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# Annual Report

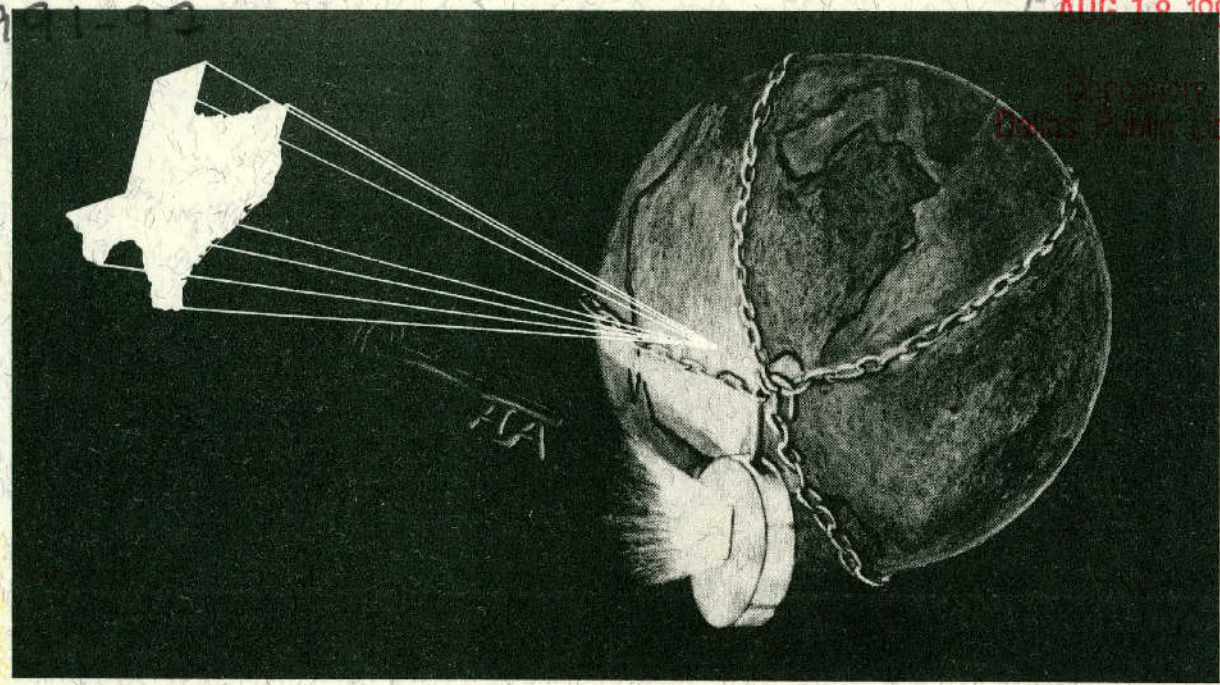


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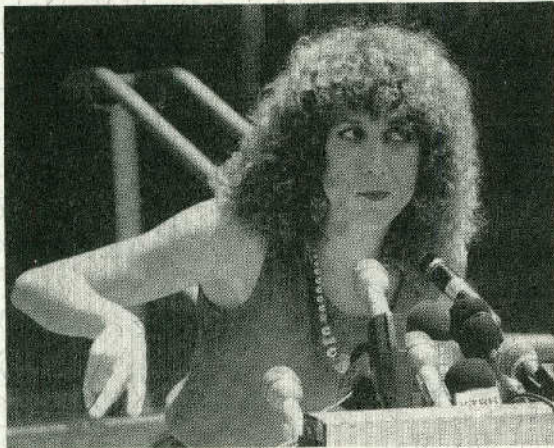


Unlocking the possibilities...

**Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**

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# BUILDING AWARENESS LEADS TO ACTION



Since 1979 the Governor's Committee has promoted the employment of Texans with disabilities through a statewide network of mayors' committees for persons with disabilities.

In 1991 the Governor's Committee moved from building awareness in the employment arena to an expanded vision of rights and opportunities for 2.4 million Texans with disabilities. A committee staff of six moved to join the Governor's Office in the fall of 1991. With the expanded vision, staff responsibilities shifted to the primary areas listed:

- promoting the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Texas for both the public and private sector;

- recommending to the Governor ways to create positive change in disability policies, programs and funding;
- supporting and expanding mayors' committees on people with disabilities and working closely with the Texas Association of Mayor's Committees;
- planning long range for improved quality of life for Texans with disabilities; and
- recognizing outstanding contributions in employment and in public awareness of issues influencing the lives of persons with disabilities.

Looking to the future, committee members identified critical issues affecting Texans with disabilities which need to be addressed by the state legislature. The critical issues for action are:

- encouraging full and speedy implementation of the ADA;
- building greater support for community-based services;
- promoting educational funding initiatives that encourage full inclusion; and
- monitoring and promoting access to affordable, comprehensive health care.

The Governor's Committee supports federal, state, and local government efforts that address issues in a manner consistent with the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is to promote full integration of people with disabilities.



# RESULTS . . .

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## NATIONAL

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- Developed one of the nation's most comprehensive ADA self-evaluation guides for public and private entities. Distributed more than 20,000 copies at national, state and local levels.
- A Texas employment award winner, the Army Air Force Exchange Service in Fort Worth, placed first nationally at the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities meeting in May. Ralph Rouse, Governor's Committee member and former employment awards recipient, received special recognition from the President's Committee chairperson for his contributions to passage of the ADA.

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# STATE

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- Published a report recommending initiatives for action by the Governor to remove barriers to community services. The report is titled, *Moving from Institutions to the Community: A Blueprint for the New Texas*.

- Answered 2,660 telephone inquiries; 1,973 were ADA related. Received calls from employers, people with disabilities, and service providers who sought information on jobs, housing, parking, financial assistance, medical information, workers' compensation, and more.
- Maintained a network of 18 mayors' committees for people with disabilities. Expanded the mayors' committee network to 21 including the cities of Longview, Lufkin, and Tyler.
- Worked closely with the Texas Association of Mayors' Committees which hosted a leadership conference for mayors' committees from across the state.
- The Governor presented seven awards to media professionals and persons with disabilities for quality reporting on people with disabilities and disability issues.
- Recognized seven people with disabilities and employers for outstanding work in the area of employment.

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## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

- Presented ADA information to 103 groups with an estimated audience of 68,629. Groups such as the Texas Restaurant Association, International Association of Business Communicators, International Association of Cosmetologists, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy Business Advisory Council, Texas Mental Health Consumers, and many others.
- Conducted ADA training, arranged round table discussions, and requested quarterly monitoring reports from state agencies. Trained almost 800 representatives designated by 115 state agencies.
- Coordinated with the Texas Association of Counties, Texas Municipal League, and the Texas Association of School Boards to distribute more than 2,400 ADA self-evaluation guides to members.
- Participated with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission's ADA-Texas team to train 723 instructors at 24 statewide ADA training sessions.
- Joined in Texas Employment Commission Texas Business Council program to distribute ADA information to more than 5,000 employers in nine cities.



- Shared ADA information at Texas Lottery Commission seminars in nine cities reaching 6,638 business owners.
- Four major associations distributed ADA self-evaluation guides for private entities to their members. Associations included the Texas Association of Business, Better Business Bureau, Texas Restaurant Association, and the Texas Hotel and Motel Association.

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# LOCAL

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## Mayors' committee network reaches "21"

Collective activities for the year:

- Conducted 18 ADA seminars, one of which was for trainers of trainers.
- Served as ADA advisors to city
- Distributed general information about ADA
- Awarded 32 scholarships totalling more than \$22,000
- Conducted job fairs, opportunity fairs and career fairs
- Conducted parking monitoring programs
- Sponsored recognition and awards programs
- Produced logos, newsletters, brochures
- Responsible for media coverage, including television information pieces
- Sponsored educational programs
- Sponsored sports and recreational activities
- Offered medical equipment at reduced prices to 100 people
- Publish tabloid, *BEST News*
- Sponsoring a time dollar bank (earning credit for volunteer service hours)

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### TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS' COMMITTEES

Ed Rankin, Chairperson..... Dallas  
Rosine Shindler-Runyon..... Corpus Christi  
Robert Bond..... Dallas

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### Mayors' Committee Chairpersons:

#### Austin

Jerry Reed ..... 512-335-3501

#### Beaumont

Don Kelly ..... 409-727-2384

#### Bryan-College Station

Floyd Wells ..... 409-846-8669

#### Corpus Christi

Dik Johnson ..... 512-939-2739

#### Dallas

Don Rose ..... 214-431-2472

#### Denton

Steve Pickett ..... 817-565-4289

#### Fort Worth

Michael Langford ..... 817-390-2101

#### Houston

Floyd LeBlanc ..... 713-662-7575

#### Longview

John Talley ..... 903-236-3404

#### Mid-South Jefferson County

Ronald Thibodeaux ..... 409-962-2729

**Laredo**  
Henry Flores ..... 210-721-2645

**Lufkin**  
Melita McCall ..... 409-632-2125

**Nacogdoches**  
Gil Hanke ..... 409-560-2664

**Orange County**  
Babette Philpott ..... 409-735-6801

**San Angelo**  
Larry Gillett ..... 915-949-3678 (TDD)

**San Antonio**  
Ron Dixon ..... 210-824-7446

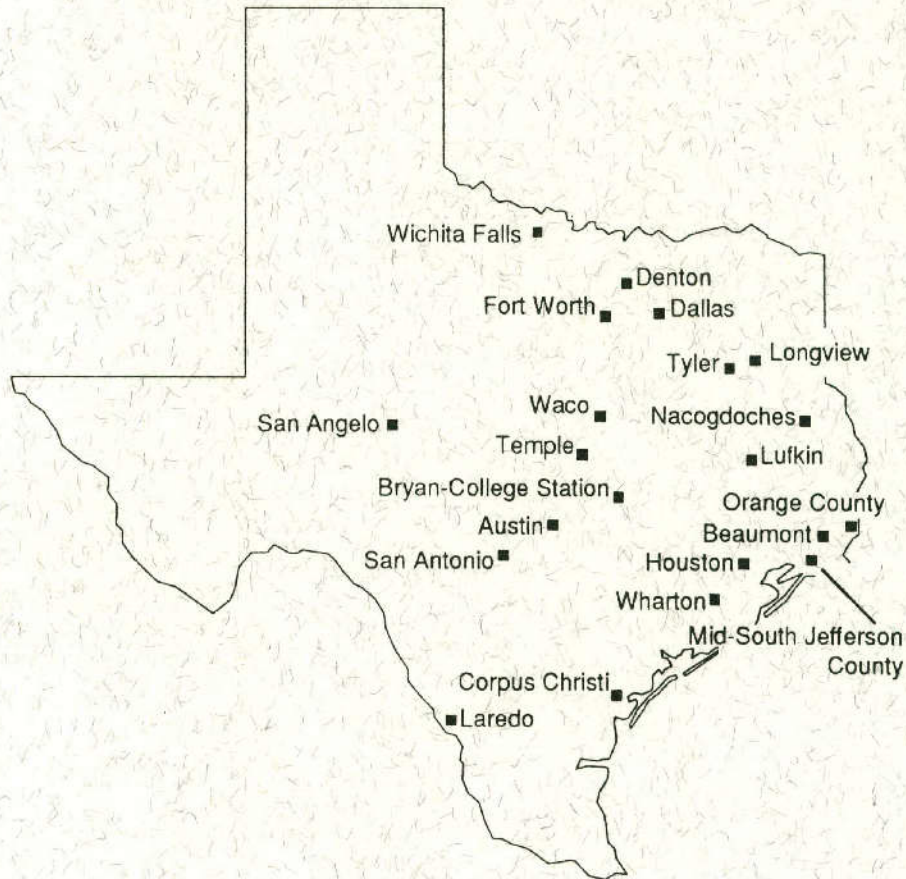
**Temple**  
Phil Washburn ..... 817-778-4841

**Tyler**  
Bob Peters ..... 903-510-2200

**Waco**  
Julia Long ..... 817-756-4417

**Wharton**  
Louise Mathis ..... 409-532-8680

**Wichita Falls**  
Harry Gene Newton ..... 817-689-4134



# GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**G**  
**C**  
**P**  
**D**

Jerry D. Cooper, Chairperson .....	Dallas
Samuel Lester Bean .....	Beaumont
James H. Cashion III .....	Fort Worth
Joseph M. Jarke .....	Austin
Rose Aird Minette .....	Austin
Peter M. Moore .....	Galveston
Cynthia Ann Patton .....	Marshall
Janet Ragsdale .....	Austin
Ralph Dean Rouse, Jr. ....	Dallas
Dominga A. Vela .....	Edinburg
Carol Herring Weir .....	San Antonio
Redge B. Westbrook .....	Austin



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This information is available upon request in alternate formats.

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