



# Texas Democratic Chair Charles Soechting to speak to DCYDs

*Other speakers include  
Beth Ann Blackwood,  
Texas YD President  
Steven Bollinger*

Dallas County Young Democrats will have the opportunity to hear from three speakers at our March general business meeting. Texas Democratic Party Chair Charles Soechting will keynote our meeting, which will also feature presentations from pro-strong mayor activist Beth Ann Blackwood and the president of the Texas Young Democrats, Steven Bollinger. As always, the meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at the Elbow Room, 3010 Gaston Ave.

Chair Soechting is making a special trip to Dallas to speak to our organization. Chair Soechting was elected to his position



Charles Soechting

Committee to complete the unexpired part of his predecessor's term.

Beth Ann Blackwood, one of the key supporters of the strong mayor initiative which will go before Dallas voters in May, will speak to our club about the proposal.

The president of the Texas Young Democrats will also be in attendance on Tuesday, and will speak to club members

at last summer's state Democratic convention, and is an attorney from San Marcos. Prior to being elected to his own term as chair, Soechting had been chosen by the State Democratic Executive

about the upcoming state Young Democrats convention, which will be held in Austin this April. All members are strongly encouraged to attending this conference.

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## Action Alert!

On the second anniversary of the Iraq war, join us at a protest at the office of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

**Date:** Friday, March 18  
**Time:** 3:00 to 6:00 pm  
**Place:** East side of Meadows and US75

Sponsored by the Dallas Peace Center. Contact Jennifer Roberts ([jennifer@jroberts.net](mailto:jennifer@jroberts.net)) for more information.

## New officers elected at February meeting

A new slate of officers was elected at the February business meeting, and took office this past Tuesday, March 1, 2005.

Former Dallas County Young Democrats Treasurer David Hardt was elected president. President Hardt is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, and the chief financial officer of a Dallas manufacturing company. He has been active in Democratic politics since 2000.

Dallas attorney Jennifer Roberts, the former DCYD executive director, was elected executive vice president.

DCYD Press Secretary R. Kirk McPike, a graphic designer and student

at SMU, was elected vice president of communications.

Mike Gaytan was elected vice president of community outreach. Vice President Gaytan is a DISD school teacher and formerly served as DCYD secretary.

Cassandra Black, the vice president of a Dallas photography lab and graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, was elected the new DCYD treasurer.

Ben Ceryes, a Minnesota native who has lived in Dallas most his life, was nominated for and elected to the position of DCYD secretary at the February meeting.

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.

## Zubar event a stunning success for DCYDs, sponsors

Over 75 members of the Dallas County Young Democrats and friends of our organization attended the February DCYD Happy Hour at Zubar, making this month's event by far one of the largest and most successful in our club's history.

The event, which was cosponsored by Dennison Marketing and the owners of Zubar, exceeded everyone's expectations. Clearly, our club's increasingly recognized ability to turn out members for events is not limited to volunteer opportunities, parades or campaign activities.

This Presidents' Day event helped ring into office our own new officers, all of whom are grateful to the members who came out and helped everyone involved have a great time.



*Photographs Courtesy Jennifer Resendez*



### March Happy Hour to feature Dallas City Council candidates

One successful Happy Hour deserves another, and that's exactly what we plan to have on March 24, 2005, as the DCYDs gather at Martini Ranch (2800 Routh St. # 165) for our monthly social event. We're lining up as many Dallas City Council candidates as we can lay our hands on for this happy hour, so come out and meet the candidates who hope to soon be representing you downtown.

The owners of Martini Ranch are offering specials to our members for this event, so you won't want to miss it. Come to the March general business meeting for more information.

To help plan future events, speak to Executive Vice President Jennifer Roberts at the March meeting.

## A Farewell Message From DCYD President David Wilkins

When I rechartered the Dallas County Young Democrats in June of 2002, there were barely twenty members, now we've grown to nearly six hundred. Over my tenure as President, my fellow officers, members, and I have achieved a great deal.

We have hosted several voter registration drives, worked on numerous campaigns for Democratic candidates, and started a Political Action Committee that contributed money to Democrats including our new Sheriff, Lupe Valdez. We've given our members the opportunity to meet a number of respected state and local officials, such as Mayor Pro-tem John Loza, Senior Member of the State Democratic Executive Committee Ken

Molberg, and State Representative Terri Hodge. Our chapter has worked with great success to grow and nurture other YD chapters throughout our region. For the first time in many years, North Texas will play a major role in the Texas Young Democrats State Convention this April. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve you, and I am pleased to be handing over the reins to my good friend David Hardt. David has already proven his ability to be a courageous and dynamic leader.

When I look back at my term as President, I will be proudest of the fact that I played a role in forming an organization that has respect for the grass roots activism that is the legacy of the

Democratic Party. I will also be proud that the DCYD, in the true spirit of the Young Democrats, is an organization that is not afraid to take a brave and principled stand, even when it is unpopular to do so. This is the only kind of organization that can grow Democratic leaders who will be capable of standing up for the rights of working people and fighting the morally bankrupt Republicans. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving this organization in any capacity in which I might be found useful. God bless the Dallas County Young Democrats and on to victory in 2006!

**David Wilkins**  
DCYD President, 2002-2005

## DCYD members attend DNC conference in Washington, DC

*Story and Photos by Juan Ayala*

The Dallas County Young Democrats sent a delegation to the winter meeting of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) this past February. On Friday, February 11th, three members of the DCYD board, David Hardt, David Rosen, and Juan Ayala attended an early morning caucus meeting and got to shake hands with the new Chairman of the DNC, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean. Pictures of Chairman, shaking hands with the Dallas delegation were captured by the media and played the next week on NBC, CNN and even FOX News. After Governor Dean spoke, a number of other prominent Democrats all of whom were seeking vice chair positions came and spoke to the meeting. After the meeting was concluded, all three board members were able to speak with Sue Lovell, a voting member of the DNC from Houston, Texas. She asked for their opinions of the candidates for vice chair and shared her opinions as well.

Later that evening the three board members plus late arrival Kirk McPike, VP of communications, attended a reception for Howard Dean in which Juan Ayala got to ask the governor for a commitment to come to Texas to rally Democrats in our overly red State. Chairman Dean said we would definitely be seeing him in Texas, as building up the State parties will be a big focus for him as chair of the DNC. After a quick step over to an open bar party for some liquid refreshments, our board members then proceeded to the Young Democrats of America reception for Howard Dean.

At the YDA meeting we were able to talk with members and leaders of YD organizations all around the country. There is a lot of excitement about the upcoming meeting in Salt Lake City and the national convention in San Francisco



*Howard Dean speaks to DNC attendees*

in August. After doing our part to network on behalf of DCYD, the four members spent some time enjoying the city of Washington. (Some more than others.) We spent part of a day visiting the newest Smithsonian museum on

the National Mall, the Museum of the American Indian, then visited the very stirring World War II Memorial.

We stopped to take in the view from atop the Lincoln Memorial, and we finished off our tour of the monuments with a visit to the FDR Memorial. This monument to one our nation's greatest Presidents and certainly one of the greatest Democrats to ever live was very moving for the entire Dallas delegation. We marveled at how the current administration seems to be so out of line with the powerful words and energizing vision of FDR's administration. Many of the famous quotes chiseled into the stone of that monument speak to the very real challenges our nation faces today.

Participating in this trip to Washington, DC as part of the Young Democrats of America was a great experience for all involved and we strongly encourage our membership to join in future trips and meetings.



*DCYDs David Rosen, Kirk McPike, David Hardt and Juan Ayala visit the FDR memorial*

### Help Wanted!

This newsletter is made possible thanks to the efforts of members just like you. If you can take photos, write short stories or are just flat-out good at sorting and

stamping, we could use your help! To get involved with the new DCYD newsletter, talk to VP Kirk McPike at the March meeting!