



## Hector Flores, League of United Latin American Citizens president, to keynote August DCYD meeting

### *Secretary election, Convention report also scheduled*

Hector Flores, the president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), will be the featured speaker at the August meeting of the Dallas County Young Democrats. LULAC is the oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States.

Also at the August meeting, members will be electing a successor for outgoing DCYD Secretary Ben Ceryes (see sidebar "Secretary Election"). Attendees of the 2005 Young Democrats of America National Convention will also be giving a report on events in San Francisco, and the club's new sustaining membership program will be more fully detailed.

As always, the Dallas County Young Democrats will be meeting at 7:00 PM at the Elbow Room (3010 Gaston Ave). The August meeting will be held on August 9. For more information, please visit the DCYD website.

#### Hector Flores Biography

Hector Flores of Dallas, Texas, was elected National President of the League of United Latin American Citizens on June 29, 2002, in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Flores is Director of Recruitment and Retention for the Dallas Independent School District.

Previously, Mr. Flores served as an Equal Opportunity Specialist for the Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, from 1973 - 1983. Mr. Flores also served as a police officer for the San Antonio Police Department from 1965- 1972.

A member of the League of United Latin American Citizens for over 28 years, Mr. Flores has served in many LULAC leadership positions including: the National Treasurer; as Vice President for the Southwest; Deputy Texas State Director; District Director of North Texas, District III; President, Vice President, and Secretary for Councils #100 and #272.

Additionally, Mr. Flores serves as the National Chair of the LULAC National Educational Service Centers. His commitment to his community is underscored by his participation on numerous boards, including SER: Jobs for Progress and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, among other city and non-profit boards.

Mr. Flores was born in Dilley, Texas, and earned his B.A. degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, in 1971. Mr. Flores is the first high school and college graduate in his family.

Man of the Year Award, Brillante Award, the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Education Award, Leadership Dallas Award, the National Volunteer Activist Award and the National IMAGE Award.

## Secretary Election

Dallas County Young Democrats Secretary Ben Ceryes has taken a job in California, and will be leaving us as of August 1, 2005. Ben has been an important part of the officer team that has led the DCYDs since March, and his absence will be felt throughout the organization.

**Ben gave notice of his departure at the July meeting. Following our organization's by-laws, and election will be held at the August meeting to fill the open officer position. Any member of the Dallas County Young Democrats (that is, anyone who has attended a prior event and filled out a membership form) is eligible to fill this open officer slot. Those members wishing to run for secretary should attend the August meeting. Any DCYD member at the August meeting can vote in the election. The newly-elected secretary will take office immediately.**

**Members with any questions regarding the election should contact President David Hardt at [democratdave@yahoo.com](mailto:democratdave@yahoo.com).**

The Dallas County Young Democrats is an organization open to 14- to 36-year-olds who believe in the Democratic way. The DCYDs strive 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 campaigns. We also have monthly meetings to discuss current local, state and national politics that affect you.

[www.dallasyoungdemocrats.org](http://www.dallasyoungdemocrats.org)

# DCYDs attract excellent speakers over course of year

Over the past twelve months, the Dallas County Young Democrats have been host to veritable A-list of community and political leaders from around the county and state. Because we've grown in size and prominence, we've had the opportunity to connect our members with some of the brightest stars on the Texas political scene. Speakers have included newly-elected Democrats, up-and-coming candidates and leaders from major political organizations.

Here's a look back at the speakers that have keynoted DCYD meetings over the past year:

**July 2005: Texas State Representative Mark Strama.** A newly-elected, young Democrat from Austin, Representative Strama impressed DCYD members with his thoughtful, passionate approach to issues and his focus on using new technology and techniques to appeal to potential voters who have previously been left out of the electoral system.

**June 2005: Amnesty USA Chairman Chip Pitts.** In the wake of his dramatic testimony before the United States Senate regarding the Bush Administration's use of torture in the "war on terror," Mr. Pitts came to the DCYDs and discussed the situation, as well as Amnesty's work around the world.

**May 2005: Gubernatorial Candidate Chris Bell.** Before he formally declared his candidacy in late July, former Congressman Bell came to the DCYDs to appeal for our support. Congressman Bell spoke about his desire for a better Texas and his personal experiences as a victim of Tom DeLay's purge of the Congress.

**April 2005: Former Mayor Tye Thomas.** A new member of the DCYDs, Mr. Thomas spoke to members regarding his time as the youngest mayor in the history of Texas, his fall from grace in politics and his eventual conversion from being a member of the Republican Party to becoming a proud Texas Democrat.

**March 2005: Texas Democratic Party Chair Charles Soechting.** In March, DCYDs were afforded the opportunity to meet and speak with the leader of the Texas Democratic Party. Chair Soechting discussed the state of Democratic campaigns and principles in our Republican-dominated state and encouraged members to become more actively involved in Democratic politics.

**February 2005: Dallas Mayor Pro Tem John Loza.** As debate heated up around the proposed "strong mayor" initiative, Mayor Pro Tem Loza came to speak to the Young Democrats and encouraged us to oppose the proposal. In March, Beth Ann

Blackwood of the pro-strong mayor side urged the DCYDs to support the initiative. Our organization endorsed voting "no" on strong mayor, and the initiative was soundly defeated.

**January 2005: Texas Democratic Executive Committee Member Dr. Theresa Daniel.** As the new year dawned, the Dallas County Young Democrats hosted Dr. Theresa Daniel, a longtime Democratic activist, State Democratic Executive Committee member, former Martin Frost campaign staff member and future (interim) chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party at our January 2005 meeting. Dr. Daniel encouraged DCYD members to become active in local Democratic issues.

**December 2004: Texas Humane Legislation Network Vice President Skip Trimble.** Representing the Texas Humane Legislation Network, Mr. Trimble discussed several ways in which Texas law fails to protect animals from needless violence and cruelty. Following his presentation, the DCYDs supported several pieces of legislation sponsored by the THLN.

**November 2004: Dallas County Sheriff-Elect Lupe Valdez.** A week after the 2004 election in which she won a hotly contested race for County Sheriff, Lupe Valdez came to speak to the DCYDs. Sheriff-Elect Valdez thanked our members for the strong support she received from our organization during her election.

**October 2004: Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.** As the run up to the final days of the 2004 election began, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson made a special trip from Washington to speak to the Dallas County Young Democrats. Impressing upon members the importance of turning out the vote for Democrats, Congresswoman Johnson fired up the DCYDs for our final campaign push.

**September 2004: State Representative Terri Hodge.** A loyal friend of the Dallas County Young Democrats, Representative Hodge spoke to our September 2004 meeting about the importance of the upcoming election and the key role young voters could play in its outcome.

This month's speaker, Hector Flores from LULAC, will be the next prominent speaker to join our keynote alumni. Moving forward and into the 2006 election year, the Dallas County Young Democrats will continue to attract top-flight speakers from around the state.

If you have a particular interest in or contact with a potential speaker, please let the officers know.

## Happy Hour Speakers

Of course, it's not just our meetings that attract appearances from great speakers and politicians. Candidates seeking signatures and support are common fixtures at DCYD happy hours, and two of our happy hours this year have featured

prominent candidates for both the city council and the Dallas County Democratic Party chairmanship. Though less common than meeting speakers, from time to time we will continue to bring area leaders and candidates to our happy hours.

Representative Mark Strama and YDA President Chris Gallaway speak to the July DCYD meeting:



## DCYDs send large delegation to YDA Convention

The Dallas County Young Democrats, fresh off of a sweeping set of victories at the Texas Young Democrats Convention in April, will comprise half of the Texas delegation to the Young Democrats of America National Convention.

The convention, which should be underway by the time you receive this newsletter, will be host to a series of training seminars, speeches by prominent national Democrats and, of course, elections for national Young Democrats officers.

DCYD President David Hardt will be co-chairing the Texas delegation. David is the male Texas representative on the Young Democrats of America Executive Committee.

DCYD Executive Vice President

Jennifer Roberts will be the Texas representative to the YDA Platform Committee. Jennifer and other Texas YDs have established a set of planks that represent issues Texas wants included in the final YDA Platform, including provisions regarding education, immigration and mid-decade redistricting.

At the July meeting of the Dallas County Young Democrats, YDA President Chris Gallaway spoke about his plans for a second term as YDA president.

Gallaway pointed to successes from his first term such as the Young Voter Alliance initiative as the sorts of programs that will help reestablish the Democratic Party as the undisputed majority party in the United States.

Meeting briefly after the July DCYD Board of Directors meeting, the Dallas delegation to the YDA convention voted to endorse President Gallaway's reelection campaign.

The delegation also voted to endorse Giovanni Garibay in his race to be the male representative of the Young Democrats to the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Garibay is a resident of Houston, and would be the first Texan to hold high office in the Young Democrats of America in many, many years.

Look for a full report on the goings on in San Francisco at the August meeting of the Dallas County Young Democrats.

***Please join us for our next meeting  
on August 9 at 7:00 PM at the  
Elbow Room at 3010 Gaston.***

**Hector Flores, President of the League of United  
Latin American Citizens, will be  
our keynote speaker.**

The Dallas County Young Democrats  
3818 Cedar Springs Road  
Box 101-125  
Dallas, TX 75219