



Arlington Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Working together to make Arlington accessible for all

Welcome to our first newsletter! You are the reason we exist. If you have news about a disability-related event or service you want to share, need information about program or facility access, have a complaint, concern or "attaboy" - **Please Tell Us!** We may not have all the answers but we try to know the people who do. We meet every month in the city council briefing room at noon. Bring your lunch, we're very informal.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month Poster

October Meeting Topic: Arlington Disability Forum

What matters to you matters to us. This is a great place for you to get to know us and Arlington disability service providers. Representatives from City departments will be there too! If you provide services to people with disabilities, please send a representative to this event. We look forward to hearing about the good work you do in the community.



Front Row - Wella Sickler, Donna Anderson, Bob Hester
Second Row- Bruce Hester, Tanya Kelly, Ellen Brooke, Denise Wilkerson, Not Pictured- Kathy Eteaki

Upcoming Events:

- Mayoral Proclamation in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month City Hall Tuesday, October 13th , at 6:30 PM
- Free Disability Conference featuring Access, Housing and Employment Workshops October 19th 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus, 300 Trinity Campus Circle (Please register at <http://fortworthtexas.gov/news/2015/09/disability-conference/>)
- Lex Frieden Employment Awards Luncheon at Fort Worth Convention Center on Wednesday, October 21st 11:00am - 1:30pm

Next Meeting: **October 30th**

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Web: <http://www.arlington-tx.gov/mayor/committee-people-disabilities>

What have we been doing lately?

Representatives from the Mayor's Committee have been busy advocating for the City of Arlington to hire an ADA/Senior Coordinator for the City of Arlington. Currently, Keith Melton, the Director of Public Works holds the title of ADA Coordinator in addition to responsibility over a very large and very busy department. We feel that leaves him no time to make sure that Arlington is responsive to the needs of the disability community in regards to communication issues, police issues, parks and library programming issues. Unfortunately, the ADA coordinator position did not get included in the 2016 budget but we will continue our efforts.

Do other cities in America that have smaller populations than Arlington have full time ADA coordinators? YES! St. Louis, MO (318,415), Birmingham, AL (212,237), Pittsburgh, PA (305, 842), and Scottsdale, AZ (230,512) all have full-time ADA coordinators and staff. For an example of a city that really cares about all its residents, see: <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/ada/accessiblepgh>.

Recent Programs at our meetings:



Traveling with a Disability



Making Driving Accessible



Free Assistive Communication Devices



Law Enforcement and the Disability Community

You can make a life-changing difference for people with disabilities in Arlington. Please consider joining our Committee. There are no dues, we only ask for attendance at our monthly meetings. We need your voice!

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