

Workstream

Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons



Kent Waldrep (far right) works with the Texas Historical Commission architects, Stan Graves (left) and Rick Lewis (middle), to assure that the Mansion becomes truly accessible for all Texans.

At the request of Governor's Committee chairperson A. Kent Waldrep, Jr. discussions about the accessibility of the Governor's Mansion have begun with Anne DeBois of the Governor's Mansion staff and several key staff members from the Texas Historical Commission. The primary role of the Texas Historical Commission is one of monitoring the historical integrity of the Governor's Mansion.

Looking toward a more accessible Governor's Mansion

Each meeting has displayed a high degree of cooperation between those working together and has encouraged open discussion about current accessibility features and a desire to look toward a more accessible Governor's Mansion.

An agreement has been reached to begin a two-part identification process. First,

the identification process will determine how well the Governor's Mansion currently complies with accessibility standards. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, an identification of modifications necessary to make the Governor's Mansion totally accessible to persons with disabilities will be conducted.

The staff of the Texas Historical Commission will be meeting with officials of the State Purchasing and General Services Commission (SPGSC) in early 1990 to attain support for the effort. SPGSC is responsible for upkeep of the Mansion and any rehabilitation work on the building or grounds.

Ultimately, a plan will be developed to balance the historical integrity of the Governor's Mansion with proposed modifications to make the Governor's Mansion more accessible to persons with disabilities.

High Profile: Roy Blake, Outgoing Chairperson Nacogdoches Mayor's Committee

Birthdate and place:
February 2, 1956
Nacogdoches, Texas

Occupation:
Insurance Agent

I volunteered my time to the mayor's committee because I felt it would be a good way to get involved with my community and to be able to help, in some small way, to solve some problems that face a particular segment of our population.

If I've learned one thing about a mayor's committee it is to be ready to devote a little more time than you think you need too. The problems that we looked at to help with such as employment, housing, transportation have existed for a long time and really

require some unique approaches to solving.

Mayor's committee volunteers like me because I guess I try to be fair and not ask anyone to do anything that I wouldn't do myself.

The toughest assignment I've ever given to a volunteer was to help on the employers' luncheon.

To get volunteers involved I ask for their help.

My best mayor's committee advice is to be prepared to work a little harder at solving problems.

My worst mayor's committee advice was not always following up on suggestions by other committee members.

My favorite magazine is Golf Digest.

Behind my back people say I'm not sure what they say.

The persons who have had the most impact on my life

are my mother and father and other members of my family including my wife and children. I'm never surprised when someone tells you they can't help because they are already involved in too many other things.

If I could share one thing with the next chairperson it would be to be prepared to give of your time and to have an open mind when coming up with a way to solve a problem. As I said earlier, the problems that face persons with disabilities have been around for a long time and although most everybody is sensitive to these problems it seems impossible at times to find a solution.

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*"Be prepared to work a little harder
at solving problems."*

Roy Blake
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Waldrep appointed to TRC Board

Governor Bill Clements appointed A. Kent Waldrep, Jr. to the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for a term ending August 31, 1995.

Waldrep currently serves as chairperson of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons where he was appointed by Clements in August 1987. Under his leadership the Governor's Committee won a bid to host a national meeting for people with disabilities. The 1991 annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will be held in Dallas and is expected to attract 4000 - 5000 participants.

Waldrep is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Paralysis Foundation, an organization he founded to raise funds for spinal cord paralysis research.

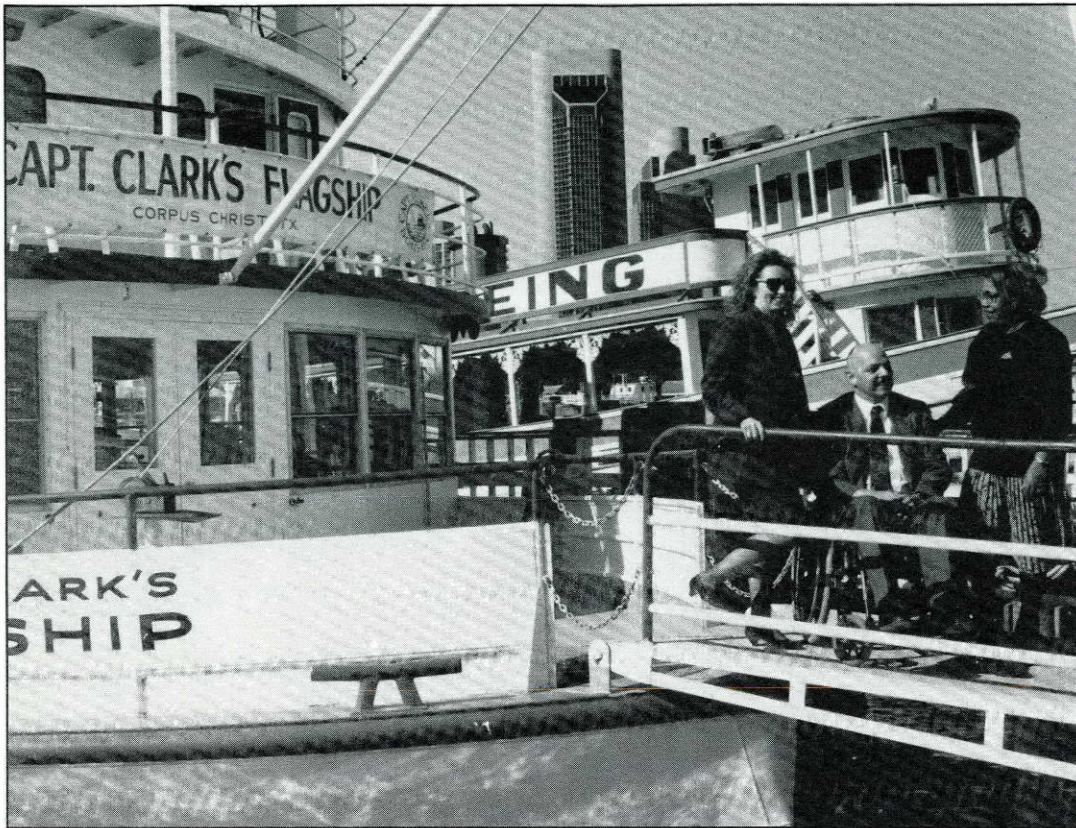
In 1982, Waldrep became the youngest Presidential appointee to the National Council on

Disability. He has been reappointed to that Council twice and has served as a vice-chairperson since August 1985.

Waldrep was named one of America's Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1985. Other honorees have included such notables as Orson Welles, Bill Moyers and Dr. Henry Kissinger.

Waldrep has lectured about spinal cord injury and disability issues at college campuses, high schools, secondary schools, churches, civic clubs and banquets across the country. He has been featured in national media publications such as People magazine, Time, Look, Newsweek, and USA Today. Most recently, he was featured in the January 1990 issue of Sports Illustrated.

Waldrep is a wheelchair user as a result of a football injury received in 1974.



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Conference host and the newly elected chair of the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee, Dik Johnson, along with Rosine Shindler and Lena Coleman plan an exciting leadership conference to be held in Corpus Christi on March 15 - 16.

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Leadership Conference in Corpus Christi promises delightful combination of business and pleasure

The Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee pulled together and met the challenge of bringing the leadership conference to Corpus Christi on March 15 - 16, 1990.

Leaders of each mayor's committee are invited to attend a leadership conference which offers an opportunity to set the pace for the 90s.

"It's our turn to bring Texas to Corpus Christi," said Dik Johnson, Chairperson of the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee. "We've put together a great package."

"Good weather, open arms welcoming everyone

to the city and beyond that being catered to and treated like royalty," are only a few of the amenities promised by Dik Johnson.

Changing times and a changing workforce will be an important feature of the program. In addition, practical tips from employers will highlight how to achieve a competitive edge in employing persons with disabilities in the 90s and beyond. Another feature of the program will include interaction of mayor's committee leaders. Each leader can share information about current and past local activities and discuss nitty-gritty approaches to help determine what works and what doesn't.

For a registration cost of just \$25.00 each mayor's committee leader can participate in this action-packed, fun conference. Included in the cost of registration is continental breakfast and lunch on March 15 - 16, a wine and cheese reception at the beautiful Corpus Christi Museum for Wednesday arrivals and a major social activity and dinner Thursday evening. All compliments of your host, the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee.

The beautiful Wyndham hotel overlooking Corpus Christi bay offers conference lodging at a rate of \$60.00 for a double or single room.

For each additional person staying in a room there will be an additional minimal charge. Conference rates will be extended upon request for those wishing to stay the weekend.

Conference sessions will be held at Del Mar College Conference Center. Transportation will be offered to each session and social activity.

Register today by calling Andy Alexander, staff representative, GCDP, at 512-483-4382.

Texas plays host to President's Committee annual meeting in 1991

Start planning now for a special event in 1991. The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will be meeting in Dallas, May 22 - 24, 1991. It's a first for Texas and only the third time this national meeting for people with disabilities has met outside Washington, D.C. The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons is the official host of the meeting with the Dallas Mayor's Committee for Disabled Persons serving as co-host. An executive committee to oversee planning of the meeting is being assembled now.

Four to five thousand people are expected at the President's Committee meeting, which will be held at the Loews Anatole Hotel in Dallas. The program will include several plenary sessions, 30 - 40 workshops on a wide range of disability topics, hospitality suites hosted by disability organizations and private businesses and exhibits. Many organizations hold meetings in conjunction with this major national meeting. Participation by

hundreds of volunteers is needed to make this 1991 meeting of the President's Committee the best ever. Your ideas for workshops, speakers and entertainment will be solicited and welcomed. There will also be opportunities to volunteer at the conference as workshop monitors, wheelchair pushers, ushers and guides. If you or your organization would like to play an active role in the President's Committee meeting, write Virginia Roberts, Executive Director of the Governor's Committee.

Entries accepted for Barbara Jordan media awards

As you read local newspapers, as you watch local television, as you listen to the radio, please consider entering quality work produced by media professionals in your area which communicates about the reality of persons with disabilities.

With your help we can recognize media professionals who are encouraging quality of life opportunities for persons with disabilities and work to eliminate attitudinal, social and physical barriers.

Entry forms are available by contacting the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons at 512-483-4384. Earlier this month entry forms were distributed to media professionals.

Each entry will be judged on specific criteria related to both content and production. All materials must have been released (out for public consumption) between January 1, 1989 and December 31, 1989.

Join us as we work together to remove barriers and increase opportunities for independence and productivity in Texas.



Workstream focuses on the employment of persons with disabilities and promotes mainstream participation and total accessibility in all aspects of life. Workstream is published quarterly by the Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons.

Communications may be addressed to Cindy Counts, editor, Workstream, 4900 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751-2316. You may also call 512-483-4384 (voice) or 512-483-4387 (tdd).

Taped copies of the newsletter are provided upon request.

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TRC Printing Services Printing

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