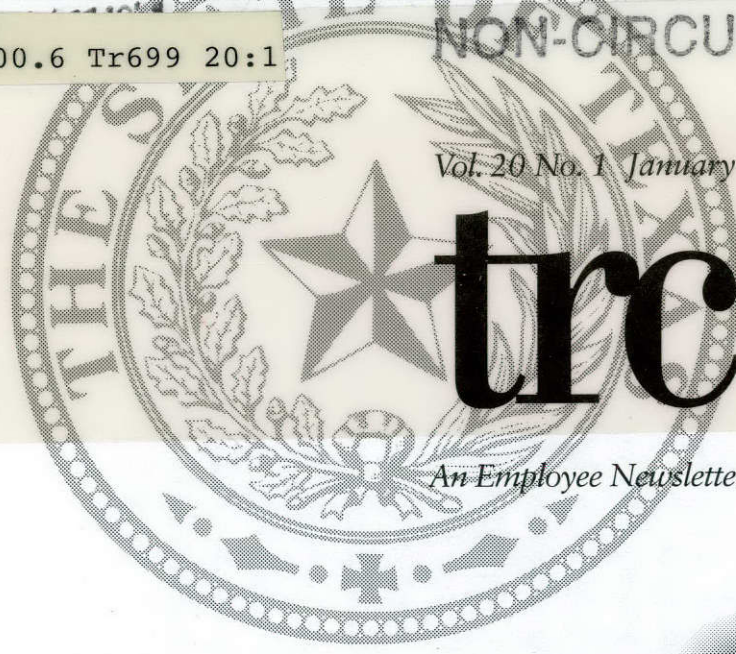


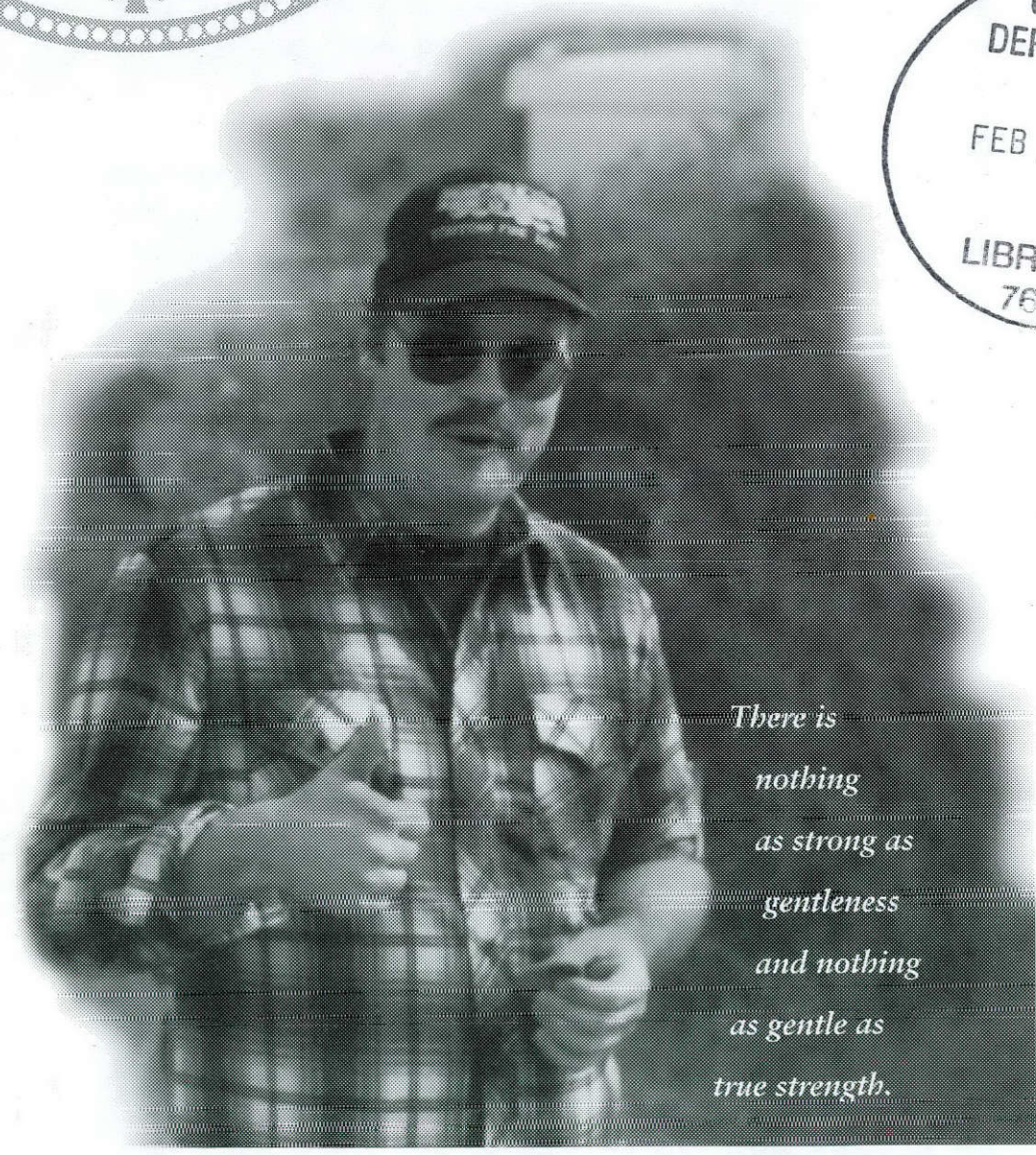
Vol. 20 No. 1 January 1997



trc today

An Employee Newsletter for Texas Rehabilitation Commission

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*There is
nothing
as strong as
gentleness
and nothing
as gentle as
true strength.*

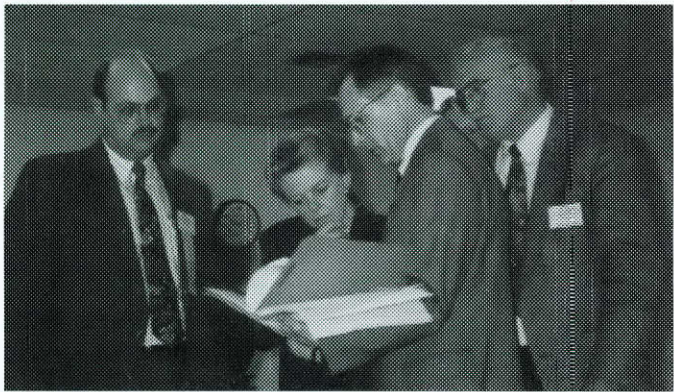
Kenneth Wayne Vogel

Oct. 16, 1945 - Dec. 14, 1996

trc today

An Employee Newsletter for Texas Rehabilitation Commission

Texas Rehabilitation
Commission
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751-2399
Vol. 20 No. 1 January 1997



Ken Vogel —A loss to all

Kenneth Vogel, executive deputy commissioner of TRC, died Dec. 14, 1996 doing one of the things he liked best — hunting. He was killed when a vehicle he was riding in turned over. Vogel, born, Oct. 16, 1945, loved life and lived it to the fullest.

"We loved him, we respected him," said Commissioner Arrell. "I have never in my tenure known anybody who was as enthusiastic about this Commission. Second only to his family, he loved this agency. We all gained from his presence in this Commission, and we are all hurting tremendously. We will miss him."

It is hard to imagine how many lives were touched by Vogel in his 26-year career in TRC. Vogel started out as a counselor in San Antonio and worked as a program officer in Region VII, regional director in

Region IV, assistant deputy commissioner for Programs, and deputy commissioner for DDS. He was appointed as executive deputy commissioner on July 10, 1996.

Vogel developed good in others through his spiritual, personal and professional life. He demonstrated his dedication to serving people with disabilities every day in his leadership in TRC.

"Ken gave us such hope and promise for the future," says newly selected PIO Director Shayla Fleshman. "We just have to carry forward that torch of hope as if Ken were still with us ... and he will be."

Top photo: Vogel with past SSA Commissioner Shirley Chater, Dave Ward and Commissioner Arrell. Bottom: Ken and wife Mickey.

Who got who?

Jerry Kane planned to surprise Commissioner Arrell in the TRC board meeting on December 5, but his surprise took a twist when Arrell surprised him, leaving them both speechless.

Kane presented a special certificate of appreciation to Commissioner Arrell for completing 35 years of service to the state of Texas and persons with disabilities. "We've come a long way in 35 years," said Kane, "and we owe much of that to the leadership provided by Max Arrell."

No sooner did Kane get his words said, but Commissioner Arrell turned the tables on him. Arrell presented the Commissioner's Medallion to Kane for serving on the TRC board for 15 years. Board members Ray Wilkerson and Kent Waldrep also presented Kane with a letter from Gov. Bush and a proclamation congratulating him for 15 years of unselfish service to people with disabilities in the Lone Star State.

Kane and Arrell were both visibly touched by the exchange of honors. "Ya'll know me, I am out of words. Thank you," said Kane as he reached out and embraced Arrell.

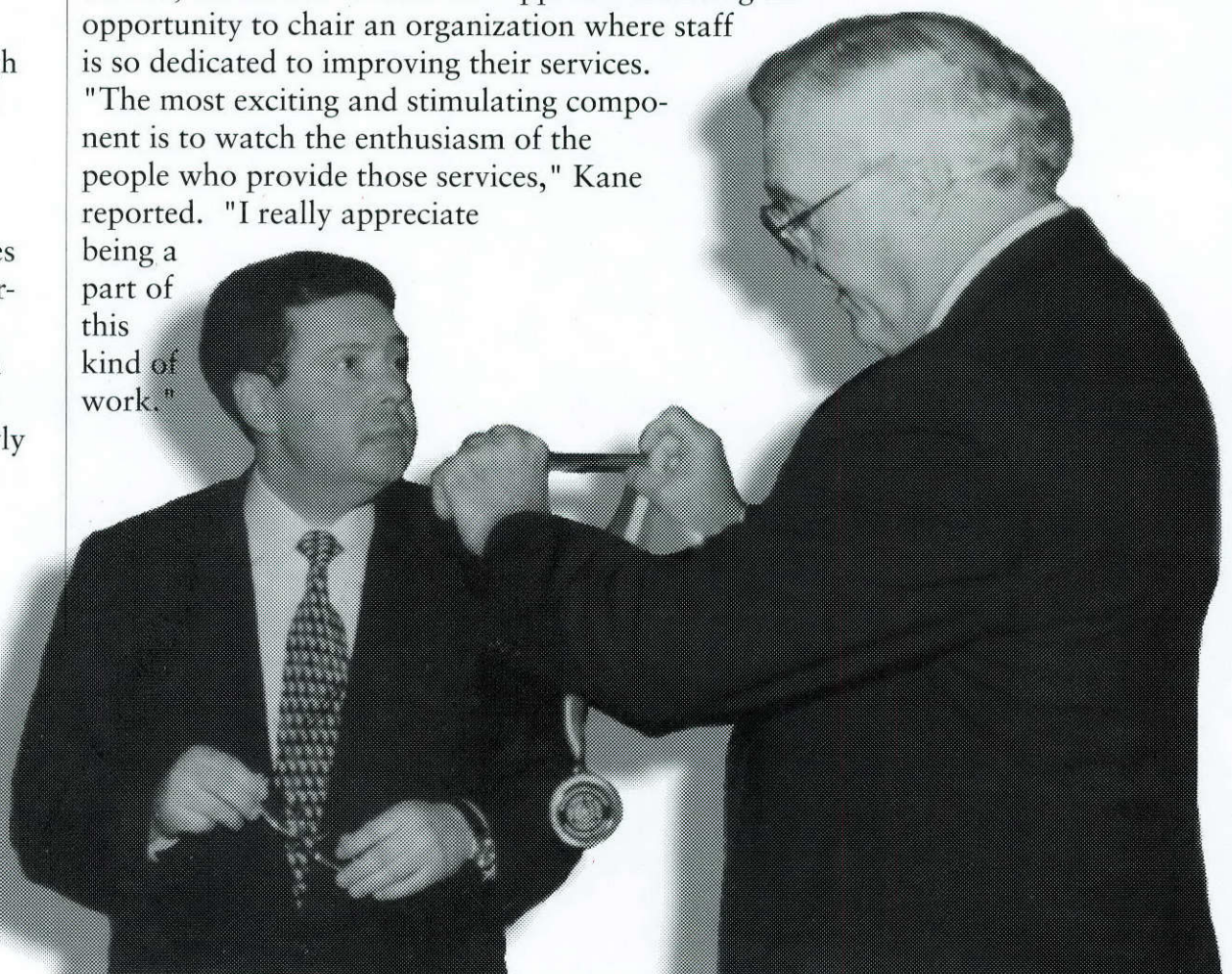
"It is rare to see either of these guys speechless," commented Assistant Commissioner Mary Wolfe, "but they were both speechless -- and a little teary eyed." Kane said that Max's tears meant as much as anything he had ever received.

Kane was first appointed to the TRC Board on Jan. 22, 1982, and has served as TRC board chair since 1984. He was reappointed by four different governors with the current term scheduled to expire in 1999.

Kane first came on board when TRC was a tiny Commission struggling to help a meaningful population. "It was a very different agency then," said Kane. "Today, we are viewed with a great deal of respect within the disabled community by being alert and attuned to the people we serve."

As president of Sam Kane Beef Processors, Inc., in Corpus Christi, Kane also said that he appreciates having an opportunity to chair an organization where staff is so dedicated to improving their services.

"The most exciting and stimulating component is to watch the enthusiasm of the people who provide those services," Kane reported. "I really appreciate being a part of this kind of work."



Carlos Calvillo reaches for goals as a US Citizen

Just imagine — you're seriously injured in a foreign country thousands of miles from home. Abandoned by friends, you have no family, and you can't even communicate because you don't know the language. That's what Carlos Calvillo faced seven years ago when a car he was riding in crashed into another vehicle and Carlos' neck was broken.

Carlos awoke in the hospital several days later. He was alone, frightened and all he could remember was lights flashing and tires screeching. Carlos says his biggest hurdle was the language barrier. He couldn't even communicate well enough to tell others what he felt or where he hurt.

Many would have just given up — but not Carlos. Today, Carlos speaks a new language; he has become a citizen in that foreign country; he has just received his General Education Development (GED) diploma; and he plans to continue educating himself and get a good job.

Carlos first came to the U.S. in 1982 with a dream that he would work hard and become a citizen of a country he had heard was filled with opportunity. He planned to get a good job, get married and have a family. He started the INS Amnesty program and began his journey to become a U.S. citizen. But, his dreams came crashing down around him.

Carlos' TRC Counselor, Carol Casey, said she first met Carlos several years later. He was participating in a program to get his GED at the Adult Learning Center in Arlington, Texas. Casey says she was amazed at Carlos' persistence to reach his goal.

"Carlos was living in subsidized housing on SSI when I

first met him," says Casey. "He didn't have a telephone or a car, but that didn't stop him. He would take the Handitran to the library and make his telephone calls from there."

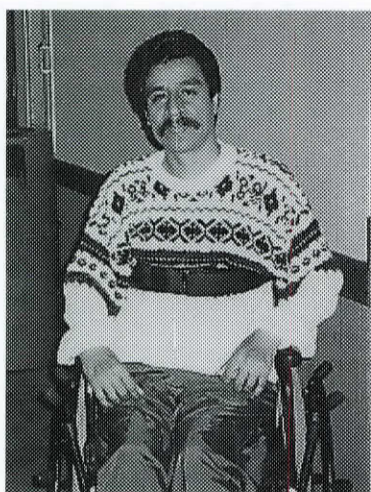
Casey helped him get a telephone, provided some rehabilitation through a local rehab hospital and, just recently, got him into a wheelchair that is more appropriate for him. The accident set Carlos back a few years on reaching his dream, but his quiet persistence still has him working for it.

He received his U.S. citizenship on Oct. 28 of

last year, and then earned an early Christmas gift by passing his final test on his GED just before the holidays.

"We got him a computer to use in his GED work, and now he wants to work with computers," says Casey. "He may be very mild mannered and quiet, but he knows what he wants and he has the perseverance to work hard to get it."

Carlos says his next step is to start learning computers. "TRC gave me a wheelchair and helped me with living skills. They gave me a computer to help with my school work. Now, I hope they will help me learn more about computers so that I can get a good job," said Carlos. Carlos still dreams of meeting a nice woman and getting married someday. "First," he declared, "I need a good paying job, and I know I need to get more education to do that."



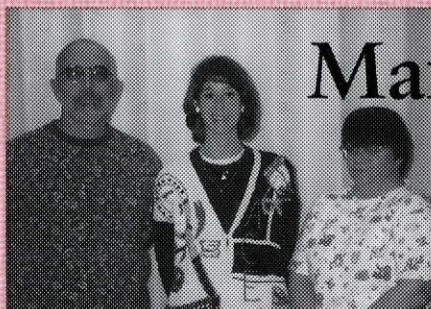
DDS Unit 22 recipient of National HCFA award



DDS Unit 22 used teamwork to earn the National HCFA award. Pictured above are: Back Row - Roxanne Dennis, Lizz Salinas, Steve Stump, Sue Henize, Doris Davis; Middle Row - Pam Chisholm, Margaret Hockin, Susan Barnes, Donna Goodenough, Alisa Lindemann, Front Row - Linda Deason, Jane Ramsey, Kathy Silberman, Linda Daniel. Not shown is Ron Erwin

Teamwork is central to the Texas DDS. Unit 22 — assigned a special duty to adjudicate claims for persons with HIV — used teamwork to fulfill their charge and exceed SSA's expectations of service to this community. While other DDS units assumed the responsibilities for adjudicating other disability groups, Unit 22 concentrated on this complex and sensitive area. The support from other units enabled Unit 22 to establish strong outreach relationships, and determine claims timely, accurately and efficiently.

Unit 22's commitment to their specialized workload earned them recognition by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), an agency of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. At the invitation and expense of HCFA, Steve Stump, Unit 22 disability examiner, attended the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' observance of National AIDS Awareness Day on Dec. 2, 1996, in Baltimore, Maryland. Steve also accepted Unit 22's national award from HCFA "for creatively providing individualized, compassionate, and efficient service to disability applicants living with HIV and AIDS in Texas." Twenty-two awards were presented by HCFA and Unit 22 is the only state or federal entity to be honored.



DDS INDIVIDUALS: (l to r)
Mike Jones
Laura Cassens
Elizabeth Perley
Cathy Simpson (not pictured)

DDS TEAMS:
Unit 20
Unit 9
Unit 60
Unit 12

Maximizers

REGION 2
Joyce Monsey
Deletha Clarke
Jesus Quiroga

REGION 4
Rosenda Garcia
Joyce Cooley
Carrie Blalock
Jamie Leanhart
Sandra Guy
Steve White
Pat Wilson
Jacques Nguyen

Marilyn Jacks
Tom Alvarez
Ruan Moreno
Anna Bounds
Jennie Ferrell
Robert Ellison
Virginia Sabayrac
Sheila Lavallies
Kathy Kelley
Kathy Streblo
Adela Brick
Irene Richardson
Annie Bob
Frank Arrington
Helen Rimini
Tammy Miller
Sharon Smith

Port Arthur opens new office

Port Arthur Mayor Bob Morgan, TRC Regional Director Bertha Hinojosa and Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce ambassadors cut the ribbon on a new collocation office with Texas Rehabilitation Commission and Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. This collocation approach helps to improve access to quality services to persons with disabilities and other Texans needing human services. The center is located at 5860 Ninth Avenue, Suite C in Port Arthur, Texas.



Educate! Educate! Educate!

In a satellite teleconference on Dec. 3, Joe Owens, executive director of the Council of Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), and Jack Duncan, general counsel of CSAVR and National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, told rehabilitation professionals to start educating congress members now. The Rehabilitation Act is up for reauthorization this year. "It is critical to have a unified, focused approach with positive advocacy by rehabilitation professionals and consumers on the front lines," Owens told viewers.

Owens warned public rehabilitation professionals and consumers to know their representatives and senators and to employ positive advocacy to educate and develop strong leadership in congress. "We need leadership and it's up to us to develop it," says Owens. Owens pointed out that many of the congressional members in the 105th Congress are new this year and may not be familiar with public rehabilitation or disability issues.

A videotape of the Dec. 3 teleconference is available through regional offices and area managers. The second teleconference is scheduled for February.

Across the State

Welcome Aboard!

Carolyn Mercer, HRM
Nancy Harp, accounting clerk
Cynthia Anderson, EDP audit specialist
Katherine Schultz, administrative technician
J. Rawley-Whitaker, counselor
Yolanda Bigham, RST
Millie Madison, RST
Mary Springer, counselor
Maureen Imthurn, counselor
Linda Borg, RST
Randall Pearson, counselor
Cynthia Humphrey, RST
Terold Gallien, counselor
Terry Boyce, counselor
Kenneth Eaton, counselor
Rachel Guajardo, RST
Jovita Hollins, counselor
Leslie Terry Guzman, counselor
Edward Lehane, counselor
Robert Grayson, program specialist
Katherine McKee, administrative technician
Mozelle Armand, DST

Retirements

Joycelyn Harvey, human resource management technician in the Metroplex Regional Office, retired Nov. 30, 1996 with over 10 years of TRC service.

Deaths

Kenneth Wayne Vogel, executive deputy commissioner, passed away on Dec. 14, 1996. He had been with TRC for 26 years.

Ralph Cearley, 21-year DDS employee who retired in 1991, passed away on Dec. 28, 1996.

Ann Buck, former receptionist at the Fort Worth South Field Office died in Dec. 1996. Ms. Buck retired in 1989 after 15 years with TRC.

Wallace Phillips, who retired as administrative director in the Sugarland Regional Office, passed away on Nov. 15, 1996.

Letters . . . Letters . . . Letters

Here's an excerpt from a letter Commissioner Arrell received from LIFE Independent Living Center when staff there heard of Ken Vogel's death:

Please express to the employees of TRC our sincerest condolences on the loss of Ken Vogel. The loss of Ken is certainly a loss for all people with disabilities in Texas. His work was greatly appreciated and he will be greatly missed. ...

Excerpts from a letter written to Senator Phil Gramm from TRC client Donna Price:

As a single mother with three dependent children, it was frightening to me to realize that I was rapidly losing my hearing ... and that nothing could be done for me. I would simply lose my hearing bit by bit and the final outcome would be deafness.

I could not afford hearing aids and I

had no medical insurance. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission explored all of the possibilities available to me and sent me to a top specialist for a hearing evaluation.

Imagine my joy to learn that my condition was now easily treatable through surgery! The Texas Rehabilitation Commission worked with the doctor and me every step of the way until my hearing was restored. Truly a miracle.

There are no words to express the difference TRC has made in my life. Tears of joy ran down my cheeks when first I heard the singing of birds, the fall of rain and countless other sounds I hadn't heard in years. I have new confidence and self-esteem. It is one of this state's most effective Commissions — one that truly accomplishes its purpose.

Texas Rehabilitation Commission
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Austin, Texas 78751-2399

Address Correction Requested

trc today

TRC Today is published by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for distribution to its employees and retirees throughout the state. We welcome submissions for publication, but reserve the right to edit or screen materials according to newsletter policy. Address submissions or inquires to Shayla Fleshman, Public Information Office, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751-2399; or telephone (512) 424-4043.

Shayla Fleshman, Editor
Prissy Pense, Writing & Photography
Susan Antoniewicz, Design

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State Service Awards - Dec. 1996 - Jan. 1997

10 Years

Doris F. Alonzo
Pamela J. Aumuller
Eva Cardenas
Deletha A. Clarke
Ethel Craig
William S. Croom, Jr.
John Gibson
Barbara Hammons
Bonnie Jean Lamb
Billy Lewis
Ellen Moutos
Evelyn Nnaji
Elizabeth J. Perley
Vicky Williams

15 Years

Jack W. Clifton
Patricia Cypert
Trinidad Fabian
Terry Foster
Diane M. Herring
Mary McCarley
Karen Lee Miranda
William Proszowsk

20 Years

Diana Bailey
Donald Fulp
DiAnna Guinn
Buena Vista Henry
Erma L. Miller-Henderson

25 Years

Barbara Ballard
Rosario Chapa
Peggy R. Felter
Celia Gutierrez
Lee D. Lindsley
Nancy Litzau
Rudy Martinez
Shirley Rainey
Paul Schultz
Rod Sturman
Marcus Sweatt
Milton Turnipseed
Sally Villarreal

30 Years

Elmer L. McLeod
Jeanette B. Sulak

Yikes! Here's one we missed last time!
Maria Del Carmen Maldonado of Laredo
— thanks for staying around for 20 years!

Congratulations to Rick Payson, Central Office, who received the 1996 Austin Sports Hall of Honor award for his long time support of Texas Youth League.

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