

# The WCYR Advocate

## Williamson County Young Republicans

March, 2005

Joshua Edlin, editor

### Officers

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### Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2005  
General Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Location: Guido's New York Pizzeria  
Speaker: TBA

### Announcements

- Our meeting location has changed. We will be meeting upstairs at Guido's New York Pizzeria in Cool Springs.

### New YR Officers Elected

The new officers are as follows:

Chairman : David Sink  
Vice Chairman : Joshua Edlin  
Treasurer : James Amundsen  
Secretary : Kimberly Miller  
Parliamentarian : David Simpson

Along with the officer positions, we will be seeking volunteers to fill the various appointed positions. Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions should contact David Sink. ♦

### Four YRs Win Executive Committee Elections

On March 8, delegates gathered at Benton Hall School to elect the new Executive Committee for the county Republican Party.

Four YRs ran: Brandon Ryan for Vice Chair, David Teague for Treasurer, David Sink for Vice Treasurer, and Mark Green for Assistant Secretary. All four candidates won their elections.

In addition to these positions, Doug Grindstaff was elected Chairman, Jean Barwick won First Vice Chair, Larry Kidwell was elected as Second Vice Chair, and Janet McKeown was elected Secretary.

The Executive Committee serves for two years. The Young Republicans wish to thank Hugh DuPree for his four years of service as Chairman and to welcome Doug Grindstaff as the new Chair. ♦

### Charles Evans Hughes

by Josh Edlin

*This is the first in a series profiling past Republican leaders. The individuals chosen for the profiles never achieved the Presidency, and their fame sometimes fades with time. This series is an effort to highlight the contributions and legacies of these important historical figures.*

Charles Evans Hughes was born in New York in 1862. After several years of instruction at home, Hughes began public school at the age of six. Bored, he quickly devised the "Charles E. Hughes Plan of Study," to which his parents relented. It was an auspicious beginning for Hughes.

Hughes graduated from school at age 13. Hughes excelled at college, eventually finding himself in law school. He applied for a clerkship at the firm of Chamberlain, Carter & Hornblower. After being turned down by Hornblower, Hughes literally ran into Carter on the way out. A discussion followed, and Hughes gained the clerkship. After graduating in 1884, Hughes joined Carter's law firm full time.

Hughes threw himself into his work. His health suffered for it, but in three years, he had propelled himself to the top of the firm. In addition, Hughes began courting Carter's daughter, Antoinette Carter. The two were married in 1888.

Still suffering poor health from his relentless drive, Hughes took a professorship at Cornell Law University in 1891. He served three years there, and always referred to them as the best years of his life. However, the professorship didn't pay well, and Hughes found

## Upcoming Events

Apr 12 April YR Meeting

## Service Opportunities

With elections of new YR officers, appointed positions are also available. If you would like to serve in such a position, please contact David Sink.

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himself back at his father-in-law's practice in 1893.

Hughes never sought public life. Instead, public life found him. In 1905, Henry W. Taft, younger brother to future President and Supreme Court Justice William Howard Taft, asked Hughes to serve as investigating attorney for a New York legislative committee investigating inflated gas and electric utility rates. That investigation was followed by another, wherein Hughes served as counsel on an investigation of insurance companies.

The investigations earned Hughes national attention, and in 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt insisted on Hughes running for governor of New York. After a bitter campaign, Hughes defeated newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst.

During his second term as governor, President William Howard Taft appointed Hughes as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. For Hughes, always a lawyer at heart, it was an opportunity not to be missed.

Hughes service on the Supreme Court didn't keep him out of the public eye. There was talk of running him for President in 1912, and in 1916, he was convinced to step down from the Supreme Court to run for President. With the recent schism in the Republican party, Hughes had a difficult time bringing together the progressive and conservative wings of the party. In one fateful misstep, he failed to meet with progressive Senator Hiram Johnson when they stayed in the same hotel. Consequently, Hughes lost California, Hiram's home state.

On the night of the election, early returns indicated that Hughes would be President. Wilson was ready to concede and had even concocted a plan to abdicate in favor of Hughes. After naming Hughes Secretary of State, Wilson and his Vice President would step down, thus making Hughes President months before his inauguration. However, it wasn't to be. When Hughes awoke the next morning, Wilson had won a second term.

Hughes returned to private practice, but was again tapped for public service when Warren G. Harding won the Presidency in 1920. Hughes was named Secretary of State. Hughes abandoned the League of Nations, established the "good-neighbor" policy towards South America, and renegotiated Germany's reparations. Perhaps his most important achievement came in the form of arms control. In a conference on naval power, Hughes managed to form an agreement between the United States, Britain, Japan, France, and Italy to keep their fleets in proportion to one another and to scale back production on warships and aircraft carriers. Ultimately this served to restrain Japan's naval power. Overall, Hughes has been credited as being one of the nation's most effective Secretaries of State.

Hughes resigned his post after Coolidge's reelection and once again returned to private practice. However, public life wasn't through with Charles Evans Hughes. In 1930, Chief Justice Taft retired from the Supreme Court, and at Taft's request, President Hoover nominated Hughes as Chief Justice.

The Hughes court took a conservative approach to its cases. Many laws were overturned on Constitutional grounds, and as Roosevelt's New Deal began rolling, there was much friction between the court and the legislature. After several stinging defeats at the hands of the court, Roosevelt devised a plan to enlarge the size of the court, thereby allowing him to appoint more favorable justices.

Ostensibly, the plan was designed to reduce the load on an aging court, two-thirds of which were over 70. For each of these Roosevelt would be allowed to appoint one extra justice, bringing the total number to 15. A number of Democratic legislators opposed the plan, and the Republicans wisely allowed these Democrats to lead the fight. Senator Burton Wheeler, the head of the opposition, asked Hughes to speak to the Senate committee. Instead, Hughes wrote a letter explaining the court's ability to handle its workload and demolishing Roosevelt's arguments for the court-packing plan. The plan was defeated.

Hughes retired from the court, and public life, in 1941. His career served as a bridge between the fractured Republican party of Theodore Roosevelt's day and the modern Republican party. ♦