

COALITION OF TEXANS WITH DISABILITIES NEWSLETTER

Volume V Number 4

Fall 1983

CTD Delegate Assembly October 21-23

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities will hold its sixth annual Delegate Assembly in El Paso, TX at the El Paso Rodeway Inn, located on Gateway West off I-10, on October 21-23.

The welcoming speaker tentatively is U.S. Representative Ronald Coleman, who has personal experience with the disability movement by having parents who are deaf. Although not yet confirmed, Mason Rose, a California lawyer formerly with the Architectural Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, has been asked to speak at the assembly luncheon on Saturday which will cost \$7.00

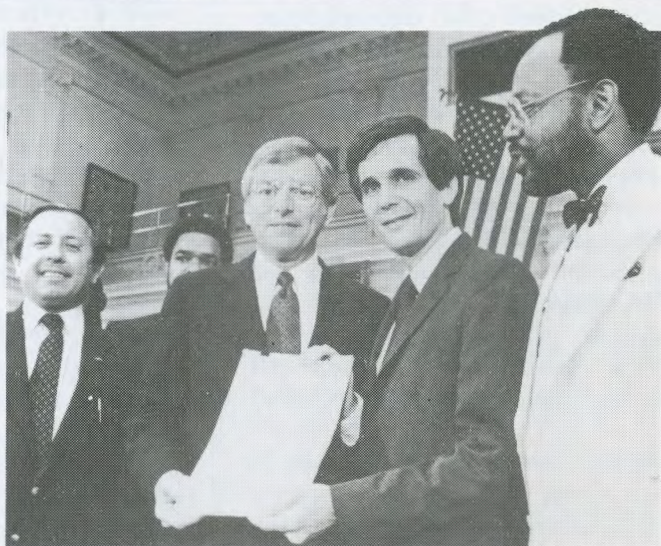
The afternoon will have workshop sessions. The first half has been tentatively set for a debate between the candidates for the U.S. Senate, with Mrs. Lloyd Doggett and Bob Krueger participating.

A panel discussion entitled "Advocating for Change In and Through Social, Religious and Political Institutions" is planned for the second half of the afternoon. The panel will include: Sister Mary Mortz, Director Pastoral Ministry with the Handicapped in the Santa Fe Archdiocese; Mr. A.C. Sutton, State President of the N.A.A.C.P. and member of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped; Mr. Johnny Mata, State President of LULAC; and Representative Jack Vowell, Texas House of Representatives.

A hospitality suite will be featured after the panel discussion. For those interested, an organized group trip to Juarez, Mexico will be conducted Saturday evening for approximately \$3.00 per person for transportation cost. Registration for the Assembly is \$20.00 at the door.

Come to El Paso for an exciting Delegate Assembly! If you need more information contact the C.T.D. office at 512/385-8438.

**BRING YOUR RESOLUTIONS
TO THE CTD DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**



Governor Mark White and Senator Lloyd Doggett hold Human Rights Bill as Senators Craig Washington and Ron Truan look on.

Legislation Creates a Commission on Human Rights

During the Special Legislative Session in June, the Texas Legislature passed a law creating a state Commission on Human Rights which has the authority to investigate and resolve complaints about job discrimination. The bill was signed into law by Governor Mark White on July 7th with over 800 persons looking on.

The law bans discrimination by employers, employment agencies, and labor unions on the grounds of handicap, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age. The law takes effect in September and the six-member Commission has not been appointed by the Governor at the time this article was written.

This Commission is expected to take over the job of enforcing state and federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Prior to the passage of the law, Texas workers claiming illegal discrimination had to go to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for relief. Advocates of this bill believe local and/or state complaint procedures will greatly decrease the time for processing a complaint which will offer a more workable

—continued on page 2.

Delegate Assembly will Feature Organization's Displays

The sixth annual CTD Delegate Assembly will have an exhibit display area in which member organizations are invited to participate by bringing their media presentations, sample publicity materials and other displays depicting the major activities, services and accomplishments of the organization. During the Assembly, one member organization's display will be selected for special recognition. Although an organization may not have a formal display, handouts from all organizations are encouraged.

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

ADAPT Seeks Members for APTA National Convention

The American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT) group is hoping to address the upcoming American Public Transportation Association (APTA) National Convention on October 23-26 in Denver, Colorado. ADAPT will be pointing out the issue of the civil rights of people with disabilities to equal access on all buses nationwide.

ADAPT will propose the following resolution and press for its passage:

1. The American Public Transportation Association goes on record calling for one hundred per cent accessibility by all public transit systems.
2. The Association serves notice on all bus manufacturers that its members will buy only wheelchair accessible buses.
3. The Association urges the federal government to reinstate the 504 regulations mandating that all public transit system buses be accessible.

The ADAPT group was formed by people across the country aware that although the mainline bus systems in Denver, Seattle, and San Jose are wheelchair accessible, most transit systems in the United States are not. Therefore, ADAPT is seeking at least one mobility impaired person from each state to raise the awareness of 4,000 transit officials from across the nation, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, presidential candidates and Vice-President George Bush on October 22nd.

If you plan to come or want more information, contact ADAPT, Atlantis, 4536 E. Colfax, Denver, CO 80220, or Joe Carle and Mike Auberger at 303/393-0630, or Wade & Molly Bland at 303/321-7269.

LEGISLATION CREATES A COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS—continued from page 1.

process for both complainants and employers. When complaints are officially processed with the new agency, it can apply for a contract with the EEOC to receive payments for complaints being processed on the state level.

Under this law, employers can claim "undue hardship" and it is then up to the Commission to determine if this claim is reasonable or not. The Commission is authorized to negotiate a settlement and take the matter to Court if necessary. It is hoped that the convenience of a state level complaint process will expedite the resolutions of complaints.

In many of the attempts to pass an anti-discrimination law for employment over the last twenty years, disabled Texans have been forgotten. But with the new legislation, they are given the same protection against discrimination in employment by any employer who has more than 15 employees as other individuals listed in the law. The state law will apply to more employers such as training programs, trade unions, vocational schools, etc., and not just those employers receiving federal financial assistance under the Sections 501, 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

It is hoped that one of the six appointed members on the Commission will be a qualified disabled individual who has insight into the problems disabled persons encounter in the area of employment.

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities would like to officially thank the sponsors of the Bill for a job well done— Senator Lloyd Doggett (D-Austin), Senator Craig Washington (D-Houston), Representative Gonzalo Barrientos (D-Austin), and Representative Ron Wilson (D-Dallas) as well as Governor Mark White who signed the Bill into effect.

68th Legislature Update

Editor's Note: In addition to the legislation described in the Summer, 1983, issue of the *CTD Newsletter*, the 68th Texas Legislature passed many other bills dealing with disability issues.

For example, Senate Bill 284, sponsored by Senator Santiesteben of El Paso, allows disabled Texans who qualify for disabled parking stickers to obtain a parking card which can be used when riding in a vehicle which does not have a sticker. Applications for the cards are available at the County Tax Office. A doctor's statement or other acceptable proof of disability is needed unless the individual already has a sticker. Proof of the sticker will be sufficient to obtain the card. A disabled driver may obtain both sticker and card although the sticker must be renewed on a yearly basis while the card is permanent.

Secondly, an important change in the statutes regulating services by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission was made in Senate Bill 33, sponsored by Senator Glassgow. Services are no longer limited to those individuals who are determined to have employment potential, but may be provided to those who may be able to achieve a greater level of independent living. Although funding for these services was not appropriated, limited money for such services will be available through each Texas Independent Living Center which was made possible by the unexpected continued federal funding of the two oldest Texas CIL's—Houston and Austin. For more details, contact the nearest CIL.

The limited guardianship law which formally only applied to mentally retarded persons was expanded by Senate Bill 1097, sponsored by Senator Hector Uribe. The

law can now be used for any individual who is unable to take care of some personal needs due to a mental or physical condition. Under the law, a guardian can be appointed without declaring the individual incompetent.

Senator Uribe sponsored another bill, Senate Bill 861, giving the Texas Department of Human Resources the authority to investigate reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of disabled persons. These services were previously only legally authorized for elderly persons and children.

Senate Bill 809, sponsored by Senator Craig Washington, allows parents of deaf children to choose to send their children to the Texas School for the Deaf, providing there is room, even if the local school district decides it can provide an appropriate education.

House Bill 279, by Representative Jim Turner, among other things, directs the Texas Commission for the Deaf to provide message relay services for the deaf population and to manage the distribution of telecommunication devices to various local government offices. The law also authorizes and funds

several programs for deaf-blind multi-handicapped persons.

Senator Chet Brooks succeeded in passing a series of resolutions, SCR 66-72 & 98, directing the improvement of services to autistic citizens of Texas and their families.

Senate Bill 123, sponsored by Senator Leedon, exempts from sales and use taxes various pieces of equipment used by the visually impaired, such as braille watches, electronic equipment, writers, white canes and talking clocks.

The Texas Mental Health Code has been extensively reformed by the mandates of Senate Bill 435 which was sponsored by Senator Ray Farabee. The changes were based on the recommendations of the Mental Health Code Task Force. In addition, the protective custody provisions of the Code, which had been declared unconstitutional were changed to provide timely notice, a fair hearing and the other due process rights which the prior statutes had been found to be lacking.

Finally, but not least, House Bill 102, sponsored by Representative Anita Hill, increases the number of required unannounced inspections

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CTD Jog-Rama



The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities will hold its first Jog-Rama in Austin at Burger Stadium, 3200 Jones Road, on Sunday, November 20, 1983 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

In Addition to being a fun event in which the whole family can participate in by either walking, jogging, running, skipping, rolling, levitating and/or any other method of around a quarter mile track for one hour; the Jog-Rama will be supporting the concept of "independent living" in the following means:

- (1) elimination of architectural, communication and attitudinal barriers,
- (2) organizational development of CTD, and
- (3) legislative action.

CTD's office will be contacting each organization for support. So get on your jogging clothes and on your mark, get set, and go support CTD! For more information, contact Bob Kafka at the CTD office, 512/385-8438.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

ACCD Launch the "Disabled but Able to Vote" Campaign

The American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities has announced the launching of a new national campaign entitled "Disabled But Able to Vote." "More than 20 million Americans are eligible to vote yet, due to many architectural and communication barriers in the voting process, they constitute a basically disenfranchised minority," stated Peg Nosek while testifying in favor of the Equal Access to Voting Rights Act at a recent hearing of the Congressional Task Force on Elections.

In combination with its support of efforts to remove barriers to voting process through legislative action, ACCD is conducting public awareness activities involving distribution of posters, bumper stickers, rubber stamps and

—continued on page 6.

VISTA Report

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is happy to have two new VISTAS join the Central office. They are Mel Aaron and Bob Kafka.

Mr. Aaron will be serving his second year as a VISTA with CTD. He was one of the first volunteer VISTAS in the program between 1980 and 1981. In that first year, Mr. Aaron implemented a bookkeeping system and refined many office procedures as well as coordinated many CTD projects. He also worked with ethnic minority groups and the media. During the upcoming year, Mr. Aaron will be performing the same bookkeeping and office duties.

Mr. Kafka's participation in the disability movement began before the birth of CTD. He was founding board member and CTD's first secretary. Currently, Mr. Kafka serves as the state president of the Paralyzed Veteran's Association and the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association. Mr. Kafka will be conducting a statewide fund raising project, the CTD Job-Rama, next month and other special projects.

To you both, Welcome!

New Name for G.C.E.H.

Under an executive order of Governor White, the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped is renamed the "Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons." This name change reflects the concerns of the Committee, which are broader than just employment, and the more enlightened attitudes toward persons with disabilities which the Committee promotes.

The Executive Order also changed the membership requirements so that at least half of the 16 member panel are filled by persons who are themselves disabled.

At the same time of the Executive Order, Governor White appointed the following persons to the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons for two-year terms: Bob Simpson (Chairperson)-Austin, Justin Dart-Austin, Sherly Price-Hitchcock, Martha Arbuckle-Austin, Tom Morrison-Dallas, Larry Johnson-San Antonio, Kathy Weldon-Austin, Olivia Chavez Bludnell-El Paso, Betty Meyer-Austin, Amy Kidd Rosenberg-Austin, Pat Kelly Dicorte-China Springs, Sidney Braquet-Houston, Sherry Kafka Wagner-San Antonio, Bill Martin-Austin, Phillip Miller-San Antonio and Joe Russell-Dallas.



Rick Cantu, El Paso Times staff writer, is interviewing Tom Deniston, Santa Fe, NM; Jim Parker, El Paso, TX; Peg Nosek, Austin, TX; Joe Carle, Denver, CO; and other members of the West Texas Association of Handicapped not shown in the picture who blocked a city bus in downtown El Paso at noon during a conference on accessible transportation last July. According to Jim Parker, a transit plan creating a fully accessible transportation system for El Paso is in the works for the City Council to approve as city policy.

Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association Won Big!!

The sea breeze blowing from the Pacific Ocean seemed to agree with the 24 athletes and six coaches who traveled to Hawaii to represent the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association at the 27th Annual National Wheelchair Games this past summer.

The Texas "Lone Stars" captured 56 medals—19 Gold, 23 Silver, and 14 Bronze—in events such as track, field, swimming, weightlifting, table tennis, air weapons, slalom, and pentathlon.

Randy Snow, a University of Texas at Arlington student, won the Games' "Most Outstanding" Athlete Award and was selected, along with Dwight Goodman, Lubbock, to represent the United States at the Stolke Manville Games in Stolke Manville, England.

For more information on wheelchair sports and recreation, contact Bob Kafka at P.O. Box 20803, Houston, TX 77021 or 713/795-4282.



You Can Stop Telephone Rate Increases!

As most of you are aware, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has asked for a \$1.36 Billion rate increase which would raise the basic monthly service from \$10 to \$20. The very minimal service available (measured rate service for 25 calls per month) would cost between \$16 and \$20.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company predicts that such an increase will lower the percentage of homes with phones from 92% to 80%. Therefore, the largest impact will be on low and fixed income persons who are disproportionately disabled and/or elderly.

For most Americans, the telephone has become a necessity. To many disabled and elderly persons, it has become much more—a vital link to friends, relatives and society as a whole, a connection with necessary services, assistance, medical care and emergency help.

Thus, disability groups and organizations of elderly individuals are joining forces to work toward the defeat of the rate increase proposal before the Public Utility Commission. If you or your organization is interested in participating in this statewide effort or want more information, contact Julie Oliver at ARCIL, 2818 San Gabriel, Austin, TX 78705 or 512/473-2684.

Commissions have New Appointees

Governor Mark White appointed Jerry G. Hassell, Jerry A. McCutchin, Sr., and William Floerke to the Commission for the Deaf. Ann Masterson will serve on the State Commission for the Blind. Congratulations!

Other appointments by the Governor for the Commission for the Blind, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Human Rights Commission will be forthcoming.

DART Passed

With the passage of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) referendum on August 13, 1983, the disabled community of Dallas and surrounding areas will gain many benefits in the new transportation system which will be designed to "mainstream" the handicapped. For example, at least 50% of the off-peak bus service will be accessible to disabled riders. All the rail service between downtown Dallas and outlying suburbs will be accessible. Door-to-door service will still be available for persons needing that service. Finally, bus service for the disabled will be half the cost at all times.



Technology and You...

Editor's Note: During the past year, this column has been devoted to true technological advances affecting the disabled population. In this issue a slightly different twist is being taken. Everyone is familiar with the seeing eye dog program for the blind, but have you thought about dogs assisting other physically disabled persons? The following information about "exceptional dogs for exceptional people" depicting the Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) Program is taken from a brochure entitled "Canine Companions for Independence."



Kerrill Knaus, unable to reach elevator buttons or light switches, relies on Abdul. She recently purchased a manual wheelchair and Abdul pulls her in her chair.

Canine Companions for Independence is a non-profit organization which provides specially selected and trained dogs to enable people with disabilities to lead more personally fulfilling lives. The carefully trained dogs perform many tasks which the disabled person could not do such as; picking up dropped objects, turning on a light switch, and hearing a baby's cry. With the aid these dogs can provide, human attendant care is drastically reduced.

CCI was started in 1975 by Bonita Bergin, the current director. Since its beginnings, CCI has developed from a personal project in Ms. Bergin's home to an internationally acclaimed organization with a training center, a paid staff, and contacts throughout the United States and Europe.

The CCI dogs can be trained for one of three areas: (1) signal dogs, (2) social dogs, and (3) service dogs. Signal dogs are trained to alert the hearing impaired to a sound, such as a baby's cry, a doorbell, a fire alarm, etc., by pawing or nudging his master or leading him to the sound. The social dogs, used primarily in hospitals and schools, provide loving warmth and trusting devotion known as "pet therapy". It has been proven that the stimulation which a social dog can provide improves the I.Q. level of retarded youngsters and helps to bring the withdrawn or aphasic patient back into the real world. Finally, the service dogs help bridge the gap between a disabled person's physical abilities and the architectural and cultural requirements of our society. In addition to picking up dropped items, a service dog can be trained to carry books or valuables in a specially designed backpack, push buttons on elevators, hand documents to bank tellers, and pull a person in a wheelchair up hills and curbs. The dogs can also promote a sense of security by offering a source of physical protection.

If you are interested in learning more about the CCI Program or think you want a dog, you need to write a letter of inquiry with specific information about your disability and an outline of the tasks you need accomplished by the dog. For more information, contact:

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE
P.O. Box 446/Santa Rosa, California 95402/(707) 528-0830

ACB President Passed Away

Margaret Sandifer, President of the American Council of the Blind, passed away in July. For those wishing to honor her, a memorial fund under W.W. Sandifer Scholarship fund has been set up at the Houston Lighthouse for the Blind in Houston, Texas.

"ACCD...Campaign"—continued

tee-shirts proclaiming "20 million Americans, Disabled But Able to Vote," and information on techniques for registering voters. These materials are available from Peg Nosek, ACCD board member, 2012 Lear La., Austin, TX 78745, phone 512/442-9755. TTY 512/443-4874. The American Council of the Blind is joining ACCD in this campaign.

Over 50 organizations, including ACCD, have formed the Coalition for Voter Accessibility. Selected groups representing a wide range of interests testified in favor of the Equal Access to Voting Rights Act. The National Association of the Deaf called for the removal of barriers such as requiring voters to say aloud their name and address, and suggested an amendment specifying that telecommunication devices be at all permanent registration sites to allow access to voting information.

According to Maudine Cooper of the National Urban League, "For two years we worked to emphasize that voting is a right, not a privilege, and one which demands the government's full support and encouragement. The battle to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was largely a question of access—access denied due to political and racial exclusion. Access denied due to physical barriers is no less serious or reprehensible...Denial of the right or ability to vote, for any reason, militates against the country's ideal of allowing all an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process."

Welcome CTD's New Members

Job Lead, Inc.

1222 N. Main, Suite 221
San Antonio, TX 78212
PHONE: 512/299-7007

Contact: James Clapp, Executive
Director

Local Associate Member

This organization is a job opportunity bank linking employers to applicants with disabilities. It also does job referral for qualified disabled applicants.

San Antonio Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, Inc.

PROJECT ABC (Any Baby Can)
%Santa Rosa Children's Hospital
P.O. Box 7330, Station A
San Antonio, TX 78285
PHONE: 512/826-6141

Contact: Dr. Marian Sokol
Local Associate Member

The organization is a coalition of 77 area agencies in San Antonio networking over 300 families with babies who have disabilities.

Texas Rehabilitation Commission

118 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, TX 78704
PHONE: 512/445-8000

Contact: Max Arrell
State Associate Member

This agency is an organization serving primarily disabled persons who have vocation potential who want to enter or return to the work force.

68th LEGI. UPDATE—continued from page 3.

of nursing homes by the Health Department from one to two a year. It also prohibits the awarding of "superior" grade to any nursing home that has violated any state or federal regulation during the previous 12 months.

The above bills are but some of the many disability related bills passed in the 68th Legislative Session. Copies of any bill may be obtained by contacting your legislator.

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.

...A Special Gift in Honor of a Special Person

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities needs your support. You can give a gift honoring or memorializing a loved one by filling out the enclosed form and sending it back to C.T.D. A card will then be sent to the family acknowledging the gift.

FROM: _____ (Donor's Name) TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____ OCCASSION (Birthday/Anniversary, etc.) _____

Send Acknowledgement Card to: (family of deceased; or person being honored)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

(Your gift is tax deductible)

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