bylaws were adopted. A platform listing issues of mutual concern was developed. Priorities and goals of the Coalition were set. Officers and board members were elected.

CTD received its charter as non-profit corporation in January 1979. What was previously only a dream became a reality for many Texans with disabilities. With increased involvement and participation of organizations and individuals active in the disability rights movement, CTD has not only become firmly established but also nationally recognized as an aggressive and moving force within the public and private arena, providing, in 1984, some 30 VISTA volunteers to 20 of its organizational members.

Cross-disability cooperation is both a goal to be achieved and an instrument of tactical value. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is a cross-disability coalition concerned with full access to all civil rights for all citizens. It is with great pride that the CTD organizational members from around the state welcome CTD delegates to Amarillo in 1985, on the eighth anniversary of its constitutional birth.

AGENDA

CTD 8th ANNUAL CONVENTION

FRIDAY/SEPTEMBER 27

- 2 p.m.— 5 p.m. BOARD MEETING
- 5 p.m.— 9 p.m. REGISTRATION
- 7 p.m.— 9 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 28

- 8 a.m.— 2 p.m. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
- 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. BUSINESS MEETING
- 8:30 a.m. Keynote Address—Dr. Frank Bowe, Communication Barriers Specialists, ATCB
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m.—12 p.m. Concurrent Workshops
 - Organizing to Lead—Shel Trap
 - Leadership—Accessing the Media—Steven Seewoester, Southwestern Bell, El Paso
- 12 p.m.— 1:30 p.m. LUNCH (on your own)/EXHIBITS
- 1:30 p.m.— 3:15 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING
- 1:30 p.m. Meet the Candidates
- 2 p.m. CTD—Where We Came From and How We Work—Pat Pound, CTD Founder
- 2:15 p.m. National Council on the Handicapped—Lex Freiden, Executive Director
- 2:30 p.m. RESOLUTIONS
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30— 5 p.m. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
 - Leadership Skills & Techniques—Dr. Frank Bowe
 - Civil Disobedience—Does It Work?—Wade Blank, President ADAPT
- 5 p.m. Exhibits
- 6 p.m.— 7 p.m. Cocktails
- 7 p.m.— 9 p.m. BANQUET
- 8 p.m. Awards Presentation—Willis Williams, Chairperson, Awards Committee
- 8:30 p.m. Entertainment
- 9 p.m. SOCIAL

SUNDAY/SEPTEMBER 29

- 9 a.m.—12 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING
- 9 a.m. Amendments to Bylaws
- 9:15 a.m. Resolutions
- 10 a.m. Elections (First Ballot)
- 10:15 a.m. BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. Resolutions
- 11:15 a.m. Election (Runoffs)
- 11:30 a.m. Resolutions
- 12 p.m. CHALLENGE ADDRESS
- “Where We Are Headed”—Lex Freiden
- 12:30 p.m. WRAP UP / ADJOURN—Marshall Mitchell
- 1:30 p.m.— 3:30 p.m. MEETING OF NEW BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Marshall Mitchell

T

HE 7th year of an organization is usually one of change and transition. The early years consist of struggling to grow and becoming recognized as a viable group. As growth occurs, the organization must change in order to fairly and effectively represent its members. CTD has been no exception.

Growth has been and is occurring for CTD. This year CTD has over 20 new member organizations, representing thousands of disabled Texans. After last year's Delegate Assembly the Board set a goal of 100 member organizations by this year's convention and has been working toward that goal. The Board has determined however, that no matter how large CTD becomes it will be run by its members. The Coalition *IS* its members. Without the direct input and guidance of its members, CTD would lose its influence and power. Your opinions, ideas, direction and active support are essential for CTD's continued success.

Because CTD has grown so much and member participation is vitally important, the Board implemented a new, more efficient and representative process for submitting and considering resolutions. It also put in place an easier fair election procedure. Both of these were successfully piloted at last year's Assembly. Due to these new procedures CTD passed almost twice as many resolutions as the previous year and elected a well-balanced, representative Board. Also, the delegates of last year's Assembly established an Executive Committee composed of the CTD officers. This committee was empowered to conduct business between quarterly Board meetings. This enables CTD to take action on issues that are urgent, allowing our input on major concerns in the state.

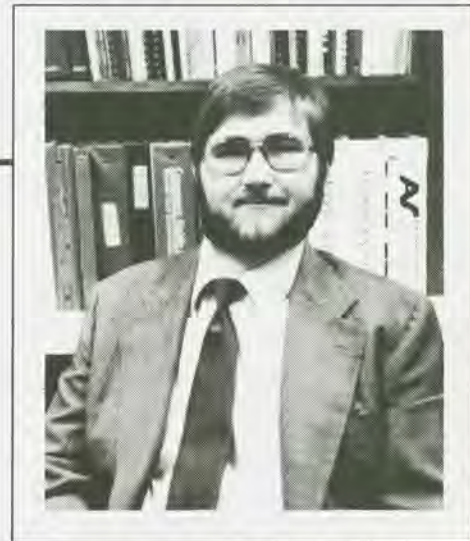
Probably the most active CTD committee this year was the Legislative. The Legislative Committee formulated CTD's list of priorities for this legislative session from the resolutions passed at the Delegate Assembly. Throughout the session, the committee followed bills which corresponded to priorities and coordinated campaigns to take appropriate action on each one. Its efforts brought about great results. We successfully fought off proposals to drastically cut appropriations for the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons, Texas Department of Human Resources, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Texas Commission for the Deaf, and State Commission for the Blind. We were even able to gain monies for a pilot shared attendant care program for the State. We also helped to prevent the elimination of the Texas Commission for the Deaf, State Commission for the Blind, and Council on Disabilities.

Another Committee that was very active this year was the Public Relations Committee. This committee instigated the CTD Consumer Access Award and orchestrated a successful meeting of the Business Leadership Advisory Committee. Numerous Consumer Access Awards have been awarded to businesses throughout Texas for their efforts toward total accessibility. The Business Leadership Advisory Committee's initial meeting was attended by representatives from eleven corporations and businesses from four major Texas cities. They were genuinely impressed with CTD and offered some helpful suggestions. A continued relationship with these and other businesses will prove very valuable in the months to come.

The Coalition realized a lot of success this year and saw the beginning of change in its future. The VISTA Volunteer program is being discontinued in December, a job sharing program is being implemented for CTD's Executive Director position, new leadership will be taking over, and long time leadership will be stepping aside. The "second generation" of CTD leaders must accept the challenge of the future. It's time for the torch to be passed on.

The Eighth Annual Convention will mark a new beginning for CTD. New issues are at the threshold and new leaders are preparing to address them. Armed with the lessons of the past and goals for the future new leaders will take us to new heights and accomplishments.

I am excited about CTD's future. With seven years of enormous successes we've paved the way for a new beginning and a beneficial productive future.



MARSHALL MITCHELL
PRESIDENT

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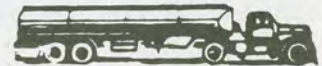
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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

CONSUMER MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS may be either state or local consumer organizations which: 1. Consist primarily of persons with physical and/or mental disabilities and their adherents, and whose governing board is comprised primarily of persons with physical and/or mental disabilities and their adherents; 2. Are Texas chartered non-profit organizations; 3. Have purposes similar to CTD; 4. And, in the case of state organizations, have chapters in at least two cities in Texas.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS may be either state or local organizations or agencies which: 1. Wish to support the work of the Coalition; 2. Have an interest in persons with disabilities, but do not meet the qualifications for membership as a Consumer Member Organization; 3. And in the case of state organizations, shall have chapters or offices in at least two cities in Texas.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS may be any person who is interested in supporting the work of the Coalition.

VOTING PRIVILEGES:

Consumer Member Organization (State) 5 Votes
Consumer Member Organization (Local) 3 Votes
Associate Member Organization (State) 1 Vote
Associate Member Organization (Local) 1 Vote
Individual—a caucus of ten or more CTD individual members who are not also members of a CTD voting member organization may cast 1 Vote



NO VOTING BY PROXY IS ALLOWED

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V/TDD 1 (800) 252-9108 V/TDD / Contact: Dayle Bebee, Executive Director

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P. O. Box 37120 / San Antonio, TX 78237 (512) 533-3161 Ext. 312 / Contact: Sharon Pinkston:

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(214) 254-9152 W / Contact: Dan B. Thomas, President

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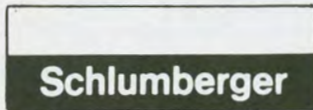
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CTD & THE 69TH LEGISLATURE

by Stephanie Thomas

THE 69th Legislative session ended with several major victories for the disability community. Three close calls, the near slashing of the Governor's Committee for the Disabled Persons, the Texas Commission for the Deaf and the Commission for the Blind made all wary of the power of the Legislature; but in these cases, strong grass roots efforts were what decidedly made the difference for the organizations.

Two other victories for disabled persons were also victories for grassroots efforts. In the "eleventh hour", the House and Senate Conference Committee voted to fund the development of Shared Attendant Programs through the Department of Human Resources. DHR was solidly behind this project, but it was the phone calls, letters, visits and monitoring (often way into the night) by disabled people which made funding become a reality. \$1.1 million was appropriated from the state general revenue and \$1.1 million will be transferred from other DHR funds. Disabled people should be very proud of the success of this efforts, especially in such tight budget times.

Texas ARC had a major victory with the passage of SB 940, which prohibits zoning against small group homes of disabled persons in residential neighborhoods. When the session started it seemed this bill would never pass, but that turned out not to be the case.

The recent court case with MHMR mandating deinstitutionalization for so many people who have been locked up fits well with SB 940's opening up the communities. Now many people who have never really had the option of community living will, for the first time, have that choice. Funding for Attendant Care in many ways provides similar options to those who, because of physical needs, have been shut away in nursing homes or institutions. It is very hard to live independently, to go to school, to work, etc., from an institutionalized setting.

One of the most exciting aspects of the grass roots legislative efforts this session has been the active involvement of CTD members from across the state. Representative Jack Vowell, El Paso, was instrumental in preserving funding for social services, and many other Representatives and Senators played vital roles thanks to the contacts their constituents made with them. After having visited numerous legislators, members of the CTD Legislative Committee agreed it was amazing the different response we got when going in "cold" versus going to see a legislator who had been contacted by people from their home district.

The 69th Legislative Session did leave CTD with some unresolved issues, which we will be worked on the next session (1987). Senator Bill Sarpalius' bill concerning self-service prices at full-service gas pumps suffered a defeat in committee and Senator Chet Edwards' efforts to temporarily prevent Local Measured Service died in a House Committee as the session came to a close.

The Human Rights Commission did not receive funding to investigate employment discrimination on the basis of disability as requested, and the demographic survey requested by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was put on the back burner due to the fiscal constraints of this session. Even the attendant care monies are *ONLY* for pilot projects.

We need to celebrate the victories of this session and realize it is disabled people and friends who made the difference. By standing up for our rights and communicating our needs and concerns our voices have been heard and we have had an effect. Many people working this session were very impressed by the efforts and accomplishments; some for the right reasons, others for the wrong ones. But the point is that our work this time builds the foundation for next time. Let us take our energy from these victories and use it to sow the seeds for tomorrow.



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ATTENDANT CARE TASK FORCE

by Bob Kafka

FOR thousands of persons with disabilities of all ages, their personal daily living needs are not met by the present home support systems. Because of lack of community services, they must reside in nursing homes or other institutional settings, at great cost to public and/or private resources and generally at a considerable loss of dignity, independence and reduction in quality of life.

Personal Care Assistance is a non-medical, consumer controlled proposed program that would change the lives of hundreds of disabled citizens. It would enable them to live independently and dramatically reduce the expenses of institutional living.

Personal Care Assistance services should be delivered in a manner which maximizes control and choice for the disabled individual and provides incentives for independence.

A statewide task force has been formed to research and formulate a program for Texas: The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (lead organization), state agencies, consumer groups, social service agencies, home health agencies, individuals with medical expertise and other interested parties are the task force.

GOALS OF TASK FORCE

- I. Gain support from various state agencies, government entities and disability organizations
- II. Development of statewide delivery system of attendant care
 - A. Compile report describing operation of models and recommendations for legislation to the 70th session
- III. Legislative awareness and education
 - A. Make personal contacts with Legislators and their aides
- IV. Review current service delivery system and make recommendations for rule and regulation modifications

Work done by the task force and help from statewide organizations will enable a successful program to be enacted during the 70th legislative session. For more information contact: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, P.O. Box 4709, Austin, TX 78765. (512) 443-8252.

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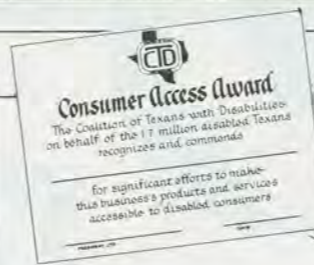
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CTD CONSUMER ACCESS AWARD

by Sheila Bayne



THE CTD Consumer Access Award is specifically designed to help you express appreciation and give positive reinforcement to businesses in your community which go out of their way to make products or services accessible. This may mean braille menus, reserving handicapped parking spaces, making home deliveries, having a TDD, or any number of other considerations.

If you wish to nominate such a business, you may obtain a nomination form from your local CTD member organization or the CTD Central Office. After completing the form, you must get it approved and signed by your nearest CTD Board Member and then mail it to the CTD Central Office. CTD will send you a very nice 8 x 11 certificate made out to the recipient, which you may present to the nominee whatever way you wish.

The following businesses have been awarded CTD's Consumer Access Award:

*Target Inc. in San Antonio, nominated by Dennis Dildy, for providing a large number of handicapped parking spaces near the entrance, installing electric doors at entrances/exit, bathrooms and aisles are made accessible and employees provide courteous assistance.

*Brookshire Grocery Company in Tyler, nominated by Dixie A. Dillard, for remodeling of all their stores to provide ramps and easily accessible and visible designated handicapped parking spaces, in addition all produce counters have been lowered for easy reach of

wheelchair shopper, aisles are accessible and stores are well staffed with courteous helpful staff.

*Luby's Cafeteria in Tyler, also nominated by Dixie A. Dillard, for designated handicapped parking near entrance, undercover loading/unloading customer space, wide spaces for vans and front curb cuts, serving dishes and tray track at eye level from wheelchair users. Pleasant courteous staff is available to carry trays and escort individuals to their tables.

*Safeway Grocery Store #1125 in Houston, nominated by Donna L. Sarver L.V.N. for provision of shopper assistance to disabled customers every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Lufkin Lanes in Lufkin, nominated by Jim Kitchens, for exceptional lanes, bathrooms and building access, and cooperative management and employees. The owners are planning to start a handicapped/disabled league and are working on that promotion.

*Lippe Chiropractic Center in Austin, nominated by Sharon Gardner, for an accessible bathroom, ramp and railing and Dr. Lippe's compassion towards the needs of the handicapped.

*Stuart Anderson's Cattle Co. Restaurant in Austin, nominated by Kathleen Fitzgibbon, for handicapped parking, ramps built into the design of the building, both inside and out, accessible bathrooms including a stall for wheelchair accessibility.

*First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Austin, nominated by Stephanie Thomas, for outreach to the disability community to promote

their cash ACTION PLUS account which provides many conveniences (unlimited checking, interest earning accounts, overdraft protection, etc.) They also provide additional services to visually impaired customers by reading bank statements over the telephone and have a TDD number they advertise on all brochures.

*City of Amarillo and Potter County in Amarillo, nominated by Dwain McMahan, for working very hard to meet the needs of the handicapped individuals and to comply with the Section 504.

*Terrace Hills Apartments in El Paso, nominated by Tom Pugh, for providing 17 wheelchair accessible units placed throughout the complex, providing designated parking, curb-cuts, and ramps to the pool and tennis court.

*Rodeway Inn and Jerry Wolfe's Restaurant in El Paso, nominated by Jim Parker, for continued efforts to make their facilities fully accessible since hosting the 1983 CTD Delegate Assembly.

By a resolution passed at the 1984 CTD Delegate Assembly, a Consumer Access Award had been presented to the Texas School for the Deaf with CTD's sincerest appreciation for the use of the TSD campus and for Dr. Victor Galloway's commitment to assisting CTD.

Input from all concerned citizens is vital—REMEMBER—the more access routes made available, the more public awareness of this need, consequently good publicity for other businesses to desire the same recognition by encouraging consumer awareness.



VISTA LIVES ... 1985

by Jean Langendorf

VISTA-(Volunteers In Service to America), sometimes referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, is a national program of volunteer men and women who are committed to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve the conditions of their lives. Volunteers receive a basic living allowance of approximately \$13 per day to cover housing, food and incidentals. The individuals who serve as VISTA Volunteers care about community and are willing to give full-time commitment to their work.



The VISTA program has played an important role in CTD's progress over the past three years. This program has given CTD the arms to reach out across the state to our member organizations. Over the past 3½ years, VISTA Volunteers placed with member organizations have lent talent and skills to build membership participation and community services. With VISTA assistance, CTD has grown and expanded membership participation from less than 10 to over 80 organizations.

Each volunteer has goals and objectives to guide them in community work. With the support of local organizations, the VISTA Volunteers work to promote full access and independent living opportunities in the most productive and least restrictive environment, and to encourage placement and the productive involvement of individuals with disabilities in all employment settings (both public and private sector). Much of the volunteer's energies is spent increasing public awareness of the needs and abilities of disabled persons; expanding the involvement of volunteer, consumer organizations in responding to the needs of individuals with disabilities; and, encouraging membership development and increased participation to achieve economic self-sufficiency.



The CTD VISTA program has placed Volunteers across the state in metropolitan areas where the volunteers have helped recruit new member organizations for CTD. The Volunteers also have devoted their energies to their local projects. What are some of the assignments of these volunteers? In Dallas, a VISTA Volunteer is working at the Dallas Center for Independent Living providing job skills training; and, contacting local companies to discuss employment of individuals with disabilities. Publishing a monthly newsletter; coordinating workshops on accessibility and computer technology, and surveying the local community are all part of the responsibilities of an El Paso VISTA. In Houston the independent living center is able to provide assistance to clients by locating assessible housing because of the efforts of a VISTA. A VISTA Volunteer who is deaf-blind provides support and peer counseling to other deaf-blind individuals in San Antonio; and in Austin, a VISTA developed an employment program for severely disabled individuals.

Such goals and objectives have been no small task for the CTD VISTA Volunteers, but then the individuals who have served as Volunteers are special people. It is not easy to be a VISTA Volunteer. These individuals have a sense of commitment and a feeling that many things need to be changed, and that they want a part in helping that change happen. Self-reliance and self-confidence are necessary to be a VISTA Volunteer.

Over 50 individuals have served in the CTD VISTA Volunteer program. Coming from all walks of life and varied experiences, these volunteers have expressed a desire to take part in helping at a local level, serving in their own communities. The VISTA Volunteers at CTD have been lawyers, social workers, engineers, business people, retired teachers, etc.

In keeping with CTD's commitment to promote the abilities of individuals with disabilities, the VISTA program has recruited and placed 35 individuals with various disabilities. All the CTD VISTA Volunteers have had the ability to work with people and communicate their concerns and interests.

By serving as a VISTA Volunteer, these individuals have not only given to their community, but have gained an experience that will last a lifetime many have used their skills to obtain future employment. Most volunteers are amazed at how much can be accomplished in actual practice. They really expand their self-image and capabilities and have left behind many on-going services and projects for CTD and the local member organizations.



Over 30 local and state organizations have been served by the CTD VISTA Volunteer program, Job development programs, training programs, workshops, small business endeavors, fundraising activities and community organizations have all been projects of the Volunteers.

The VISTA program has not only provided a "people resource" to CTD and its member organizations, but also a grant for administration of this program. This grant has provided supervisory and travel expenses of the statewide project. We are currently in the final year of the program at CTD and the work is not over. We will be spending the remainder of this year working to achieve funding support for CTD and member organizations to continue our goals and objectives. The ending of this program has created a crisis as well as a challenge for CTD.

We are proud to have had the VISTA Volunteer program which has involved such dedicated individuals working to further the CTD message of cross-disability cooperation and communication. Our desire is to continue!

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CTD WORKSHOPS



BUSINESS LEADERS MEET CTD



by Larry Johnson

TOP executives from major Texas corporations met with board members and staff last May in Austin to establish CTD's first Business Leaders Advisory Committee. This action was in response to a formal resolution adopted at the 1984 CTD Delegate Convention.

The morning portion of the day-long agenda featured comprehensive, informational presentations by CTD president Marshall Mitchell, board members Stephanie Thomas and Larry Johnson, CTD executive director Jean Langendorf and *VISTA* volunteer Sharon Gardner. Topics discussed included: history of CTD; information network; legislative involvement; voter education and registration; CTD Consumer Access Award program; training and technical assistance; and, of course, CTD's statewide *VISTA* program.

The afternoon Session, which was conducted by board member Lee Kitchens, focused on CTD's specific goals and objectives, self-funding alternatives and the concept of bilateral assistance, i.e., what CTD can do for private business, and what private business can do for CTD.

The 10 firms which sent representatives to participate in this meeting were: from Austin, Abbott Laboratories; Dean Witter Reynolds; and InterFirst Bank; from Dallas, E-Systems; Safeway Stores; Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., and, Texas Instruments; from Houston, First City National Bank; and from San Antonio, Gill Savings, Mex-Trade; and USAA Federal Savings. Also attending for CTD were treasurer Alan Meyer, board members Steve Johns and Willis Williams and *VISTA* volunteer Dave DiElsi.

There were many expressions of spontaneous praise from the guest business leaders for CTD and its record of accomplishments during its seven-year history. The private sector representatives were genuinely impressed by the broad range of CTD programs and

activities, and by the individual professionalism and sophistication of the CTD representatives. A good beginning was made toward communicating CTD's message that "the well-being and independence of disabled people can directly benefit the economic prosperity of society" and that private sector involvement, with material resources and professional expertise, can contribute significantly toward the optimal achievement of this goal.

Several important conclusions and recommendations came out of the discussion from this first meeting. CTD Board of Directors is carefully studying a number of plans and proposals aimed at guiding toward a position of economic self-sufficiency. Followup contacts have been maintained with this initial group of CTD business leaders advisors. In addition, plans are under way for future meetings with other business representatives.

The issue of disability and concerns of disabled persons must be understood more fully by the private sector if we are to achieve equal "quality of life opportunities". Through open and meaningful dialogue between executives from private business firms and the disabled consumer leadership of CTD, there is the possibility that we can move quickly forward toward removing barriers and biases which prevent Texans with disabilities from sharing fully in the benefits available to the general population.



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LEGISLATIVE PROCESS EXPLORED

by Jim Parker

CONTINUING its efforts to develop an ongoing awareness of issues affecting disabled and elderly people in Texas, and develop leadership and direction for disabled Texans, CTD and PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America) co-hosted a Legislative Workshop in Austin. The workshop attracted over 70 persons from Texas.

PVA senior vice-president George Jackson opened the session and introduced State Representative Paul Moreno, District 72, from El Paso, and State Senator Chet Brooks, District 11, from Pasadena. Moreno and Brooks discussed Texas legislation which has impacted disabled Texans and "Legislation in the '80s". Both Moreno and Brooks stressed the importance of active participation by disabled people in the State's legislative processes.

Doug Vollmer, PVA's legislative director, followed with a discussion of national issues affecting disabled people and some of the strategy plans the PVA uses in dealing with the National Congress and Senate, as well as the different departments that write rules and regulations impact on the lives of disabled people. Vollmer also stressed active involvement in the processes by disabled people.



"Texas legislature: How Does It Work?" was discussed by Dave Sloan of Advocacy, Inc. Sloan presented a breakdown of how an issue begins in the Texas Legislature and slowly works its way through a maze to the Governor's signature. He also discussed some of the main issues disabled people have worked on to bring before the 69th Texas Legislature.

Following a detailed breakdown of how to affect the legislative process before it affects you and making do with what you've got by Vollmer, the audience was presented with a panel to discuss "Issues Affecting Disabled Texans". Panelists were: Charlotte Flynn, Gray Panthers; Randy Green, American Council of the Blind; Jerry Hassell, Texas Association of the Deaf; Bobby Simpson, Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons; Kevin Tracy, Texas Advocates; Evelyn Welborn, Spina Bifida Association of Texas; and, Judy Wingard-Westbrook, CTD Legislative Task Force.

The general consensus of the workshop was that there are many acute issues affecting disabled and elderly people and that those issues must be addressed and actively worked on by disabled people.



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CTD ADDRESSES TRANSIT ISSUE

by Jim Parker

CTD addressed the one 'burning' national issue affecting the mobility of disabled people in its Transportation Workshop in San Antonio, April 20. Some 80-plus persons from Texas and around the nation attended the workshop.

The thrust of the workshop was to discuss the 'past' and 'future' of accessible public transit and the place disabled people have held in relation to being part of the 'public' in public transportation. San Antonio was a prime location for the workshop as the Alamo City was playing host to APTA (American Public Transit Association) and its Western Regional Convention. APTA, early on, went to the Federal court system to oppose full access for disabled and elderly people on mass transit systems; systems which are well-over 50 percent financed by Federal tax dollars and totally financed (in most systems) by tax dollars.

Linda Potter, attorney with ATBCB (Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board), presented a historical picture of the Federal government's attempts to include disabled and elderly people in the tax-supported transit systems of the country; from the idealistic full access mandates of Section 504 through APTA's victory in the court system to where disabled people are today in attempts to fully utilize transit systems.

Larry Johnson, past president of CTD, and Linda Woodberry, State Commission for the Blind, presented problems and solutions for persons with visual impairments and their ability to use mainline transit.

Accessibility to public transit for disabled people in Texas, was discussed by El Paso Transit Planner Bob Geyer, past president of CTD. The general conclusion was that there is little access in Texas for disabled people, save for the small portion of access offered to a small number of people through para-transit.

Former CTD VISTA Dave DiElsi presented the results of an extensive transit survey. The CTD survey covered transit in both Texas and the nation. CTD sent surveys to over 70 systems across the country and received responses from over 50 cities. The general picture was that Texas has a long way to go in offering transit access to disabled people, especially in light of laws in such States as California, Michigan, Maine and Massachusetts, and other systems such as Seattle and Denver. Texas cities San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso and Houston offer no mainline access to disabled people and Austin's offering is extremely limited. All Texas cities offer some sort of limited transit for disabled people, systems which fall far short of meeting transit needs of disabled people.

Bob Kafka and Jim Parker opened discussion of Organizing for Change in Texas with a picture of why ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit), a nationwide network of disabled people and groups taking their frustrated efforts at gaining access through the regular channels is taking to picket lines at APTA conventions and local inaccessible transit systems. ADAPT/Texas currently has chapters in Dallas, Austin and El Paso, as well as a developing group in Houston. ADAPT/Texas has received a grant for organizing to deal with the transit issue in Texas.

The workshop closed with ADAPT/National's quartet of organizers—Mike Auberger, Wade Blank, Joe Carley and Bob Conrad from Denver, Colorado. The four offered some answers to questions of 'Why Civil Disobedience' in organizing for change in attitudes toward disabled people and use of public transit. The main answer was that after over 10 years of working to help the governmental system respond to transit needs of disabled people that nothing had worked, thus civil disobedience by disabled people. The main contention was that disabled people are citizens of our society and should have the same access to

publicly financed transit systems, and that transit is the key to disabled people having the same access to the community at large and all its goods and services from employment to education to leisure.

The workshop attracted people from across Texas as well as New York, Connecticut, Illinois and Florida and other states. Consensus was that disabled people have a long way to go in gaining transit access. Host city San Antonio is a prime example where disabled people have worked for full access, but still no regular line buses have lift access, nor do the trolleys which cover the downtown area.



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
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