

Alachua County Labor Party

November 2012 monthly organizing bulletin

The Labor Party Pushes to Bring a Wage Theft Ordinance to Alachua County

by Diana Moreno

On October 24, the Labor Party and the Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force started a campaign to bring a Wage Theft Ordinance to Alachua County.

Labor Party coordinator Diana Moreno and Task Force members Jeremiah Tattersall and Alex Cardelle made their case to around thirty community members, including Hutch Hutchinson, and Chuck Chestnut, two of the three newly elected county commissioners in Alachua County. The presenters explained that wage theft is a pervasive problem in the state of Florida that our state and federal government have failed to address. Wage theft cases include paying workers below the minimum wage, not paying overtime, forcing employees to work off the clock, misclassifying workers as independent contractors, etc. The practice not only steals from workers' pockets and decreases county tax revenue, but it also undermines good businesses trying to compete fairly in the current economic recession by creating an uneven playing field.

The presentation was intended not only to educate the public about the issue, but also to propose a county-wide Wage Theft Ordinance to solve this problem at the local level and prevent future wage theft cases. This solution would give wage theft victims a local means to file a claim against their employer. The Miami-Dade County ordinance, which passed in 2010, has already recovered over \$500,000 in



Diana Moreno speaks at the "Wage Theft in Alachua County" Community Forum at the Downtown Public Library on Oct 24.

stolen wages. Broward County passed a similar ordinance last month. The Labor Party and Wage Theft Task Force are working with Alex Cardelle, a UF junior and Economics major who interned at the Miami-Dade Wage Theft Program over the summer.

The Wage Theft Task Force has already received the support of various individuals, small businesses (including the independent business coalition, *Indiegainesville*), local unions (IBEW 1205, Graduate Assistants United, etc.), and various community organizations. We'd love to have our members add their signature, or encourage their union to do so. Visit the Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force's website (www.ACWTTF.org) and click on the *Endorsement/Sign On* tab to add your name.

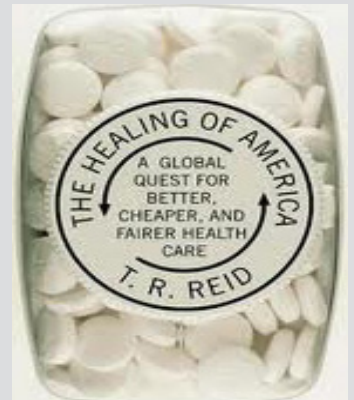
JUST HEALTH CARE

The Labor Party has set up a Just Health Care committee to reach out to local community groups in support of Medicare for all. Overcoming insurance companies and other corporations who benefit from the Affordable Care Act can only succeed by popular demand and it will have to be a long term project.

We plan to arrange presentations to groups, such as showing *The Health Care Movie*, a persuasive account of the Canadian system. Help us by joining the committee and by suggesting groups to

contact, particularly if you have a personal connection. Call the ACLP office or e-mail aclp@floridalaborparty.org

The Just Health Care reading group will be holding the next discussion on Sunday December 2 at 3:30PM. They will be introducing the book, *The Healing of America: a Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*. Author, *T.R. Reid* compares health care in Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, United Kingdom, Taiwan, and France to the model in the United States. If you would like to join this reading group contact Gaby Gross at (352) 256 - 4222 for the location.



www.floridalaborparty.org

Facebook: "Alachua County Labor Party"



Labor Party Membership Form

You can also join online:

www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua/join

I want to join the Labor Party!

(\$20/year) Membership includes a one-year subscription to the ACLP activist bulletin & quarterly newsletter. Joining the Labor Party DOES NOT affect your voter registration.

I want to join the Committee of 100!

(\$20/month) Joining the Committee of 100 includes an ACLP activist bulletin & quarterly newsletter subscription and ACLP membership. You can pay:

- Monthly - \$20/month
- Quarterly - \$60/quarter
- Annually - \$240/year

Please make all checks to "Labor Party". Send order form to:

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Alachua County
LABOR PARTY
Post Office Box 12051
Gainesville, FL 32604

**November Labor Party
General Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov 27 @ 7pm

ACEA Union Hall

618 NW 13th Ave. Gainesville, FL

**Satchel's Pizza will arrive @ 6:45pm*

For more info or directions call 375-2832 or
email acp@floridalaborparty.org

www.floridalaborparty.org

OTHER UPCOMING LABOR PARTY EVENTS

-Wednesday, November 28, 6:30pm

Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force Meeting, Labor Party Office

-Sunday, December 2, 3:30pm

JUST HEALTH CARE Reading Group

The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care by *T.R. Reid*. *See article "Just Health Care" in newsletter for more details.*

-Saturday, December 8, 8:00 - 11:00 pm

26th Winter Solstice Concert, Veterans for Peace
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4225 NW 34th Street
Tickets are \$10- \$30 on a sliding scale for donation

The Labor Party plans on tabling to protect Medicare against cuts

-Monday, December 10 at 7pm

North Central Florida Central Labor Council Spaghetti Dinner at the CWA
Hall, 1949 NE 27th Ave, Gainesville (behind Sonny's BBQ off Waldo Rd.)

Bring at least 2 can goods or non-perishable goods for donation