

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES

# NEWSLETTER

Volume V Number 3

Summer 1983

## 68th Legislature Passed Numerous Disability Laws

*Editor's Note: Individuals member and organizations of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities should be congratulated on a job well done because the majority of the priority areas in the CTD Platform were successfully acted upon by the 68th Legislature. The following is a brief explanation of the pieces of legislation supported by the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities as well as by other state and local disability groups which passed and did not pass the 68th Legislature.*

The General Appropriations Bill funded the '84-'85 appropriations request for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission over the amount needed for the state/federal match as well as gave the full amount of money requested for the line items of the Extended Rehabilitation Services program and the Centers for Independent Living program. It is expected that the TRC budget will increase approximately 76% over the last biennium.

Approximately one million dollars will be allocated to independent living centers on a yearly basis. Another three million dollars plus has been budgeted each year of the biennium for the Extended Rehabilitation Services program.

Secondly, the Texas Commission for the Deaf received \$100,000 in FY '84 and \$150,000 in FY '85 for its deaf/blind semi-independent living programs. In addition, TCD obtained \$100,000 for a summer camp for deaf/blind children and \$50,000 for a counseling program for parents with deaf/blind children during the '84-'85 biennium.

The Voting Access Bill, sponsored by Senator Kothmann and Representative Barrientos, mandates that at least one polling place within each precinct shall be accessible. This bill sets out the guidelines for accessibility and the deadlines as to when the polling places must be made accessible. Full compliance with the bill's directives must be met by January 1, 1988. Unfortunately, a late amendment, sponsored by Representative

*—Continued on page 2.*



*Take the train to El Paso for the CTD 1983 Delegate Assembly. El Paso's train station is newly remodeled and located near downtown.*

## El Paso Hosts 1983 CTD Delegate Assembly

The Sixth Annual Delegate Assembly for the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities will be held in El Paso, Texas at the El Paso Rodeway Inn, located on Gateway West of I-35, on October 21-23, 1983.

The city of El Paso has many attractions for visiting CTD delegates and alternates. The attractions are horse and dog racing, shopping and entertainment in Juarez, Mexico and the spectacular climate of West Texas. Tentative plans are being made for a shopping tour in Mexico and a special buffet at the Juarez Race Track.

For further details about the 1983 Delegate Assembly watch your mail and/or contact the CTD office for information and registration forms.

## Welcome CTD's New Members

### **INROADS In UNITY, St. Philip's College**

2111 Nevada Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78203  
Phone: 512/531-3200  
Contact: Raul T. Hernandez,  
Coordinator Handicapped Student  
Services

This group is a student organization at St. Philip's College enhancing the educational, social and personal areas so that the students can become part of the mainstream of society after they graduate and seek meaningful livelihoods. It also strives to make the administration, faculty and staff aware of the student's needs in their endeavors and to improve the accessibility of all facilities at St. Philip's College.

### **Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf**

Avenue C  
Big Spring, Texas 79720  
Phone: 915/267-6311  
Contact: Sam Hill, Vice President

The organization is a junior college serving primarily deaf Texans and some hearing students. According to Mr. Hill, SWCID is pleased to be a member of CTD and wishes to thank those Texans who gave strong support to the legislation affecting deaf persons during the 68th Legislature.

*Continued from page 1—*

## 68th Legislature Passed Numerous Disability Laws...

Eckles of Houston, exempts private buildings which are being used as polling places.

With the passage of Senate Bill 766 sponsored by Senator Doggett, municipalities are now allowed to require public entities and private land owners to designate a certain number of parking places for vehicles with the appropriate identification sticker or placard. All public spaces designated for the disabled and all spaces mandated by a municipality must now be marked according to regulations promulgated by the State Purchasing and General Services Commission. There are penalties for persons who park in such spaces without appropriate identification. Disabled persons who do not have the appropriate identification are not exempt from these penalties.

With the haphazard coordination of social services to the disabled and the elderly which has resulted in a duplication of services and/or a total lack of services in some areas of human need, Senate Bill 711, sponsored by Senator Brooks, establishes the following three interlocking councils: Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council, Council on Disabilities, and Long Term Care Coordinating Council. The three councils will monitor the services provided to the disabled, elderly and other affected groups; make recommendations for integrating and coordinating all state services within and between the various state agencies; and make recommendations for new services. These councils will be appointed and will contain non-disabled and disabled public and private individuals.

Unfortunately, the bills allowing a subsidy of TDD machines for deaf and hearing impaired individuals from a surcharge or small fee added on to the phone bill was defeated because the Office of the Attorney General submitted an opinion declaring the plan to be unconstitutional under the State Constitution. It is hoped that efforts on behalf of the plan or a similar plan which will not be declared unconstitutional will continue so that more TDD's can be made available to the deaf and hearing impaired population.

In conclusion, it would appear that the CTD members should congratulate themselves and pat themselves on the back for a job well done! But let us remember that our victory could not have been achieved without the support and dedication of the Senators and Representatives and their aides.

*Larry Johnson, President of CTD, receives a medallion for his contribution to communicating the reality of disabled people from Richard J.V. Johnson, the Houston Chronicle President, at the first annual Barbara Jordan Communications Awards Banquet in Houston on April 7, 1983, sponsored by the Texas Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.*



# ACCD Delegate Assembly Meets Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities hosted the Ninth Annual Delegate Council Assembly of the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. The delegates and alternates for CTD are the following: Larry Johnson, President; Pat Pound, Secretary; Justin and Yoshiko Dart, Peg Nosek, Tom Morrison and Eddie Matthews.

Presentations at the Delegate Assembly included: 1) A review of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board activities of the past year by Bob Johnson, Executive Director; 2) An overview of the recent post-polio conference; 3) An update on governmental actions concerning Section 504, Public Law 94-142, and vocational education laws; and 4) A discussion on how to work effectively with minority groups. This discussion included presentations by Ralph Neice, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Director and the NAACP President of the Oklahoma chapter.

Delegates passed a budget for the coming year and heard reports from various committees. The Coalition Development Committee announced the preparation of a coalition development handbook which ACCD hopes to publish when they have the financial resources. A presentation was also made by the committee showing existing coalitions throughout the country as well as areas needing development. Many of the Advocacy Committee recommendations were passed by the Assembly in the form of resolutions. The resolutions included the following: 1) Response to government actions regarding Section 504; 2) Reaction to the withholding of medical treatment for disabled infants and 3) Establishing a working relationship with disability rights groups in Japan. Copies of the resolutions can be obtained from the CTD office upon request.

Finally, the Delegate Assembly elected seven new board members. In order to keep a Texas representative on the ACCD Board, Peg Nosek, a CTD member, ran for the board and won the position. The CTD office has a list of the ACCD Board which can be made available to you upon request.

# Take the "12 PACK" to El Paso for the Delegate Assembly

Your organization can save money on transportation to the 1983 Delegate Assembly in El Paso. Southwest Airlines offers a group discount called the "12 Pack" to any group of people purchasing 11 tickets they will get one free. Persons buying the 11 tickets will realize about an 8% discount on each ticket. Tickets purchased under this plan must be utilized by the end of the year.

A brochure describing the plan has been sent to each member organization of CTD. If you are interested in the "12 Pack" plan, you should buy your tickets soon because another increase in the airfare may occur before October, 1983.

LET  
YOUR  
HANDS  
DO  
THE  
TALKING

## 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-Westbrook, Editor  
ARCIL  
2818 San Gabriel  
Austin, Texas 78705.

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MILLION  
TEXANS  
**DISABLED**  
BUT  
ABLE TO  
**VOTE**

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE



During Deaf Awareness Week, the last week in April, the lovely Sandra Jones won the title Miss Deaf San Antonio, 1983. Other events highlighting the successful "Deaf Awareness Week" in San Antonio included "It's a Deaf, Deaf World" workshop sponsored by the San Antonio Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; a marathon race of 29 miles between Southwest Center for Hearing Impaired and the San Antonio Independent Living Services; an open house and talent show at the regional day school for the deaf at Pfeiffer Elementary; and a two-day long exhibit at North Star Mall.

## Texas Instruments Donate Computers to Disabled Community

The Texas Instruments, Inc., Personal Computer Division, located in Lubbock, Texas, has donated complete home computers with all peripherals and software needed to the five Centers for Independent Living in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio. Mr. Lee Kitchens, the CTD Treasurer and the Engineering Manager at Texas Instruments in Lubbock, played a key role in getting the computers donated to the five Centers.

According to Mr. Kitchens, the computers will assist the Independent Living Centers in establishing data bases on clients as well as administrative and financial activities of the Centers. Finally, each Center's computer is equipped with a telephone modem which will allow the Centers to share computer information with each other.

Texas Instruments also donated two computer systems to Mainstream Project in Dallas. This project assists the disabled individuals to match up with employers willing to hire the disabled employee.

## Dallas has Newest CIL

The Dallas Center for Independent Living (DCIL) opened its doors earlier this year under the auspices of the Association of Individuals with Disabilities (AID) with a grant provided by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. DCIL joined a statewide network of comprehensive, consumer-based programs

currently operating in Austin, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio.

Similar to the Basic philosophy of all CIL's, severely handicapped individuals are involved to a substantial degree in the policy direction and management of the DCIL. Priority has been placed upon the recruitment and training of qualified, severely disabled individuals for staff positions.

The DCIL hope that individuals with a broad range of disabilities has benefited and will continue to benefit from independent living services by developing the abilities and skills necessary to 1) Utilize available resources; 2) function more independently and 3) Lead self-directed lives. Some individuals may develop vocational potential and subsequently secure and maintain employment. Considerable effort has been and will continue to be directed toward reaching those persons who are homebound and institutionalized.

During the first year operation, the DCIL staff will concentrate on establishing the Center as a viable service delivery system in the Dallas area and an effective source of advocacy for disabled individuals. According to the director, Jan Mintura, every effort has been and will continue to be made in coordinating the DCIL services with other community based resources in such a manner as to avoid duplication of services and to fill gaps in existing services.

Services offered at DCIL include: intake counseling, information and referral, peer counseling, advocacy, independent living skills training, housing, transportation and attendant care coordination, community outreach, and job development and placement.

The Center is located at 8625 King George, Suite 210, Dallas, Texas 75235. The phone number is 214/631-6900 (TTY-521-0407).

## VISTA Starts Another Year

The CTD/Vista Project began the new VISTA year with 30 Volunteers. The previous year closed with 26 volunteers. Out of those 26 volunteers, 17 have volunteered to re-enroll in the project and nine have chosen to pursue other options. Therefore, CTD is bringing into the project 13 new VISTAS which will be listed below. In order to show CTD's appreciation to the VISTAS for the contributions they have made to the disability movement, a VISTA booklet, "VISTA in Review: '81-Present," has been printed commemorating the previous VISTAS.

### ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS IN ACTION, AMARILLO

Eddie Matthews has replaced Bernie Santa Colma who has relocated to the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Matthews is involved in membership recruitment, fund-raising and conducting the accessibility survey of business and public buildings and developing an access guide for Amarillo.

### ARCIL, Austin

VISTAS Chester Lyssy and Stephanie Lewis have resigned to take jobs in the community. Three new VISTAS are the following: Marsha Badeaux, vocational evaluation and work training; Stephen Maples, peer counseling and attendant referrals and Redge Westbrook, financial legal assistance.

### ARLINGTON HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION, ARLINGTON

James Powell is replacing Brenda Ryan who has another job. Mr. Powell is responsible for the day to day operation of the Day Enrichment Program.

### CTD/CENTRAL OFFICE, AUSTIN

David Weintraub is returning to school and Juan Barron is going into business for himself. Bob Kafka has joined Central office.

### JOB LEAD, SAN ANTONIO

A new VISTA project, Rose Talamantez is the administrative assistant to the executive director of the job bank which links employers and disabled applicants together.

### HOUSTON INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER, HOUSTON

A new VISTA project, Lee Sanders acts as the liaison between the client center and the general public.

### NORTH EAST ASSOCIATION OF DEAF, SAN ANTONIO

Bonny Barrie-Hull is taking Jill Mathey's place who is interpreting on a full time basis. Ms. Barrie-Hull is interpreting at meetings, conferences and workshops; handling correspondence and public relations; coordinating workshops and special programs; as well as promoting deaf awareness in the San Antonio community.

### OPEN DOOR (PROJECT NORMALIZATION), AUSTIN

Christina Langley is replacing Ora Staudt who will be working with both handicapped and non-handicapped children between the ages of 2-8 years in social academic settings.

### SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR HEARING IMPAIRED, SAN ANTONIO

Because Dick Bell is transferring to Region XX under CTD/VISTA sponsorship, Rosaleen Perea is taking Mr. Bell's position and is counseling and teaching independent living skills at the Center. Since Melinda Cain is seeking other employment, Suzanne Penny is responsible for the identification of available resources, follow-up counseling and advocacy.

## CTD Reaches You...

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Board has established an outreach program in which board members are assigned to local organizations and groups. The program has been slow in developing. However, the board has gained some valuable insight into some of the activities CTD member groups are involved in. Apparently, the city of San Antonio has had some enjoyable and beneficial inter-organizational competition between its disability organizations such as Insight, Northeast Association of the Deaf and Reclamation. It is also great to hear that Reclamation is starting a newsletter focusing on issues relating to the mentally restored.

The Texas Association of Retarded Citizens Self Advocates held a very successful annual conference in Austin on June 25, 1983.

In Amarillo, P.A.L.S. (People's Association for Life Services) and A.D.I.A. (Association of Disabled Individuals in Action) worked together to raise over \$1,000.00 for the Easter Seals Telethon. Thanks!

Finally, but not least, the West Texas University Handicapped Student Association held a very successful Handicapped Awareness Week.

These are just a few examples of activities performed by CTD member organizations and groups. If you would like to report outstanding events your organization is involved in or have any suggestions on how the Outreach Program can better serve your organization, contact Marshall Mitchell, vice-president, P.O. Box 447, Amarillo, Texas 79178.

# UPDATE on the Federal Scene

Vice-president, George Bush announced recently that the Deregulatory Commission has determined that recommendations for maintaining the existing Section 504 regulations have been forwarded to the Justice Department and Congress. While this recommendation is a victory for persons with disabilities in maintaining their "civil rights" protection, please remember that the Federal courts have not ruled in favor of handicapped persons very often when there is a court action involving Section 504 requirements.

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review a Circuit Court decision involving the applicability of the Section 504 regulations for the coverage of employment. Should the Supreme court rule that Section 504 does not cover employment discrimination unless the

federal financial assistance is the primary objective for employment purposes, the employment discrimination protection for handicapped persons will be seriously limited.

On the Congressional scene, as of April 26, 1983, the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources had not taken action on the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. On April 20, 1983 the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor reported H.R. 2461, out of committee, and if enacted, it will extend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, for five years without any major changes. Several amendments to H.R. 2461 were proposed by Rep. Steve Bartlett (R-Texas) in an attempt to weaken the existing Act. The amendments included a

restructuring of Comprehensive services under Part A and CIL programs under Part B. A third amendment provided for a smaller increase in the basic state grant program in FY '84 than was provided for under H.R. 2461 as reported by the House committee. All three amendments were rejected.

It is imperative that the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, be reauthorized soon! Without the reauthorization of this Act, State Rehabilitation Services will not function and all of the civil rights protection for handicapped citizens under the Act will be suspended. Please contact your Representative and Senator urging reauthorization of the existing Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

## Technology and You...

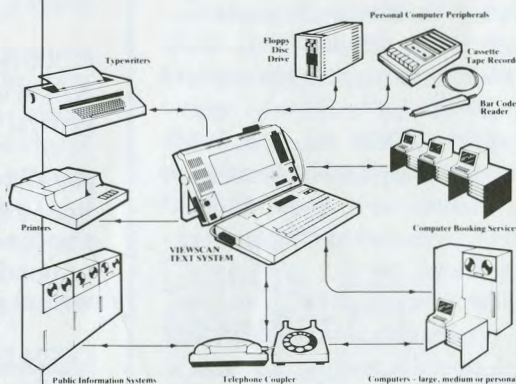
*Editor's Note: The following article on the Viewscan Text System, an advanced information handling system for the partially sighted, is from a brochure put out by Wormald International Sensory Aids.*

The Viewscan Text System (VTS) enables a severely visually impaired person to perform the following activities: 1) Read the printed text with a scanned camera and a display screen capable of presenting bright characters of selectable size up to three inches in height, 2) Store the text on micro cassette tapes which may be played back automatically on the VTS display screen at any time; 3) Print out personal or informal notes on an internal printer; and 4) Program computers and enter or read back data as well as receive information from public computer data bases using a compact keyboard unit. This keyboard unit incorporates the following

equipment: 1) A full size typewriter keyboard, 2) A micro-cassette tape recorder which can store text of up to 150,000 characters on a single micro-cassette about the size of a matchbox; 3) A powerful personal computer using the BASIC programming language which has substantial memory and facilities to interface to other computer peripheral devices (see attached diagram); 4) A calculator, calender and clock; 5) A miniature printer; and 6) A communications interface which enables the VTS to be connected to printers, external computers and other communication systems.

Since the VTS is fully portable, battery operated, and no larger than a standard briefcase, it will open up new opportunities for the partially sighted in education, employment and leisure. For more information on the Viewscan Text System, contact:

## Interfacing Possibilities...



SENSORY AIDS CORPORATION  
White Pines Office Center/Suite 110  
205 West Grand Avenue  
Bensenville, IL 60106  
312/766-3935

# 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:

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
State      Local      Individual      Associate

Mail application and dues to: **CTD**  
P.O. Box 4709  
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.

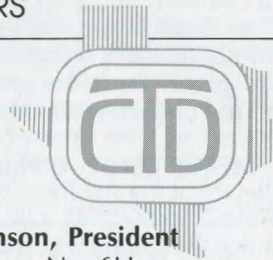
# CTD Board Announces By Laws and Nominating Committees

The CTD Board of Directors has elected Tom Morrison and Dennis Dildy to the By-laws Committee for the 1983 Delegate Assembly. Members wishing to recommend changes to the by-laws and/or make comments on the by-laws should address their concerns to Tom Morrison, the Chairman, 4654 Ceday Tone, Dallas, Texas 75211/Ph.: 214/767-4123.

A Nominating Committee has also been selected by the CTD Board for the 1983 Delegate Assembly. The committee members consist of Joyce Tepley, Pat Pound and Virginia Roberts. Individuals and organizations should send their nominations a month prior to the 1983 Delegate Assembly to Joyce Tepley, Chairperson: 3883 Turtle Creek, #705; Dallas, Texas 75219/Ph.: 214/536-0840.

## CTD Board

### OFFICERS



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(713) 795-4252

**Jerry Hassell**  
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**Tom Morrison**  
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**Mike Swoboda**  
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**Judy Wingard-Westbrook**  
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2818 San Gabriel  
Austin, Texas 473-2684



## Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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(512) 447-2807

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