

ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR PARTY

MARCH 2013 BULLETIN

WAGE THEFT TASK FORCE

Organizers Call for Tougher Wage Recovery Ordinance



BY MARIE DINO
ACLP Coordinator

On March 12, Labor Party members and the Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force attended the Board of County Commissioners Meeting to discuss the proposal of a wage recovery ordinance. Jacqueline Chung, Manager of the Gainesville Department of Equal Opportunity, presented an alternative “compromise” ordinance to the Wage Theft Task Force’s proposal. Unfortunately this alternative contains many flaws that could hinder the effectiveness of the ordinance overall.

Some flaws with the proposed alternative ordinance:

- Requires employees to notify their employer but provides no anti-retaliation protection.
- No incentive to settle in mediation (i.e. no multiplication of damages and court fees).
- A costly filing fee creates a financial barrier to registering a claim for workers who are already financially vulnerable.

The weakened language of this alternative ordinance falls in line with the watered-down statewide bill that state Senator Rob Bradley is pushing to squash more aggressive local wage recovery ordinances, like the one in Miami-Dade county and the current proposal supported by the Labor Party. The Florida Retail Federation, a strong donor to Senator Bradley’s election campaign, is an ardent supporter of the bill, which favors pushing employees into a lengthy and often ineffective court process.

Labor Party and Wage Theft Task Force members were successful in pressing commissioners for a stronger ordinance that truly protects workers and creates a fair and maneuverable process for them to seek restitution. Furthermore, the adoption of a robust wage recovery ordinance can serve as a disincentive to future unfair labor practices.

The County Commissioners will next meet to discuss the wage recovery ordinance Tuesday, March 26th at 5:45pm in the Alachua County Administration Building. Please come and speak out for a strong local ordinance and for protection against wage theft in our community.

EVENTS

CMC SpringBoard & Penrod Award

The fundraiser will feature a variety of food from local restaurants, as well as a silent auction and raffle that will include art and coupons for goods and services from a variety of local businesses and artists.

This year’s guest speaker is Silvia Giagnoni, assistant professor of Communications and Dramatic Arts at Auburn University Montgomery. Her book, “Fields of Resistance,” chronicles her seven-month investigative visit to the community of Immokalee, Florida.

The celebration will include presentation of the Jack Penrod Brigadas award, which is given each year to a local activist on behalf of United Faculty of Florida, Alachua County Labor Party and Veterans for Peace. Jack was a wounded veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. He was Professor of English at UF and an Alachua County Labor Party member.

WHEN: Friday, March 22nd at 6:00pm

WHERE: Prairie Creek Lodge

COST: \$10 in advance, \$15-20 at door. Tickets can be bought in advance at The Civic Media Center or The Citizens Co-Op.

Volunteer!

Come volunteer for Just Health Care as we table at the Pleasant Street Farmers & Cultural Arts Market to promote single-payer health care and the idea that health care is a human right. We will be collecting health care surveys from community members to better understand their experiences with health care and to find willing participants for an upcoming health care speakout. If you’d like to help us volunteer just show up or e-mail aclp@floridalaborparty.org for more information.

WHEN: Saturday, April 6, 9am to 3pm

WHERE: Corner of NW 5th Ave and NW 10th St.

Labor Party Membership Form

You can also join online:
www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua/join

I want to join the Labor Party

Membership includes a one-year subscription to the ACLP newsletter. I’d like to be a:

- Friend of the Labor Party – \$25/year
- Monthly Sustainer – \$5/month
- Yearly Sustainer – \$60/year

I want to join the Committee of 100 (\$20/month)

The Committee of 100 is a higher level of membership that serves as a core support system for the Labor Party. It includes membership, a subscription to the ACLP newsletter as well as monthly recognition in the newsletter. I’d like to pay my dues:

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

Please make out checks to “Labor Party.” Send order form to:
Alachua County Labor Party, PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Union (optional): _____

Joining the Labor Party DOES NOT affect your voter registration.

Speak up for a Wage Recovery Ordinance at the BoCC Meeting

Tuesday, March 26

5:45pm

Alachua County Administration Building
 12 SE 1st St.

www.floridalaborparty.org



"Alachua County Labor Party"



@ACLaborParty

Stay updated with the Labor Party via our website, Facebook group or Twitter for related news, upcoming Labor Party events and meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013 AT 6:00PM

Penrod Award presented at the CMC Sprinboard fundraiser at Prairie Creek Lodge.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2013 AT 3:00PM

Just Health Care Reading Group. Contact Gaby at 256-4222 for details.

MON - FRI, APRIL 1 - 5, 2013

Just Health Care at Farmworker Awareness Week. TBA in Turlington Plaza.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

Farmwork Awareness Week: Theater of the Oppressed performance relating to the plight of farmworkers and farmworker justice. In Turlington Plaza in the afternoon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013

ACLP tables at Pleasant Street Farmers Market and needs volunteers to collect health care surveys.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013 6:00PM

Just Health Care Meeting

Thank You Committee of 100 Members for Your Ongoing Support

Tom Almquist
 Kirk Anthony
 Arlene Bargad
 LuJoye Barnes
 Bill Battle
 Scott Billings
 Kali Blount
 Joey Brenner
 Jenny Brown
 Caron Cadle
 Randi Cameon
 Scott Camil & Sherry Steiner
 Lynn Chacko
 Candi Churchill
 Ira Clark
 Amy Coenen

Chris Cogle
 Andrea Costello
 Joe Courter
 Arthur & Mary Crummer
 Sally & Josh Dickinson
 Shawna Doran
 Marilyn Eisenberg
 Pennie Foster (in memoriam)
 Adele Franson
 Jason Fults
 Carol Giardina*
 Danny Gimenez
 Alice Goldman
 Norma Green
 Gaby Gross
 Nicole Hardin

Dan Harmeling
 Dave Hennig
 Jane & Norm Holland
 Chad Hood*
 Robert Ing
 James Ingle
 Beth & Kurt Kent
 Linda Lavery
 Alex Leader
 Harriet Ludwig
 Rosemary Lynch & Norman Balabanian (in memoriam)
 Murdo MacLeod
 Eve MacMaster
 Richard MacMaster
 Jeff Mason
 Kathleen Maynard

Glen McClure
 Chris Medved
 Albert Meyer
 Pam Moorman
 Jim Morrison
 Ann Murray
 Jon F. Nutting
 Sheila Payne & Paul Ortiz
 John Penrod (in memoriam)*
 Eric Piotrowski
 Mark Piotrowski*
 Stephanie Ridgeway
 Jean Rigg
 Fe Ripka
 Clint Robinson
 Howard Rosenfeld

Kathie Sarachild
 Zoharah Simmons
 Bill Stephenson & Michelle Gould
 Timothy Strauser
 Zot Szurgot & Audrey Holt
 Rich Templin
 Carol Thomas
 Genevieve Trachsel (in memoriam)
 Martin & Vibeke Vala
 Veterans for Peace
 Bill & Sally Warrick
 Kenneth Weeks
 Jerry & Larissa Williamson
 Charles Willett (in memoriam)
 Steedly & Patricia Young

* Donors in memory of John Penrod, Spanish Civil War veteran