



Tye Thomas to speak at April 12 meeting

Strong mayor position, city council endorsements on agenda

Tye Thomas, who at 21 was elected the mayor of Gun Barrel City, Texas, and had founded two weekly newspapers, only to end up penniless and homeless a few years later due to alcohol abuse, will be the keynote speaker at the April 12 meeting of the Dallas County Young Democrats (7:00 PM at the Elbow Room, 3010 Gaston Ave).

Now a resident of Dallas, Thomas travels the state discussing his experiences and the lessons he's learned from them on what it takes to rebuild a successful life.

Also at the April meeting, Dallas County Young Democrats will consider a



Tye Thomas

pair of resolutions regarding the Dallas Strong Mayor initiative: one in favor, the other in opposition. We will vote on our official position, and send it out to news organizations across the city. Members of the DCYD email list will receive copies of the two position statements prior to the meeting. Didn't get them? Contact Vice President Kirk McPike at kirk@kirkmcpike.com.

At the April 12 meeting, we will be endorsing candidates for the City Council. Only those at the meeting can vote. Please arrive sharply at 7:00 PM.

Texas Young Dems Convention: April 15 - 17

The Dallas County Young Democrats, along with other local young Democrat organizations, will be sending a delegation to the Texas Young Democrats Convention, which runs April 15 to 17. Members interested in attending the convention need to contact President David Hardt (email address: democratdave@yahoo.com) *as soon as possible* for arrangements.

Former DCYD President David Wilkins will be running for Executive Vice President of the Texas Young Democrats, and has been endorsed by President Hardt and other officers of the Dallas County Young Democrats.

Current DCYD President David Hardt will be seeking reelection to his position as the YDA National Committeeman from Texas.

Events such as the Texas Young Democrats Convention are a great way to get more involved in the DCYDs and in Democratic politics in general. This convention will give attendees a chance to connect with young progressives from across the state.

Those who cannot attend can expect to hear a great deal about this convention — both on our website and at the May meeting.

Action Alerts!

Shut Down Internet Hunting

A bill has been introduced in the Texas House (HB 391) which would ban Internet "hunting" — where "hunters" shoot and kill real animals with the click of a mouse over the Internet. Animals used in this "sport" are kept confined, thus guaranteeing their deaths.

Please contact your state representative and senator and ask them to support a ban on this inhumane and unsporting activity.

Contact House Committee Members Considering HB 2222

Texas House Bill 2222 would extend the ban on dogfighting to include a ban on cockfighting. These cruel fights are usually accompanied by other illegal behaviors by those in attendance.

Terri Hodge, Texas State Representative from Dallas, and a good friend of the DCYDs, is on the committee considering this bill. Please contact Rep. Hodge's office at 512-463-0586 and urge her to support this legislation.

The Dallas Young Democrats is an organization open to 14- to 36-year-olds that believe in the Democratic way. The DCYD strives to build a better tomorrow for all Texans and all Americans. Our activities include happy hours, get out the vote drives, volunteering in the community, fund raisers, and volunteering on Democratic candidate campaigns. We also have monthly meetings to discuss current local, state and national politics that affect you.

www.dallasyoungdemocrats.org

Candidates, DCYDs turn out in force for happy hour



Martini Mixer a Great Success

We offered the Dallas City Council candidates a chance to meet our members, and they couldn't wait to take us up on it. Candidates from across Dallas, including Al Lipscomb (top right), joined 120 DCYDs at Martini Ranch for our election mixer. For

more pictures, and to purchase prints of your favorite shots, please visit <http://dcyd.photographique.com/gallery/>

Thanks to all the members, candidates and friends who attended this function.

Happy hour photos taken and provided courtesy Photographique. <http://www.photographique.com/>



Dallas Democratic Party under new management

By Juan Ayala

On April 1, 2005, County Chair Susan Hays resigned as head of the Dallas County Democratic Party. The Executive Committee of the County, which is comprised of all the precinct chairs, already had a meeting scheduled to take place on April 2, 2005. The agenda was amended so that the Executive Committee could discuss the proper way to fill the vacancy left by Hays's departure.

It was determined that according to party rules the County Party Secretary would have to convene a meeting of the Dallas County Democratic Party Executive Committee for the purpose of electing a chair to serve the remainder of

Susan Hays's term.

DCYD member and County Party Secretary David Wilkins will call this meeting within the time frame prescribed under party rules and the election code of the State of Texas. So far, three people have declared themselves to be candidates: Darlene Ewing, the current secretary of the White Rock/Lake Highland Democrats, Bruce Rothstein, the former head of the Kerry/Edwards campaign in Dallas County and Mike Hoff, a former US House candidate.

At the April 2 meeting, Theresa Daniels, a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee from the 16th Senate District and a former state house candidate, was elected by the precinct

chairs to serve as temporary chair. She will be at the helm until a permanent chair can be elected. The meeting ran very smoothly and was a welcome change from the emotionally charged meeting that took place in February.

It appears that the party is now in a position to focus its energy on the very important work of winning Dallas County in the 2006 elections. More than 50 new precinct chairs were sworn in at the April 2 meeting.

A number of precinct chair vacancies still exist in Dallas County and any YD interested in serving in one of those positions should contact the Campaign and Party Relations committee at the April 12 DCYD meeting.