



NORTH TEXAS DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

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WE GOT IT STARTED!

To begin with a brief background, certain deaf senior citizens living in North Texas met at one library in Plano, Texas on May 4, 2008. We shared our concern about our independent living and promotion of the overall well-being of all deaf seniors in our North Texas community. At the same time, we invited Ann Horn, the senior citizens specialist with the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services within the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) in Austin to give visual presentation about its agency. After we listened to her presentation, we decided to organize our own senior citizens group somehow. Instead of starting a new one right away, we decided to collect as much information as possible about existing services and activities for deaf senior citizens in North Texas first. Mack Harris was chosen to do such job.

After about two months, we met again at Arlington Public Library in Arlington, Texas on July 12, 2008. Over 50 persons showed up and listened Mack's presentation on the screen. Eventually, we decided and acted on starting a new organization for North Texas. The name of new organization is called North Texas Deaf Senior Citizens. Mack Harris of Arlington, Herb Picou of Dallas and John Coggins-Peckham of Dallas were chosen as incorporators. They will begin the process of getting our new organization incorporated. They also will write up a draft of our first by-laws, get EIN (Employer Identification Number — similar to our Social Security number for organizations or businesses) and then apply for the non-profit tax-exempt recognition from IRS. We need these first before we can land a contract with DARS and they will reimburse us for our own chosen activities.

The three incorporators will continue their work searching ideas from other organizations such as unique activities, annual membership dues, find places for our activities and many more.

This is our first newsletter (2 pages with pictures) so keep an eye on our new website on a regular basis:

<http://www.texva.com/dfwseniors>

See you next time.

Mack Harris, Organizer



