

## **NTRLS Expanding Accessibility Program Advisory Council Members**

This Council, which includes both not-yet-disabled as well as currently disabled individuals, complements NTRLS staff by assisting with information gathering and sharing and by helping us assure that all barriers to access are being addressed. Its members also help answer questions regarding legal obligations, appropriate library programs and services, and options for addressing specific needs. The group also helps promote partnerships with related agencies.

The NTRLS Accessibility Advisory Council has been an asset to NTRLS staff and to staff at libraries in that they have a vast total amount of knowledge about, as well as personal experience with, special needs, related legislation, assistive technology and related option.

- Mary Jane Barnett (Librarian/Services to People with Disabilities Consultant)
- Patt Dreyer (Easter Seals Representative)
- Lisa Erickson (Senior Librarian – Youth Services, Fort Worth Library)
- Cary Siegfroid (Director, Arlington Public Library System)
- Judie Smith (Public Services Librarian, Tarrant County Community College)
- Deborah Vaden (Library Services Manager, Irving Public Library System)
- Mary Jo Venetis, Ph.D. (Associate Library Director - Technical Services, University of Texas at Dallas Libraries)
- Adam Wright (Executive Director, NTRLS)
- Carolyn Davidson Brewer (Assistant Director, NTRLS)
- dona weisman (Accessibility Program Coordinator, NTRLS) [contact](#)

Responsibilities of the Council include the following:

- Serve as a resource to NTRLS-area libraries seeking information regarding library programs and services, legal compliance, planning fairs and other issues related to furthering Universal Access to libraries and all that they offer
- Serve as liaisons between the Council and their own professional entities,
- Keep one another apprised of news, developments and issues in technology and services for people with special needs
- Assist NTRLS staff in developing website content which will provide resources to help library personnel serve patrons with special needs
- Provide input on development of guidelines and applications for funding assistance