

Workstream

Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons



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Reporter Shawn Malone, KLBJ radio, interviewed Doris Standlee of ADAPT Texas about her support of the speedy and unweakened passage of ADA.
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March for equality

Organizers called it "Wheels of Justice," the biggest-ever nonviolent direct action in support of disability rights.

Five hundred disability advocates, many of them persons with severe disabilities, marched to the nation's Capitol calling for congressional and public support for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Called landmark civil rights legislation, the ADA will provide equal access for people with disabilities to public housing,

transportation and employment opportunities, among other things.

Resistance to the bill comes from small business lobbies concerned about renovation costs for accommodating people with disabilities and from certain sectors of the transportation industry. Organized by American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT) and supported by the National Rehabilitation Association, the march, along with speeches on the

steps of the Capitol, drew immediate public media attention and rallied support from sympathetic congressman.

Simultaneous marches and press conferences at state capitols around the nation, including Austin, solidified ADA support.

USA Today ran the following quotes from important congressional supporters of the ADA:

◆ "What we did for civil rights in the '60s, we forgot to do for people with disabilities." – Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colorado

◆ "Yes, there are costs associated with this bill, but these costs are manageable." – Rep. Norman Mineta, D-California

◆ "It will reach the floor, we will have a conference with the Senate, and it will become law." – House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Washington

At this writing, the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Public Works and Transportation Committee have finalized their versions of the proposed ADA.

The Judiciary Committee has yet scheduled sessions to "mark-up" the measure early this month.

High Profile: **Larry Evans,** Chairperson San Angelo Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Birthdate and place:
10-21-46, Coleman, Texas

Occupation:
Professional Relations
Representative for Saveall
Mediquip

I volunteered my time to the mayor's committee because I have had my eyes opened since my accident and I see a need for the handicapped community to be afforded the opportunity to have the same goals in life as the rest of the community.

If I've learned one thing about a mayor's committee it is to delegate assignments. One person can't do everything that needs to be done.

Mayor's Committee volunteers like me because I am not afraid to take on

any project the committee undertakes. I try to lead by example.

The toughest assignment I've ever given to a volunteer was to head up the Great American Wheelchair Race because it is such a big endeavor.

To get volunteers involved I stay active and visible in our community.

My best mayor's committee advice is to stay

active in the community and stay in close contact with your mayor.

My worst mayor's committee advice was to take on an endeavor that was to big for us to handle.

My favorite magazine is Sports and Spokes.

Behind my back people say I'm an inspiration. If he can do it so can I!

The person(s) who have had the most impact

on my life are my wife, Terry, sons, Lance and Chance, my family, wheelchair athletes, Jesse Jackson, Mike Hooker, and my employers, Greg and Darrell Smith.

I'm never surprised when people show how much they care when they truly find out about the abilities of handicapped people. This proves it's not that people don't care it's just that they don't know unless we educate them.

If I could share anything with the next chairperson it would be to stay active, learn to delegate and truly believe in the concept of the mayor's committee.

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"...stay active, learn to delegate and truly believe in the concept of the mayor's committee."

Larry Evans

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Jerry D. Cooper of Dallas was named as chairperson of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons. He is vice president of Human Resources of HCB Contractors. Cooper previously served as chair of the Dallas Mayor's Committee. He has been active as a member of the Dallas Associated General Contractors and in addition has served on the boards of Dallas Epilepsy Association and the Dallas Minority Business Council.

Mark your calendar . . . The Governor's Committee employment awards conference will be held on Friday, October 26, 1990 at Austin's Wyndham Southpark Hotel. This year the entire morning session will be devoted to "Valuing Differences: A Workshop on Disability and Employment," featuring Geri Jewell, known to many as "Cousin Geri" from NBC sitcom "The Facts of Life," and Richard Pimentel a nationally renowned motivational speaker.

It isn't easy to put something over on Mayor W. A. "Buck" Prewitt in his hometown of Temple, Texas, but the Temple Mayor's Committee for Disabled

Around the State

Persons did it in fine style on April 6. At a luncheon held at the newly renovated Scott

and White Inn, members of the Mayor's Committee and its associated Business Advisory Council testified to the personal commitment and quality leadership that Mayor Prewitt has provided to the committee. Former Mayor John Sammons who originally formed the committee praised Prewitt highly for his support of the Mayor's Committee. Sammons mentioned the new job readiness project for persons with disabilities as a major accomplishment that received personal oversight by the Mayor.

The City of Wichita Falls Commission on Disability was presented an official certificate of affiliation by Governor's Committee executive director Virginia Roberts. The Commission is comprised of 17 volunteers who were appointed in an advisory capacity to the Wichita Falls City Council. Recent projects by the commission include increased access to voting polls, voter registration, parking and transportation for citizens with disabilities.

Corpus Christi leadership conference builds committees' strength

Betty Turner, Mayor of Corpus Christi, gave a warm welcome and some inspiring advice to 49 representatives of mayor's committees attending the Governor's Committee annual leadership conference this year in Corpus Christi. Mayor Turner's involvement with the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee began years before she was elected mayor and continues today with the high level of enthusiasm she encourages among mayor's committee volunteers. Mayor Turner offered the following tips:

- ◆ **Be enthusiastic.**
- ◆ **Have the support of your chief elected official.**
- ◆ **Propose that each community consider creating a mayor's committee. Form an alliance with other cities and towns in your area.**
- ◆ **Give everyone an opportunity for employment.**
- ◆ **Target a certain percentage of your employee base to be considered for persons with disabilities.**
- ◆ **Compile, publish and distribute a directory of businesses that are accessible.**
- ◆ **Create awareness.**

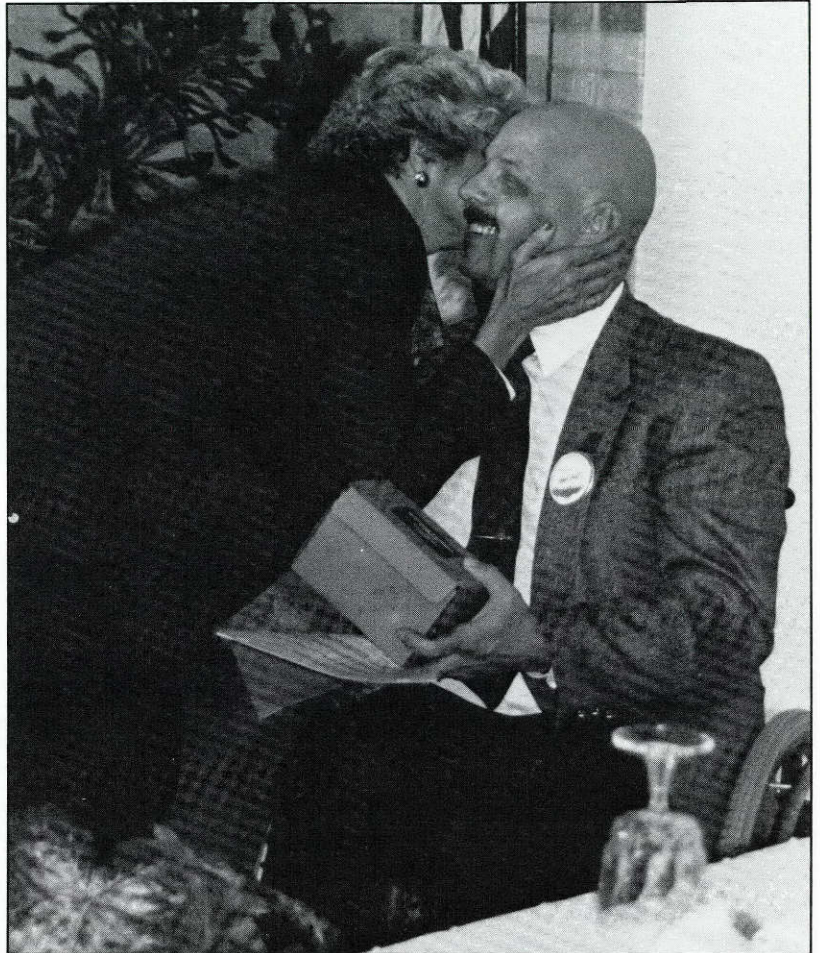
"Go back to your home communities with new enthusiasm and help other small communities build their committees.

"If you need my help, I'm here. I'm counting on you. I'm challenging you!" said Betty Turner.

Projects implemented in communities around the state were shared by mayor's committee representatives during the leadership conference. Projects focused in several areas: employers/employment, community events and issues, communication, outreach and fund raising.

Employers: employer newsletter, employer recognition, employer breakfasts and luncheons, employer video . . .

Communication: opening an office



Involvement with community events and issues: playgrounds, fishing programs, barrier elimination, parking, city ordinances, voter registration, Sunday in the Park, transportation, fund raising, magic show and the Great American Wheelchair Race

Outreach: regional outreach to establish mayor's committees in surrounding communities

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Mayor Betty Turner of Corpus Christi thanked Dik Johnson the chairperson of the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee for his drive, enthusiasm and ability to get the job done.

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1990 Barbara Jordan Award Winners

◆◆◆ for excellence in the communication of the reality of persons with disabilities

One award winner, Janice Miles, KENS - TV 5, explained her feelings so well. "When I was growing up as a kid out in West Texas in the 50s, I couldn't help but notice there were certain people who were left out of the American dream. That exclusion was very much apparent in the lives of persons with disabilities. I felt like I wanted to do something to change things. When I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin I went to work as a Social Worker. Yet even after seven years, it didn't seem like I had made much of a dent in these problems.

"Working in television has helped me increase the impact of a message I've tried to carry all my life. Awareness is the key which will unlock the doors which have been closed to people with disabilities. As I profile the lives of those people who were forgotten

in the 50s, I try to do so by concentrating on their strengths.

"It is my fervent hope that my stories may raise the consciousness of people to the concrete barriers in their communities, and help dispel the negative connotations about people with disabilities in our language and in our minds."

TV News Feature
Janice Miles, KENS-TV 5 San Antonio

Print - Feature Article
Barbara Boughton The Houston Post

Audio Visual
Lukeman-Blocker Productions Gordon Blocker and Bob Lukeman

Public Relations
Texas Department of Human Services John Kerr

Special Contributions - Organization

Texas Commission for the Blind Pat D. Westbrook

These five Barbara Jordan Awards were presented at an evening reception held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio on May 24, 1990.

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 communicate the reality of persons with disabilities.

Entry forms for the 1990-1991 program are available by contacting the Governor's Committee at 512-483-4384. The deadline for receipt of entries is September 30, 1990.



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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