

Workstream

Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons

National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October focuses on continuing to expand job opportunities for people with disabilities. And the idea is catching on.

Energized by the newly-passed Americans with Disabilities Act, the push for a totally productive society including people with disabilities is now within reach.

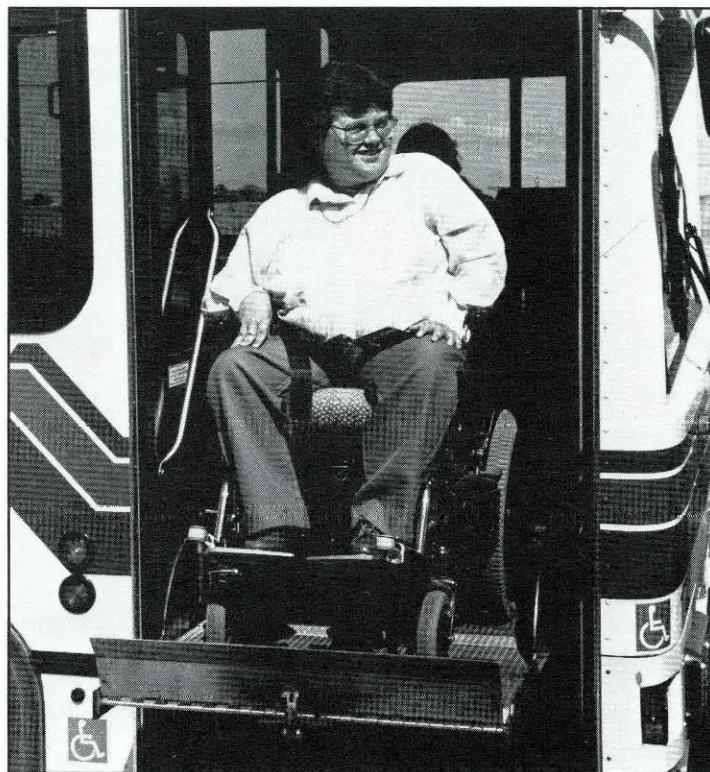
ADA promises to make it easier for people with disabilities to access jobs, use transportation, eat at restaurants of their choice, enjoy a movie whenever they like, and contribute to a strong economy and a powerful labor force.

ADA:

◆ Bans job discrimination and requires employers to make "reasonable accommodations" for workers with disabilities unless it causes "undue hardship." Applies in two years to employers of 25 or more . . . applies in four years to employers of 15 or more.

◆ Requires all new buses and rail cars to be made accessible.

◆ Requires telephone relay services which allow communication between people who are hearing impaired and those who hear. In Texas, Sprint Services won the bid to provide relay services.



A.D.A. is finally law

New opportunities are opening up for people with disabilities.

◆ Provides equal access to restaurants, hotels, amusement parks, gas stations, dry cleaners, grocery stores, hospitals, sports stadiums and all other retail or service establishments.

It's a great start, but the work is just beginning.

For example, did you know a Lou Harris survey indicated that:

◆ Two-thirds of Americans with disabilities between the ages of 16 - 24

are not working. Of those who don't work, 66 percent say they would like to have a job.

◆ Two-thirds didn't attend a movie in the past year, compared with 22 percent of the general population.

◆ Three-fourths didn't see a movie in the past year, compared with 22 percent of the general population.

◆ Only 34 percent eat at a restaurant once a week

Austin's Capital Metro is a winner. Ranked as one of the best U.S. Transit Systems by ADAPT, Capital Metro is on top of accessibility.

or more, compared with 58 percent of the general population.

◆ Thirty-seven percent of persons ages 16 - 24 with work disabilities receive social security or public assistance (1980 census data).

As ADA regulations kick in, people will be looking for ways to make business and industry accessible.

NDEAM is the perfect opportunity to get the word out about ADA. NDEAM is the perfect opportunity to put people with disabilities on the fast track to independence.

Jerry Cooper of Dallas who chairs the Governor's Committee said, "The Governor's Committee is standing ready to assist Texas business and industry in understanding and implementing the provisions of ADA."

Y'all Come!

May 22-24, 1991, Dallas, is your chance to "have it all." The largest disability related meeting in the United States. Work and play. Meet old friends and make new ones. Share your accomplishments. Discover new challenges. Reaffirm old commitments and encounter new frontiers for investing yourself.

The Annual Meeting of the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities is a training conference drawing 4,000 - 5000 people from

across the nation. The conference offers people with disabilities, business, labor, professionals and volunteers an opportunity to find out the latest in employment related disability issues.

The meeting site is the Loews Anatole, the largest hotel in the Southwest. Located only minutes from Love Field and D/FW International Airport, Loews Anatole offers outstanding meeting and exhibit space as well as the comfort and convenience of 18 res-

The Coach is In
Tom Landry, legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys, has agreed to serve as Honorary Chairperson of the 1991 Annual President's Committee Meeting.

taurants, several shopping promenades, a world class spa and sports center, and a large collection of art and antiques.

What better time or place to build your network and sharpen your professional skills? Dallas. May 22-24, 1991. Y'all come!

Roth mobilizes steering committee

Paul F. Roth, president of the Texas Division of Southwestern Bell Telephone, has accepted an appointment to chair the planning committee for the 1991 Annual Meeting of the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities.

This national meeting is being hosted by the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons and the Dallas Mayor's Committee for Employment of the Disabled. The meeting was held in Washington, D.C., throughout its 40 year history until 1987. This is the third year that it has been held in a state.

Roth conducted the first steering committee meeting in Dallas at One Bell Plaza in late July. During the meeting he outlined the responsibilities of the executive committee members in the areas of program, fiscal, publicity, hospitality, promotion,

facilities and arrangements, special accommodations and volunteers.

Roth, who joined Southwestern Bell Telephone in 1956, has served in executive positions in Texas, Arkansas, and St. Louis. He provides leadership to a variety of business and civic organizations including the State Advisory Council of Communities and Schools, the Texas Research League, and the Texas Chamber of Commerce.

Southwestern Bell Telephone has long been an active supporter of people with disabilities and their organizations. Since 1984 it has provided volunteers for functions of the Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons and has made annual contributions to the Committee's Barbara Jordan Media Awards program.

Roth, speaking of Southwestern Bell's involvement in the 1991 Annual Meeting of the President's Committee, said, "Next May's meeting is one of great significance. I am pleased to be associated with this meeting. We have a good cross-section of great people working to make the meeting a big success."

Jay Rochlin, executive director of the President's Committee, addressed the executive planning committee, "Holding the annual meeting outside of Washington is a way to strengthen our ties to people with disabilities nationally, to learn what is going on in the states, and to give each meeting a flavor distinctive to that area.

This annual meeting offers a unique opportunity because it is the first annual meeting to occur after the passage of ADA."

Volunteers from Dallas and around the state are being recruited to serve on the various subcommittees of the planning committee.

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Jay Rochlin

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Gerri Jewell and Richard Pimentel present

Valuing Differences . . . Disability and Employment

. . . Friday, October 26

Do you value differences? If you do --- consider attending a three-hour special event in Austin, Texas, October 26 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel. This exciting workshop, "Valuing Differences: A Workshop on Disability and Employment," will feature Gerri Jewell and Richard Pimentel.

These two leading experts on disability issues will come together with humor and finesse to empower you with tools, techniques and ideas on topics which include:

- ◆ Preparing persons with disabilities for interviews;
- ◆ Eliminating attitudinal barriers toward disability in the hiring process;
- ◆ Valuing differences and allowing humor;
- ◆ Understanding employment trends and their implications for employment of people with disabilities.

Who should attend this special event? Anyone involved in the training and placement of persons with disabilities which includes employers, job developers, rehabilitation counselors, special needs teachers and vocational instructors, affirmative action professionals, and persons with disabilities.



Gerri Jewell

Who is Gerri Jewell? Gerri Jewell, known to millions as "Cousin Geri" on the NBC sitcom "The Facts of Life," is an exceptional actress, comedienne, lecturer and motivational speaker famous for her ability to bridge the worlds of humor and attitudinal change. She has a knack for

sneaking in the back door and making people laugh at those things which usually bring us discomfort.

Who is Richard Pimentel? Richard Pimentel is a nationally renowned speaker and trainer who has made tremendous contributions in helping employers and employ-

ment and training professionals eliminate attitudinal barriers in the hiring process. He has captivated audiences throughout North America by coupling his keen insights with a unique style of delivery in which he

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Gerri Jewell has a knack for sneaking in the back door and making people laugh at those things which usually bring us discomfort.

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blends humor, metaphor, analogy and story-telling to communicate his message.

Is there more? Yes! The workshop will culminate with a special luncheon honoring the 1990 Texas employment award winners.

What is the cost? To attend the luncheon and program your cost will be \$45.00. If you would like to attend only the luncheon the cost will be \$20.00. Pre-registration is required.

For program and/or registration information contact GCDP at 512-483-4380.

High Profile: **Ed Rankin,**
Chairperson Dallas Mayor's Committee for
Employment of the Disabled

Birthdate and place:

January 5, 1957, Raleigh,
North Carolina

Occupation:

Executive Search Consult-
ant, Ernst and Young

I volunteered my time
to the mayor's committee
because I wanted to do
something to help change
peoples' attitudes about
what people with dis-
abilities are like, who they
are, and what they want.

If I've learned one
thing about a mayor's com-
mittee it is there are few
limits to what it can ac-
complish.

Mayor's committee
volunteers like me because
they know I try to do the
right thing, even if we dis-
agree.

The toughest assign-
ment I've ever given to a
volunteer was the Dallas
Mayor's Committee annual
job fair.

To get volunteers in-
volved I get personally
excited about an idea.

▼

*" I wanted to do
something to
help change
peoples'
attitudes about
what people
with disabilities
are like, who
they are, and
what they
want."*

Ed Rankin

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My best mayor's com-
mittee advice is to keep
everyone involved and use
the diversity in interest and

strengths among committee
members to the advantage
of the group.

My worst mayor's com-
mittee advice was "don't
push too hard."

My favorite magazine
is National Geographic.

Behind my back people
say I'm disorganized and
scatterbrained.

The person who had
the most impact on my life
is my four year old son.

I'm never surprised
when things go better than
expected.

If I could share any-
thing with the next
chairperson it would be to
select five things you want
to accomplish and push
hard to get those done.
Work hard to keep your
volunteers involved.

Workstream

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 (td).

Taped copies of the newsletter are provided upon request.

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Note: The Texas Governor's Committee for Disabled Persons is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is an equal opportunity employer.

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for Disabled Persons**
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Austin, Texas 78751-2316

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