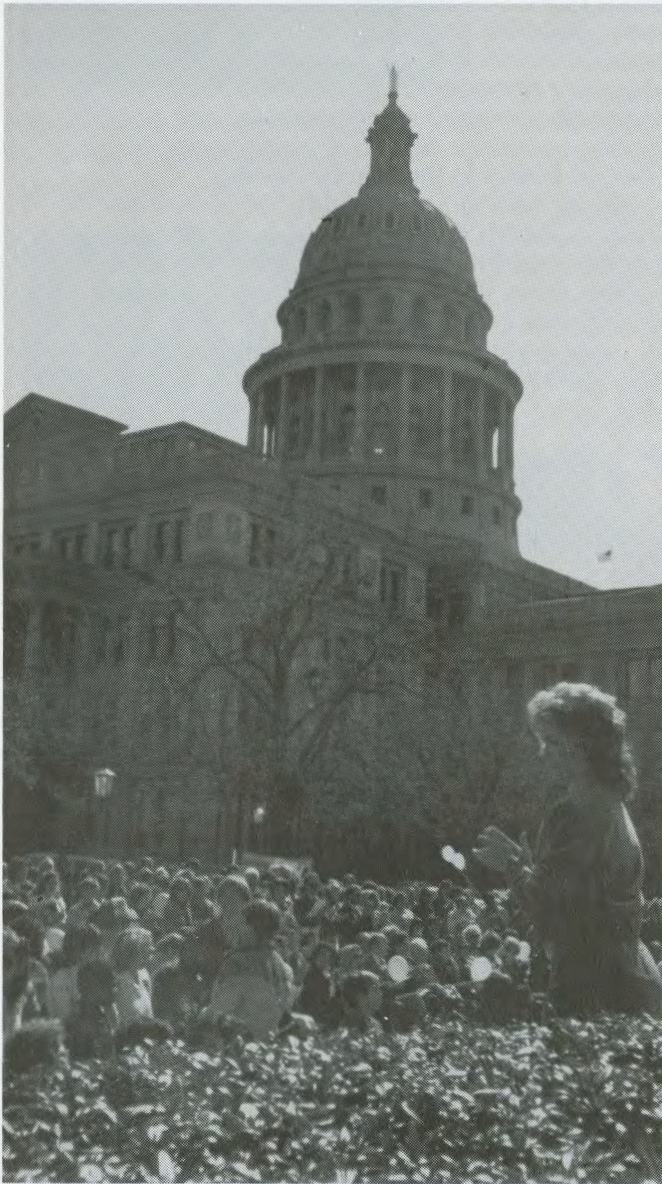


COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

# NEWSLETTER

Volume V Number 2

Spring 1983



*Rally Day, held on February 2, 1983, was a huge success with a crowd of over 1500 on the Capitol lawn. See inside story.*

To find out the status of bills in the Texas Legislature affecting disabled Texans, call: 1 (800) 252-9693

## The LRPG Makes Recommendations to the 68th Legislature

*Editor's Note:* The following recommendations of the Long Range Planning Group for Texans with Disabilities have been presented to the 68th Legislature. Representative Ashley Smith is sponsoring the last two recommendations in the House under the House Concurrent Resolution #35.

- 1. COORDINATION OF DISABILITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES: COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES**  
Establish a Council on Disabilities which would serve as a non-regulatory mechanism to coordinate and maximize the effectiveness of all public, private and voluntary disability related activities in the state.
- 2. DEFINITION OF POPULATION: DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY**  
Mandate a comprehensive, demographic survey of the population of all Texans with disabilities and appropriate the funds necessary to complete the survey.
- 3. DISABILITY-RELATED LAW: CODIFICATION**  
Assign responsibility to an appropriate agency to analyze all disability related state law and recommend appropriate codification to the 69th Texas Legislature.
- 4. DISABILITY-RELATED LAW: LEGAL RIGHTS**  
Assign responsibility to an appropriate agency or legislative committee to analyze all state and federal laws defining the rights of disabled persons and to identify for the 69th Texas Legislature those areas of state law potentially needing revision with a view toward ensuring protection of the legal rights of Texans with disabilities.



Larry Johnson, President of CTD, gives the keynote address for Disability Rally Day.



"Disabled but Able" was well portrayed as the theme of Disability Rally Day with this banner by Naoko Suito. The banner has been donated to the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities by Justin and Yoshiko Dart.



The Texas School for the Deaf Singing/Singing Choir sings and signs "I Can See Clearly Now."

# CTD Platform Update

*Editor's Note:* The six priority areas for the CTD platform have gone before the 68th Legislature under the following bills in the Senate and House. Copies of CTD's platform with an explanation of the rationale in its entirety may be obtained from the CTD office.

## General Appropriations (Senate Bill 179-G. Jones)

1. Independent Living Centers  
CTD supports the budget line item in TRC's appropriations request allowing for the state funding of the five centers for independent living in Texas in the amount of 1.5 million dollars in both FY '84 and FY '85. This funding will give \$200,000.00 to each center. The additional \$500,000.00 will be designated for direct case services for TRC's clients who are severely disabled.
2. TRC's '84-'85 Appropriations Request  
The Texas Rehabilitation Commission's Appropriation's request for \$135,115,400.00 in FY '84 and \$152,653,200.00 in FY '85 is enthusiastically supported by CTD.
3. Extended Rehabilitation Services  
The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities actively supports TRC's budget line item request for state funding of the Extended Rehabilitation Services program in the amount of 3.1 million dollars in FY '84 and 3.5 million dollars in FY '85.
4. Deaf/Blind Semi-Independent Living Programs  
CTD supports the Texas Commission for the Deaf line item appropriations request designating 1.5 million dollars for semi-independent living programs for the biennium.

## Voting Access (House Bill 482-T. Smith; House Bill 157-G. Barrientos; Senate Bill 306-G. Kothmann)

CTD supports legislation requiring certain accessibility features in official polling places which would guarantee disabled Texans their right to vote in all elections-municipal, county, state and/or federal.

## TDD's for the Deaf (Senate Bill 450-C. Washington & House Bill 1002-E. Cavazos)

CTD supports the legislation establishing a trust fund which will provide TDD's (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) at little or minimum cost to the hearing impaired.

# SWCID Needs CID Support

The Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, SWCID, is the third largest college for the deaf in the U.S. behind Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. and National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York. SWCID is the only college in the Midwest and Western United States for deaf students.

Due to certain language in S.B. 892 which became law 2 years ago, and the funding recommendation made by the Legislative Budget Board; SWCID may have to curtail existing programs and services and is in danger of closing down. SWCID's Legislative effort is the following:

1. Obtain adequate funding to continue existing programs and services
2. Legislatively define an appropriate funding method, which would enable SWCID to support its total operation, and
3. To determine a fair nonresident tuition rate.

This legislative effort is vital to the continued growth and success of SWCID. If the effort is not met, SWCID may have to close its doors, and hearing im-

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# Highlights of Disability Rally Day

## Excerpts from Keynote Speech

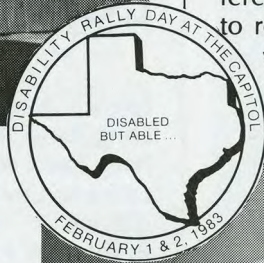
by Larry Johnson

Today is a day for somber reflection, and for honest appraisal of our aspirations—fulfilled and unfulfilled—of our progress and our potential. It is a time for humility, and a time for pride. For it was as much the vote of disabled Texans which helped elect a new governor and chose the representatives and senators who join us here today. And it is the creative potential of disabled Texans which can make a significant impact upon the quality of life in this state in the years to come.

We are here not to celebrate but to dedicate this day to the hundreds of thousands of our fellow disabled Texans who could not come. With them, we can make a difference, if we believe we can. Our potential is too great to refuse to accept the responsibility and obligation to work together to build a better future for all Texans. Let this be our second beginning.



*The mayor of Austin welcomes guests to the 1983 Briefing on Disability Legislation, a Rally Day activity sponsored under a grant from the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. Over 500 persons attended the Briefing.*



*As part of Rally Day activities, the five Texas Independent Living Center Executive Directors met to discuss mutual problems and future goals. Top row: Marshall Levett and Jan Mintura. Bottom row: Bernie Cantu, Bobbie Simpson, and Don Grazier.*



*A group from the American Council of the Blind came with their banner in support of Rally Day.*

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

## Senior Citizen Crusaders want lower UTILITY BILLS

Senior Citizen Crusaders, a group of senior citizens and other younger people who are tired of outrageous residential electric bills, is lobbying before the 68th Texas Legislature to obtain lower utility bills.

According to the Senior Citizen Crusaders group, the Texas utility companies distinguish between large and small industrial consumers. Industrial consumers who use large quantities of energy pay less for each kilowatt they use than the small quantity users. There was a time when it cost utility companies little extra to provide a lot more energy. Therefore, the companies promoted high consumption because the more they sold, the more efficient their operations became. The Senior Citizen Crusaders believe this concept is no longer true and are pushing electric companies to change their rate structure.

This group also believes senior citizens, low-income individuals, and a large percentage of handicapped citizens cost less to serve. Therefore, the group is urging support of Senator Caperton's consumer oriented rate restructuring bills.

Senate Bill 232 creates a representative, elected Public Utility Commission requiring the Commission to audit utility companies so that consumers will no longer pay for the mismanagement of utility companies. The bill also establishes an independent public counsel and insures that all citizens may speak at the rate and construction hearings. Finally, it encourages efficiency and conservation by requiring utility companies to secure a certificate of need before expanding operations.

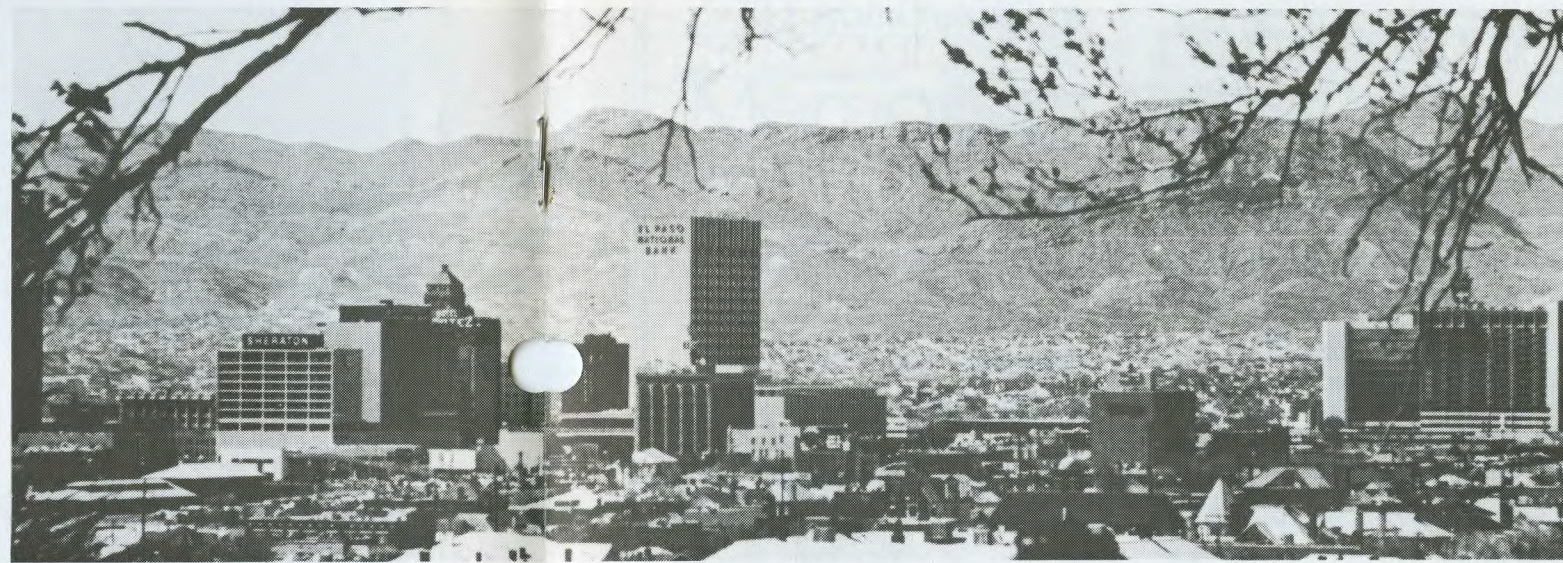
The Senior Citizen Crusader group is particularly excited about the 232 Bill because it recognizes that, in addition to shelter, food and clothing, electricity has become a necessity of life. This bill authorizes the Public Utility Commission to create a lifeline rate structure which is a special low rate to cover minimum electrical needs, such as the running of a refrigerator, stove and lights.

Senator Caperton's second Senate Bill provides needed rate relief for low-income, low-users of electricity by incorporating a minimum use rate into an across-the-board, inverted block rate structure. Low consumers using up to 500 kilowatts per month will pay the least amount for their energy. According to the Senior Citizens Crusaders, a majority of low-income people use less than 500 kilowatts per month. The next 300 kilowatts (up to a total of 800 per month) will cost a bit more and will be set as the average prices. Consumers using over 800 kilowatts per month will pay the most. This inverted block rate structure encourages the consumer to use less electricity, to weatherize when possible, and to buy and use energy-efficient appliances. The rate accurately reflects the cost onto the consumer.

If you want further information about these two bills or want to assist in the passage of these bills, contact your local representative of the Senior Citizen Crusaders or the Austin representatives for the group at the following addresses:

Lanetta Cooper/5004 Woodrow Ave./Austin, TX 78756  
Phone: (512) 471-5151

Kimberly S. Sinick/3001 Medical Arts, #116  
Austin, TX 78705/Phone: (512) 476-5268



The Fall, 1983 CTD Delegate Assembly will be held in El Paso, Texas. See you in Sun City this coming October.

## Disabled San Antonians Find Employment Assistance

The San Antonio Mayor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped has a unique, totally community-sponsored "Job Opportunities Bank" for disabled individuals. The project, called "Job Lead," is the culmination of nearly two years of effort on the part of local private employers and placement agencies with the disabled working in a cooperative partnership.

For an estimated 33,000 unemployed disabled San Antonians of working age, Job Lead serves as an information link between community employers interested in hiring qualified disabled workers and qualified disabled individuals seeking employment.

According to the two co-chairmen of the project, Jim Stone, Director of Salary Administration at United States Automobile Association (USAA), and Larry Johnson,

Assistant Staff Supervisor for Employment with Southwestern Bell, the Job Lead project has broad community support which makes the project work. For example, office space was secured from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission; printing and office supplies came from Valero Energy Corporation; office furniture was provided by USAA; cash contributions came from Southwestern Bell and IBM Corporation for project operations; and a TTY was made available by the City of San Antonio.

In its first three months of operation, Mr. Johnson reported Job Lead has taken 287 applications of disabled persons and placed 28 of those individuals in jobs. For more information about the project, contact Jerome Wright, the Executive Director, at 1222 North Main, Suite 321, San Antonio, Texas or call 512/299-7007.

## Poem

*Our children are deaf,  
Our children are blind,  
Our children are DEAF-BLIND.*

*They do not see how Dick can run.  
Nor hear how Spot can bark.  
Our children live in a silent dark.*

*Their quiet haze is a lonely place  
for the few of us who share it.  
Their hands reach out to those about.  
And somehow we can bear it.*

Author Unknown

## Genetic Services Need Support in the 68th Legislature

According to Dr. Arthur L. Beaudet, professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the Texas Department of Health has a line item budget of \$690,000 per year for genetic services for Texans which needs the support of all interested Texans if genetic counseling is to remain a viable option to Texans.

Until the cutbacks in federal funding, money was available through the National Genetic Disease Act which initiated the Texas Genetic Disease Network in 1978. The network resulted in a contracting mechanism for the Texas Department of Health to support genetic services within the state. Contractors have included medical schools in the state and other agencies providing genetic services. Some of the services are diagnostic evaluation and counseling to families who have had a member with a genetic disease or birth defect or who are at increased risk for such problems.

Due to the federal cutbacks, the program will no longer receive support from the federal government. Therefore, the Texas Department of Health is requesting \$690,000 per year (equal to the support for FY 1982) to continue the program. The objective of the program is to make genetic services available to all citizens which may prove to be a very cost effective approach. For example, families who receive proper diagnosis and counseling do not unknowingly and unnecessarily have handicapped children. Secondly, the prevention of genetic disease may save the state considerable sums of money required to care for handicapped individuals.

If you or your organization want this program to continue, Dr. Beaudet recommends that you write or call your local representative and urge him/her to support the new funding for genetic services in the budget of the Texas Department of Health.

## Renewal of Vista Program for Another Year

The CTD VISTA Program has been extended for another year—until April 1, 1984. ACTION overseeing the VISTA Program has granted 30 volunteer slots to CTD which will assign them to member organizations. The majority of CTD's VISTA volunteers will be renewing their contracts for another year so that the projects' goals can be achieved.

As a result of the VISTA Program, disabled persons have been given the opportunity to utilize their talents and skills in developing the sponsoring disability organizations at the local level with the underlying goal of coordinating all local efforts into a strong coalition at the state level. With this approach, member organizations have experienced increased communication, coordination and cooperation among themselves.

Some specific activities under the CTD VISTA Program during the past year include: Peer counseling; teaching Independent Living Skills; sign language; or identifying available resources in the community such as accessible apartments, accessible transit, and available attendants. Many CTD VISTAS were active in meetings and hearings involving legislative recommendations for the disabled and their future.

The dedication and determination of CTD's VISTAS in the last year has brought about many outstanding achievements for Texans with disabilities. We are happy that the CTD VISTA Program will continue for another year. We are looking forward to another year with the VISTA Program.

—Linda Larch



## Technology and You...

*Editor's Note:* The following article on the development of an electronic leg is from the "Programs for the Handicapped" of the *Clearinghouse on the Handicapped* which is published by the Office of Information and Resources for the Handicapped in Washington, D.C.

Researchers at the Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia have developed an artificial leg with an electromechanical knee that operates by the will of the wearer. The leg was developed for people with above-the-knee amputations. It is set in motion when the wearer either consciously or subconsciously send signals to the muscles above the amputation site. The wearer can closely simulate his or her natural gait, lift and cross the limb smoothly, and adjust to unexpected occurrences such as bumps in sidewalks or high curbs.

Initial work on the leg began over three years ago. Studies performed by the engineering team on an amputee showed that the muscles above the amputation site remain active after the limb has been removed. By analyzing muscular activity at the hip and thigh, the researchers were able to recognize a reliable pattern that the upper leg muscles follow when the knee is willed to flex or extend and thus move the lower leg. Based on the above information, the researchers developed the electromechanical leg which has been successfully tested on an amputee. Dr. Gordon D. Moskowitz, senior research scientist at the Rehabilitation Engineering Center, expects further improvements in the leg, and the research team hopes to develop a clinical model of the leg within three to five years.

The Rehabilitation Engineering Center at Moss Rehabilitation Center is one of 17 centers funded by the National Institute of Handicapped Research to combine engineering in a University laboratory setting with clinical care in a rehabilitation institution.

## Publications Available at CTD's Office

Brochure on "Independent Living Centers" (free)

CTD Program Book, 1982 (free)

CTD Newsletter (limited copies, free)

CTD Voting Packet (free)

Transportation Review (free)

## ACCD 1983 Delegate Assembly

The American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities will hold its annual Delegate Council Assembly in Oklahoma City at the Sheraton Century Plaza Hotel on May 25-28. Persons from around the country will be attending the meeting.

The Delegate Assembly will feature Oklahoma's Governor Nigh as the speaker for the banquet and Ralph Niece, who is with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. The theme for the assembly is "Countdown to Freedom, Title VII for Disabled People." A workshop on grantsmanship is tentatively planned.

Room rates will be approximately \$45.00 per night. Transportation will be available from the airport to the hotel. An interpreter for the hearing impaired, will be available throughout the Delegate Assembly meeting including at the airport. The hotel will have TDD's available.

Hope to see all of you CTD members in "Sooner" land!

### CTD's Editor's Note:

The CTD Newsletter is edited and published quarterly by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, a state-wide cross disability consumer group. Any member who wishes to submit future articles for publication should send them to Judy E. Wingard, Editor, ARCIL, 2818 San Gabriel, Austin, Texas 78705.

# Welcome CTD's New Members

## Easter Seal Society—Associate Local Member

P.O. Box 13399  
Houston, Texas 77219  
Contact: Eve Warren

This organization provides employment and recreation services to mentally, physically and

developmentally disabled children and adults in order to maximize their independence, earning potential, as well as their emotional and social abilities. The Houston Easter Seal Society has an established membership of 215 with 60% having a disability.

## Huntsville Coalition for the Handicapped of East Texas

Route 1, Box 315  
Huntsville, Texas 77348  
Contact: Leslie Sue Lorie

The purpose of the HCH is to promote the social, educational, physical, mental and emotional well-being of all citizens of Walker County—both permanently and

temporarily disabled. According to HCH, "Our major goal is to make our city, county, state and country more accessible for handicapped persons."

## HONORARY MEMBER

### Texas School for the Deaf

1102 South Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78764  
Contact: Dr. Victor H. Galloway,  
Executive Director

Because Dr. Galloway has graciously given CTD a home and has worked to improve the lives of many disabled Texans, the CTD Board of Directors made the Texas School for the Deaf an honorary member of CTD.

## Join CTD

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to cross-disability communication, cooperation, and coordination. The Coalition promotes the social, education, physical, and mental well-being of disabled Texans. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities brings together people and organizations with similar goals in a united effort to represent all disabled Texans to government, the private sector, and the general public. Membership in the Coalition enables organizations and individuals to enhance their effectiveness in improving the quality of life for Texans with disabilities.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Organization or Individual) Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street Address or Post Office Box)

City

State

Zip Code

Name of contact person for organization \_\_\_\_\_

Membership category applied for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mail application and dues to: CTD  
 \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box 4709  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State Local Individual Associate \_\_\_\_\_ Austin, Texas 78765

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated percentage of members with disabilities \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of Governing Board \_\_\_\_\_

Does the organization have non-profit status? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the organization a state organization? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, does the organization have chapters in at least two cities? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the organization a regional and/or local chapter of a state organization? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what organization? \_\_\_\_\_

If the organization a regional and/or local chapter of a national organization? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what organization? \_\_\_\_\_

Organizational Purpose (Goals, Objectives, Population Served) \_\_\_\_\_

### FOUR CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

**State Organization Members** are non-profit organizations composed primarily of persons with disabilities and their adherents; have chapters in at least two cities; are not regional chapters of a state organization having membership in CTD. Dues are \$50.00 annually.

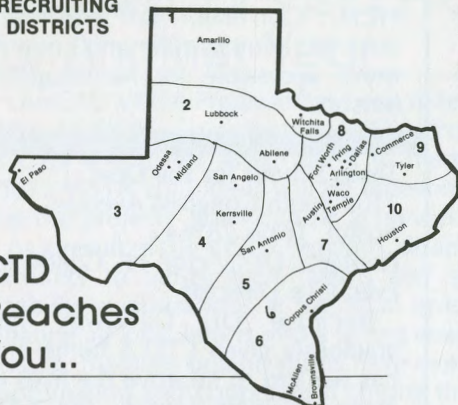
**Local Organizational Members** are non-profit organizations composed primarily of persons with disabilities and their adherents; are not a chapter of a state organization having membership in CTD. Dues are \$25.00 annually.

**Associate Members** are organizations wishing to support the work of CTD but which do not meet the above qualifications for state or local organizations. Dues are \$25.00 annually for local and \$50.00 annually for state.

**Individual Members** are persons wishing to support the work of CTD. Dues are \$5.00 annually.

Annual Subscription to CTD newsletter (non-members only) \$5.00.

**C.T.D.  
RECRUITING  
DISTRICTS**



**CTD  
Reaches  
You...**

*Editor's Note:* The CTD officers and board members have been assigned to the districts outlined in the map. The map partitions the state of Texas into 10 districts which are each covered by one or more CTD Board members. Each member

continued from page 3--

paired students will have no place to go if Gallaudet College and NTID cannot accommodate them.

In order to show support of cross-disability organizations helping each other, the Texas Association of the Deaf and SWCID are asking individual members and organizational members of CTD to contact and write state legislators urging them to vote in favor of the continued growth of SWCID as a statewide, junior/community college for the hearing impaired Texans.

organization in the district will be contacted by their representative. The distribution of the districts is as follows:

**District 1:**

Marshall Mitchell, Vice President  
Post Office Box 447  
Amarillo, Texas 79178  
**(806) 376-5111**

**District 2:**

Lee Kitchens, Treasurer  
25 East Canyon View Drive  
Route 3, Lake Ransom Canyon  
Slaton, Texas 79362  
**(806) 741-3418**

**District 3:**

Marshall Levett  
El Paso Opportunity Center  
8929 Viscount, No. 118  
El Paso, Texas 79925  
**(915) 591-0800**

**District 4:**

Mike Swoboda  
616 Rittiman Drive  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
**(512) 925-8517**

**District 5:**

Larry Johnson, President  
10387 Sahara, No. 6H  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
**(512) 822-2006**

**District 6:**

Dennis Dildy  
7127 Glen Grove  
San Antonio, Texas 78239  
**(512) 825-3551**

**District 7:**

Pat Pound, Secretary  
ARCIL  
2818 San Gabriel  
Austin, Texas 78705  
**(512) 473-2684**

Jerry Hassell  
2204 Laramie Trail  
Austin, Texas 78745  
**(512) 442-7821**

Judy Wingard  
ARCIL  
2818 San Gabriel  
Austin, Texas 78715  
**(512) 473-2684**

**District 8:**

Tom Morrison  
4654 Cedar Tone  
Dallas, Texas 75211  
**(214) 767-4123**

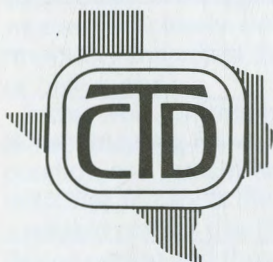
**District 9:**

Joyce Tepley  
3883 Turtle Creek, Apt. 705  
Dallas, Texas 75219  
**(214) 526-0840**

**District 10:**

Vicki Harris  
Houston Ctr./Independent Living  
6910 Fannin, Suite 120  
Houston, Texas 77030  
**(713) 795-4252**

Bobby Simpson, Past President  
ARCIL  
2818 San Gabriel  
Austin, Texas 78705  
**(512) 473-2684**



**Coalition of Texans  
with Disabilities**

Post Office Box 4709  
Austin, Texas 78765  
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