

March 2008 Newsletter

LABOR PARTY

Alachua County Local Organizing Committee

Alachua County Labor Party launches signature ad drive calling on candidates to “be bold”, “stand up to insurance companies”, support H.R. 676

At the 2008 Labor Party planning meeting members developed the idea of having an election health care campaign. What started as a pledge grew into a signature ad in support of H.R. 676 — as a way to pressure the candidates to do better, at to keep the solution that most people want (single payer, national health care for all) in the public eye.

LP co-chair Jenny Brown wrote in a follow-up brief that “The idea would be that we have some kind of a pledge or signature ad that people and organizations could sign on to, pushing for HR 676 instead of the plans that Clinton and Obama have articulated, pointing out why it’s better and cheaper.” Brown also pointed out that It would be exactly the wrong thing to do to suspend our criticisms right now, when there’s high consciousness about various plans, when the subject is getting discussed (and dismissed) in the debates. The enemy is not the candidates but the health insurance companies.

*What follows is the text of the ad that the Alachua County Labor Party is now collecting signatures for. **A form to sign the signature ad (\$5-10 sliding scale) is on page 7.***

Who’s afraid of health insurance companies?

Both likely Democratic presidential nominees have plans to address our health care crisis. We think it’s great that they’re talking about health care, since the likely Republican nominee, John McCain, doesn’t seem to think there’s a crisis in the U.S. health insurance system.

... continued page 6



Labor and feminist singer Anne Feeney in concert Mar. 15 at 2nd Street Bakery

The woman that Utah Phillips calls the “best labor singer in North America” performs Saturday, March 15 at the 2nd Street Bakery, 1511 NW 2nd St., at 8 p.m. Info: 352 378-5655.

Pittsburgh-based agitator Anne Feeney performs music that she says is designed to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” Not many

... continued page 8

Three international unions – SMWIA, IFPTE, OPEIU – representing 325,000 workers endorse H.R. 676

by Kay Tillow,

All Unions Committee for H.R. 676

The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (SMWIA), the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), and the Office & Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) became the 10th, 11th and 12th international unions to endorse HR 676 – single payer health care legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI).

The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association (SMWIA), which represents over 150,000 members, is the tenth international union to officially endorse HR 676.

Vincent Panvini, SMWIA's Government Affairs Director, said, "We commend Congressman John Conyers for his vision, leadership and common sense in addressing the critical need for a national health program that strengthens the United States domestically and internationally."

Panvini said further, "The Sheet Metal Workers' International Association endorses HR 676, the National Health Insurance Act, to insure that all U.S. residents have access to health care services through a program that reduces the cost of health insurance for taxpayers and businesses and maintains the protection provided to millions of Americans covered by the federal and state funding for existing health care programs."

The International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE) is the eleventh international union to endorse HR 676.

"All Americans would win with HR 676," said Gregory Junemann, President of the 75,000 member union. Junemann said, "Chairman Conyers' bill does exactly what the members of IFPTE have asked for, namely to provide for a complete dismantling of our broken healthcare system that has resulted in upwards of 45 million uninsured Americans and replace it with a national single payer system."

An IFPTE official announced the union's support for HR 676 at a meeting of the AFL-CIO Healthcare Reform Committee in Washington, DC. At the IFPTE's 55th Convention, the union had "reaffirmed its support for a universal or single-payer health care system."

The press release announcing the union's endorsement is at www.ifpte.org.

OPEIU has become the 12th international union to endorse HR 676, national single payer healthcare legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI). The union represents over 100,000 members across the country.

The International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, a 6,800 member fully autonomous marine affiliate of the International Longshore

Association (ILA), has also endorsed HR 676. The MM&P represents licensed deck officers, state pilots, marine engineers, and others in the maritime industry.

Other international unions that have endorsed HR 676 are UAW, NEA, ILWU, NALC, IAM, Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA), Musicians (AFM), UE, CNA/NNOC, SMWIA & IFPTE.

Alaska AFL-CIO signs on to National Health Insurance Act

The Alaska AFL-CIO has endorsed HR 676, single payer healthcare legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), reports state federation President Vince Beltrami.

Alaska is the thirty-third state AFL-CIO to endorse HR 676. The endorsement resolution passed last month at the federation's annual Legislative Conference.

HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system in the U.S. by expanding a greatly improved Medicare system to every resident.

HR 676 would cover every person in the U. S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic and long term care.

HR 676 currently has 88 co-sponsors in addition to Conyers. The bill has been endorsed by 384 union organizations in 48 states including 95 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations

... continued page 8

Alachua County LABOR PARTY

Local Organizing Committee

[352] 375-2832

www.floridalaborparty.org/alachua
www.thelaborparty.org

aclp@floridalaborparty.org

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 12051
Gainesville, FL 32604

Office Address:

14 E. University Ave., #204

Office Hours:

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday

Alachua County Labor Party Board

Jenny Brown * Co-chair
Mark Piotrowski *Co-chair
Chad Hood * Treasurer
Gaby Gross * Secretary
David Hennig

ACLCP staffers: Ann Murray,
Jenny Brown

*Board meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd
Tuesday of the month and are open to
all Labor Party members.*

Upcoming Alachua County Labor Party General Meetings

(4th Tuesday of the month)
March 25
April 22
May 27

Unions & H.R. 676... *cont. from page 2*

and 33 state AFL-CIO's. Co-sponsors and bill text are at:

<http://tinyurl.com/3cjsto>

[or]

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.00676>:

120,000-member California Federation of Teachers endorses H.R. 676

The Executive Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) has endorsed HR 676, single payer health care legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI).

Marty Hittelman, CFT President, said after the endorsement:

“The CFT has long been a strong supporter of Single Payer Universal Health Care as the civilized foundation for providing quality affordable healthcare to all of the residents of the United States. We believe that families must be healthy so that their children are healthy and that healthy students make for better students. It is especially important to educators that the United States have the highest quality system of providing healthcare. One that is available to all, independent of one's financial standing.”

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) is the California affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The CFT is composed of 135 local unions chartered by the AFT. The CFT represents over 120,000 educational employees working at every level of the education system in California,

from Head Start to the University of California.

The resolution, approved February 9th, was forwarded to the AFT National Convention.

Two Steelworker locals endorse Rep. Conyers healthcare bill

Two more Steelworker (USW) locals have endorsed HR 676, single payer healthcare legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-MI).

In Pennsylvania, Local 10-1, which represents 700 oil workers at Sunoco's Philadelphia refinery, has unanimously endorsed HR 676, reports Jim Savage, President of Local 10-1.

In Rumford, Maine, 800 paper mill workers in USW's Local 900 have also endorsed the Conyers bill.

In San Jose, California, Louis Rocha, President of CWA Local 9423, reports that the local has endorsed the Conyers legislation.

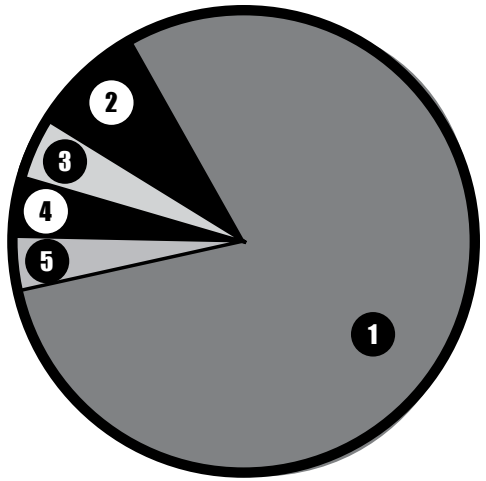
In Pomona, Calif., UE Local 1421 has also endorsed HR 676, reports Leanna Noble, International Representative.

The above reports from the grassroots of the Labor Movement are provided by Kay Tillow of the All Unions Committee for H.R. 676 & the Nurses Professional Organization. The campaign for H.R. 676 owes a big and ongoing debt to Kay (and Walter) Tillow for their work to document the growing tide of support for H.R. 676. Each month we reprint her reports, but if you'd like to receive Kay's email updates write her at: nursenpo@aol.com.

2008 Labor Party budget to be ratified at March meeting

The 2008 Labor Party budget will be presented and ratified at the March general meeting. The 2 pie charts at right indicate the breakdown of income and expenses for the Alachua County Labor Party for 2007.

As you can see 80% of our budget was raised through the Committee of 100 (see page 10). More than 70% of our budget went to having



2007 Labor Party Income

1. Committee of 100 - 80%
2. Rent contributions - 9%
3. Meeting & events - 4%
4. Other donations - 4%
5. LP memberships - 2.5%

Election Notice

At the February general meeting the following nominations were made:

CO-CHAIRS:

Jenny Brown & Mark Piotrowski

SECRETARY:

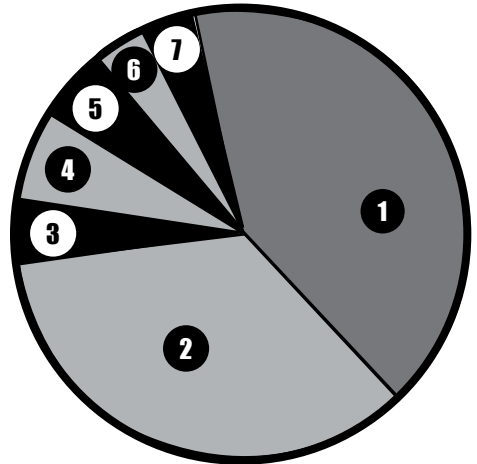
Gaby Gross

TREASURER:

Chad Hood

The election for these offices will be held at the March 25 Labor Party general meeting. You must be a Labor Party member in good standing to vote.

If you have any questions please call or email the ACLP office at 352-375-2832 or aclp@floridalaborparty.org



2007 Labor Party Expenses

1. Staff - 37%
2. Rent & phone - 36%
3. Printing - 5%
4. Postage - 11%
5. Event expense - 4%
6. Conferences & travel - 3.5%
7. LP dues to national - 3.5%

Signature ad... cont. from page 1

The problem is, we pay more for healthcare and get worse results than 37 other countries. Neither Clinton's nor Obama's plan would retrieve that wasted money and put it towards care. Instead, both candidates will throw in MORE public money to subsidize the private insurance companies, creating another patchwork instead of truly universal health care.

We pay so much in the U.S. because one out of every three dollars we spend on health care is wasted on health insurance company profits, paperwork, administration, corporate red tape, and the costs to our doctors and hospitals of dealing with hundreds of private insurance companies.

Both candidates say that alongside the private system, they would also create a public alternative plan, like Medicare, and that's great. But why not just expand Medicare to cover everyone? That's the idea of HR 676, a bill introduced by Representative John Conyers of Michigan and signed by 88 members of Congress.

HR 676: The "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" Bill

This bill would put into place a simple, single system, funded like Medicare, that would cover everyone for all their healthcare needs. There would be no premiums, no deductibles, no co-pays, and no more insurance company



Who's afraid of health insurance companies?

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The problem is, we pay more for healthcare and get worse results than 37 other countries. Neither Clinton's nor Obama's plan would retrieve that wasted money and put it towards care. Instead, both candidates will throw in MORE public money to subsidize the private insurance companies, creating another patchwork instead of truly universal health care.

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HR 676: The "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" Bill

This bill would put into place a simple, single system, funded like Medicare, that would cover everyone for all their healthcare needs. There would be no premiums, no deductibles, no co-pays, and *no more insurance company profits*. Because the private insurance companies would no longer be profiting at our expense, we will SAVE money. We're already paying more per person than any other country in the world! If all our money went to care, we could cover everyone in the U.S. without spending an additional dime.

The California Nurses Association endorses it. The 15,000-strong Physicians for a National Health Program endorses it. The AFL-CIO in 32 states, including Florida, endorses it. Florida Representatives Corinne Brown, Alcee Hastings and Robert Wexler have signed on. The public by a 62% to 33% margin¹ wants a plan like this. What are the candidates waiting for?

Tax credits, vouchers, employer mandates, proofs of low income, requirements that everyone buy insurance, enforcement of new regulations against the insurance industry, all these make the Democrats' plans a complicated, costly patchwork and *less than we deserve*. The U.S. public is ready to end the insurance company stranglehold on our health care system. It's time for the politicians to catch up with the public and do the right thing.

We the undersigned call on all the candidates to BE BOLD. Stand with the people of the U.S. and stand up to the health insurance companies. We call on Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama (as well as Senator McCain and Florida Senators Nelson and Martinez) to introduce a companion bill to HR 676 in the Senate, and to vote and work for HR 676: "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All."

Name (as you wish it to appear) _____

Address (won't appear in ad) _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone # _____ Email _____ Date _____

This ad will appear in the Gainesville Sun shortly before the Democratic and Republican conventions.

Individuals: \$5-10 sliding scale Organizations: \$25-50 sliding scale

Please write & mail checks to: **Alachua County Labor Party, P.O. Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604.** For more information, call 352 375-2832 or write aclp@floridalaborparty.org For more on HR 676, visit Healthcare NOW at www.healthcare-now.org or www.sickocure.org or www.justhealthcare.org

¹ October 20, 2003 ABC News/Washington Post poll. Sixty-two percent said they'd prefer a universal insurance program "in which everyone is covered under a program, like Medicare, that's run by the government and funded by taxpayers."

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✓ I want to sign the "Who's afraid of health insurance companies?" signature ad!

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Date _____

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*Please write & mail checks to: Alachua County Labor Party, P.O. Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604.
For more information, call 352 375-2832 or write acfp@floridalaborparty.org For more on HR 676, visit Healthcare NOW at www.healthcare-now.org or www.sickocure.org or www.justhealthcare.org*

The Labor Party Program: A Call for Economic Justice

Amend the Constitution to
Guarantee Everyone a Job at a
Living Wage

Pay Laid-off Workers Two
Months Severance for Every
Year of Service

Restore Workers Rights to
Organize, Bargain and Strike

End Bigotry: An Injury to One
Is an Injury to All

Guarantee Universal Access to
Quality Health Care

More Time for Family and
Community

Protect Our Families

Ensure Everyone Access to
Quality Public Education

Stop Corporate Abuse of Trade

End Corporate Welfare as We
Know It

Make the Wealthy Pay their
Fair Share of Taxes

Revitalize the Public Sector

End Corporate Domination of
Elections

Build A Just Transition
Movement to Protect Jobs and
the Environment

Enforce Safety & Health
Regulation with Worker
Inspectors

Reclaiming the Workplace: Job
Design, Technology and Skill

A closer look at the Labor Party platform, “A Call For Economic Justice”

Each month we take a closer look at a different part of the Labor Party's 16-point platform, “A Call for Economic Justice.” The full program is available at www.thelaborparty.org

4. End Bigotry: An Injury to One Is an Injury to All

For generations, bosses have profited by dividing working people on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, and political beliefs.

Rather than creating enough jobs, they force us to fight among ourselves for the few good ones that remain. Rather than creating enough opportunities for higher education, they force us and our children to quarrel over the available spots. We can curb corporate power only if we unite around a commission of economic justice and fairness.

Real democracy includes all of us. We work in all kinds of occupations, and come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. We are women as well as men. Every time an employer pays a woman less for the same or comparable work, we are all paid less.

Every time a minority worker is denied a decent job or promotion, we are all denied promotion.

When immigrants are scapegoated and denied full labor rights and civil rights, we are all scapegoated and denied our rights.

We favor full rights for all, and we will tolerate no discrimination or other form of injustice based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, disability, national origin, age, creed, sexual orientation, language, or political beliefs.

We favor amending Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect all these categories from discrimination.

We oppose all forms of terrorism and hate crimes, including attacks against African American churches, synagogues, or other places of worship.

We also oppose police brutality and other forms of the criminalization of dissent and poverty.

We support affirmative action and anti-discrimination programs to take away the bosses' power to divide and conquer.

We support an immigration policy that does not discriminate on any basis; and a trade policy that supports international fair labor standards and works to

alleviate the conditions that send people moving around the globe in search of opportunity.

We also support comparable worth initiatives and strong sanctions against sexual harassment to make the workplace safe and fair for women workers. This Labor Party stands against current efforts to dismantle these programs.

From the shop floor to the executive suite, we believe the workforce should reflect the wonderfully diverse face of our nation. We stand for justice and the end to discrimination.

Feeney... cont. from page 1

women have chosen to walk the path of Woody Guthrie, but Feeney's made a career of it for the past 35 years.

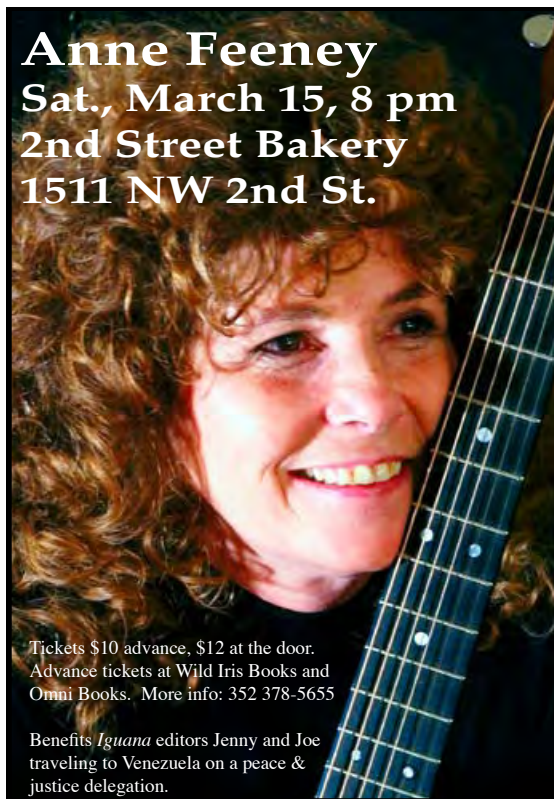
She has lived her life on the frontlines – performing at thousands of rallies, picket lines and demonstrations over the years – including the WTO demonstrations

in Seattle, Solidarity Day in Washington, DC, at the annual School of Americas Watch demonstration in Columbus, Georgia, and for 1.5 million at the April 25, 2004 March for Women's Lives.

While Feeney may prefer the excitement of performances at rallies and demonstrations, she knows that many of her fans prefer pepper-spray free environments to listen to the songs and stories that make up her sometimes caustic, sometimes hilarious, always inspiring show.

This show is a benefit to help send Iguana editors Jenny and Joe on a delegation to Venezuela.

More about Anne at: <http://www.annefeeney.com>



Anne Feeney
Sat., March 15, 8 pm
2nd Street Bakery
1511 NW 2nd St.

Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.
Advance tickets at Wild Iris Books and
Omni Books. More info: 352 378-5655

Benefits *Iguana* editors Jenny and Joe
traveling to Venezuela on a peace &
justice delegation.

Join us on the Committee of 100!

What is the Committee of 100?

The Committee of 100 is a group of people who have pledged \$20 a month to fund a full-time Alachua County Labor Party staffer to coordinate the Just Health Care campaign (or 2 half-time organizers).

Why is a full-time organizer so important?

In 2000, we sponsored a non-binding referendum asking Alachua County voters if they would support a system like Just Health Care. It won overwhelming support, receiving more votes than either Bush or Gore. In follow-up meetings, we determined that having a paid organizer was the key to that highly successful campaign. And keeping a paid organizer is critical for our continued success.

The struggle for Just Health Care is now being

fought simultaneously at the local, state, and national levels. While we coordinate volunteers and events at the local level, we are also working around the state and country as we continue to build the coalition of groups fighting for single payer health care.

And it's working!

The contributions of the current Committee of 100 allow us to fund Ann Murray and Jenny Brown as our part-time organizers. Joining the Committee of 100 will allow us to expand Ann and Larry's hours to full time or bring on another part-time organizer.

Great! How do I sign up?

Send your information to the address on the facing page or contact us by phone (375-2832) or e-mail (c100@floridalaborparty.org) for more

82 Committee Members, 1= to go!

Harriet Ludwig	Alan Geering	Ira Clark	Murdo MacLeod	Gaby Gross
Mary Jo Hofmeyer	Bill Battle	Jerry & Larissa Williamson	Arlene Bargard	Anna & Nic Guest-Jelly
Bill Gilbert	Phil Haisley	Kenneth Weeks	Vibeke Vala	George & Pheobe Papadi
Mark Piotrowski	Caron Cadle	Zoharah Simmons	Martin Vala	John Murray
Dan Harmeling	Rosemary Lynch & Norman Balabanian	Gail & James Moss	Isabel Barten	Eileen Roy
Kevin Oden	Andrea Costello	LuJoye Barnes	Rich Templin	Jean Rigg
Michele Gould	Charles Willett	Arthur and Mary Crummer	Fe Ripka	Jim Morrison
Bill Stephenson	Jape Taylor	Kathie Sarachild	Jim Ripka	Betty Odum
Jenny Brown	Amy Coenen	Jane & Norm Holland	Sally & Josh Dickinson	Clint Robinson
Nina Postlethwaite	Carol Giardina	Aline Gubrium	Adele Franson	Kirk Anthony
Dave Hennig	Scott Camil & Sherry Steiner	Randi Cameon	Chris Medved	NEW! Zot Szurgot and Audrey Holt
Pennie Foster	Howard Rosenfeld	Carol Thomas	Judith Murray	NEW! Herbert Spencer
Candi Churchill	Chad Hood	Pam Ellis	Gainesville Vets for Peace	82. _____
Linda Lavery	Eric Piotrowski	Jeff Mason	Albert Meyer	(Your name here)
Larry Thompson	Joe Richard	Alex Leader	Shawna Doran	
John Swilley	Steven Schell	Chris Cogle	Alachua County Green Party	
John Penrod	Kathleen Maynard	Ann Murray	Bridget Fitzgerald	
Erika Gubrium				
Daniel Gimenez				
Joe Courter				

Labor Party Membership & Order Form

Please make all checks to "Labor Party"

I want to join the Labor Party (\$20/year)

Membership includes a one-year subscription to the ACLP newsletter. Joining the Labor Party DOES NOT affect your voter registration.

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

Joining the Committee of 100 includes a one-year national Labor Party membership. I'd like to pay my dues:

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

I want a July 8 Citizen's Congressional Health Care Hearing DVD (\$5)

Finally available! This 3 hours+ DVD contains the July 8 Citizens' Congressional Health Care Hearing held in Gainesville.

The \$5 goes to help cover the cost of duplicating the footage from the hearing.

Number of copies ordered: _____



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Alachua County Labor Party

Post Office Box 12051, Gainesville FL 32604
352-375-2832 • floridalaborparty.org/alachua

March 2008 Labor Party General Meeting

Launching the “Who’s Afraid of Insurance Companies?” Sig Ad & the 2008 budget

At this month’s meeting we’ll be kicking off our exciting 2008 election health care signature ad — calling on the candidates of both parties to “be bold”, “stand up to insurance companies” and support H.R. 676 like the majority of Americans do. We’ll also be voting on the 2008 ACIP budget.

Tues., Mar. 25

*Alachua County Education
Association Union Hall*

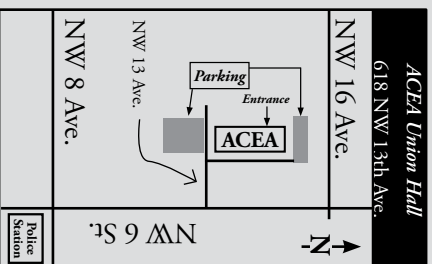
618 NW 13th Ave

*(turn west onto 13th Ave
from NW 6th St.)*

6:30 pm

(no luck at 6)

*For more info or
directions call 375-2832*



Alachua County LABOR PARTY

Post Office Box 12051
Gainesville, FL 32604